

ICAR WORKING GROUP ON MILK TESTING LABORATORIES

Meeting on 22 April 2002 in Toledo (Spain)

- Provisional report -

Attending members:

Olivier Leray (FR, chairman), Ugo Paggi (IT), Christian Baumgartner (DE), Egil Brenne (NO), Harrie van den Bijgaart (NL).

Observers:

Marina Gips (IL), Silvia Orlandini (IT), Laura Monaco (IT)

Apologies:

George Psathas (CY), Des Johnston (NZ), John Rhoads (USA).

1. Opening

2. ICAR Sessions Interlaken

22 persons have registered for the meeting of the ICAR Reference Laboratory Network on the afternoon of Monday 27th of May. Additional participation can be expected from people having registered for the whole ICAR Sessions but not especially for meetings on laboratory topics. Arrangements with speakers (Orlandini/Paggi, Rhoads, Hanus) have been made.

Suggested topics for the discussion are:

- network functioning, checking goals, interactive with attendants (main subject);*
- information on reference materials (i.e. AFEMA datasheet);
- summary of questionnaire on quality control (reserve);
- coaching of laboratories via guides?

3. ICAR News

No news about the website.

4. Current Activities

4a. *Protocol for the evaluation of milk analyzers for milk recording*

The last version of the protocol has been forwarded to the ICAR Board for consideration and comments from ICAR National Committees. It is aimed to test the protocol with the MilkoScan FT6000 from Foss Electric. It is agreed to await the outcome of the meetings in Interlaken before Foss will be contacted (*action Leray*).

4b. *Update of guidelines on AQA for DHI laboratories*

The updated version has been sent to ICAR Board.

4c. *Questionnaire on quality control in DHI laboratories within ICAR*

A summary will be available in Interlaken (*action Van den Bijgaart*).

4d. *ICAR reference laboratory network*

An updated member list has been distributed.

4e. *Sheep's and goat's reference laboratory network*

The proposal of AIA was briefly discussed. It is planned to organize proficiency tests on fat, protein, lactose, somatic cells and urea in November 2002 and February 2003 (goat milk) and October 2002 and January 2003 (sheep milk). Leray confirms to the group that the minimum number of samples required for statistical analysis is six. Notifications of participation are awaited.

It is stressed that a clear separation should be kept between proficiency testing activities in the frame of the ICAR Reference Laboratory Networks and for other purposes, such as standardization of methods.

New Work Item proposals for reference analysis on fat, protein and freezing point in goat and sheep milk have now been accepted in IDF. Leray formulates some comments with regard to the suggested changes in the IDF/ISO standards for fat and protein determination in milk.

4f. On-farm measurements

Aspects of analytical quality assurance will be addressed in Interlaken in the presentation of Christian Baumgartner. It is noted that short-sighted opinions about the required quality of milk recording data pop up now and then, i.e. 'less frequent and/or less accurate analysis can be acceptable when production data from many milkings are available'. It is considered worthwhile to address MTL WG concerns to the ICAR WG on Quality Assurance (*action Leray*).

5. Next meeting

The next official meeting is scheduled on 28 May 2001 at 08.00 hrs during the ICAR Sessions in Interlaken (CH).

6. Closure of the meeting

Harrie van den Bijgaart
Zutphen, 21 May 2002