



A word from the President

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One year ago the General Assembly adopted the Future ICAR strategy as a basic orientation for action by ICAR members, the leadership of the association and of our technical bodies. In my report submitted to the General Assembly held in Krakow, Poland, on 10 June 2015, I presented the main achievements and results of efforts and activities of the whole ICAR family – members, Working Groups, Sub-Committees, the ICAR Board, Service-ICAR, and the ICAR Executive Team.

I did not hide my personal satisfaction with the work done in this short period, particularly taking into account that it was a period of transition to professional management, establishment of the separate office, and included growing demand from the animal industry for new services and activities. Since the Berlin biennial session, the ICAR Technical Workshop in Krakow June 2015 was the crown of our programs and activities. Here we illustrated new trends in ICAR's development, including the evolving of our members from providers of recording and evaluation services to providers of solutions. May I take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the whole ICAR family to our host – the Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers – and to our sponsors for excellent organisation of the workshop and for the warm hospitality we all enjoyed.

When this newsletter is sent to you, my wife Hermine and I will be somewhere in the Rhine Valley on our walk to Rome, where we plan to arrive in mid-October. During my absence, Jay Mattison, Vice-President of ICAR, will be in charge of chairing the conference calls scheduled until mid-October and will also take care of specific administrative matters.



Hans Wilmink, the ICAR President

Performance recording in the genotyped world: ICAR Technical Workshop 10-12 June 2015, Krakow, Poland

The Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers hosted the ICAR Technical Workshop held in Krakow from 10-12 June 2015. Performance recording in the genotyped world – the theme of the workshop – attracted over 350 participants from 38 countries. The workshop was structured as seven technical sessions and four parallel events. Thirty-six technical papers prepared by 136 authors covered a range of topics: milk analysis for detection of pregnancy; metabolic disorders and mastitis; advisory services built on recorded data; manufacturers showcase; milk, meat and fibre recording in sheep, goats and beef cattle; and genomics at farm and phenotyping strategies; as well as a workshop



The ICAR Technical Meeting in Krakow (Poland)

presented by the team of auditors for ICAR's Certificate of Quality.

Four meetings were held in parallel: Welfare and Health; Reference Laboratory Network; IDF Standing Committee on Animal Health and Welfare experts; and a satellite workshop on methods for survey and monitoring metabolic disorders. Summaries of these were presented at the joint session. One pre-conference and three post-conference technical tours offered an excellent opportunity for participants to get acquainted with animal production in Poland and with the work of the Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers.



ICAR General Assembly in Krakow

Technical papers presented at the workshop are available on the ICAR website at: http://www.icar.org/Documents/Krakow_2015/

General Assembly

ICAR General Assembly

The General Assembly held on 10 June 2015 in Krakow, Poland, received the President's report as presented by Hans Wilmink, President of ICAR, and the 2014 year-end financial statement presented by Laurent Journaux, Treasurer. The Assembly also received the Financial Inspectors' report, as presented by Neil Petreny. It approved the 2016 budget, as presented by Martin Burke, and elected Hans Wilmink and Jorge Lama to the ICAR Board for four years.



Jorge Lama, new ICAR Board Member

The ICAR Extrordinary General Assembly approved changes in the ICAR bylaws and to the Agreement on Identification, Recording and Evaluation in Animal Production.

President's Report

From the President's Report

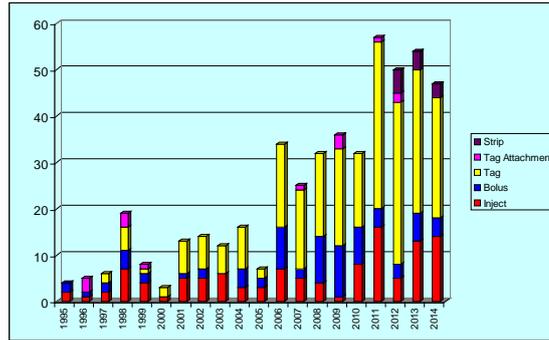
Since the Berlin biennial session, seven organisations have joined ICAR as full members and five as associate members. ICAR now has 115 members – 83 full members (including four World Breed Federations) and 32 associate members in 57 countries.

Achievements

Achievements

Among the main achievements, the President mentioned the testing of 43 RFIDs and three recording devices in 2014 and the introduction of a new testing procedure for IDs introduced in January 2015. The ICAR Board approved the GENOEX PSE (Parentage SNP Exchange) project as a new service for ICAR Members. The WG Functional Traits completed the ICAR Claw Health Atlas – the first global tool for diagnosis and recording of claw disorders.

In the past 12 months ICAR has organised two conferences on animal identification – one in Moscow and one in Pretoria for southern and sub-Saharan Africa. The latter – organised in cooperation with the FAO and the Government of the Republic of South Africa, ARC and SA Studbook – approved the so-called Pretoria Declaration as the orientation for all stakeholders – farmers, associations, industry,



The number of ICAR certified RFIDs from 1995 to 2014



Participants to the FAO-ICAR Symposium held in Pretoria (South Africa) on Animal Identification and Recording

service providers and governments in animal identification as the base for sustainable management and genetic improvement in animal production.

Interaction and communication within and among Sub-Committees and Working Groups has been intensified, with a focus on strategic priorities. ICAR has forged links and cooperation with its international strategic partners, such as the FAO, ISO, IDF, EU DG SANCO, and EFFAB, to name just a few. ICAR management has been substantially improved by holding monthly Board meetings and by appointing a Chief Executive and an Executive Team, and by the establishment of the new office in Rome. Financial and legal operations were further consolidated by adopting professional accountancy, standardisation of contracts, assessment of risks and actions.

Future

Future

The visibility and relevance of ICAR should be enhanced by further developing the ICAR brand and by globalising the profile of ICAR members with a more intensive presence in Africa and Asia, and by renewing our ICAR website. For this reason, the ICAR Board has approved the ICAR brand project and the project on IT infrastructure to be implemented in the next year.

Hans Wilmink, President of ICAR, in his report submitted to the General Assembly, summarised the achievements attained in implementing the ICAR mission as the leading global provider of guidelines, standards and certificates for animal identification, animal recording and animal evaluation in supporting improvements in profitability and sustainability of farm animal production.

ICAR Statutes

Changes in the ICAR Statutes

The Extraordinary General Assembly in Krakow approved changes to the ICAR Statutes. The new Statutes define ICAR as a non-profit international organisation with membership consisting of public and private entities accepting these Statutes and are active in animal identification and in the recording and evaluation of animal production. Recording and evaluation of the characteristics of production systems represent new challenges and opportunities for the expansion of services ICAR members can provide and offer to their clients.

New Statutes are based on the Future ICAR Strategy and on developments in programmes and activities of a number of ICAR members in the recording of animal health and functional traits, on the excellent and encouraging activities of the ICAR WG Functional Traits and on the establishment of the WG Animal Welfare. The new definitions fit well within the image and the role of ICAR as a global provider of information for business decisions relating to genetic improvement and farm/herd management.

By-Laws

Bylaw on procedure for approval of ICAR Guidelines

The revised Bylaw defines the ICAR Guidelines as practical instructions for technicians and professionals involved in animal identification and in recording and evaluation of animal production. Those eligible to propose new guidelines (or amendments to guidelines) include: an ICAR member, the ICAR Board, an ICAR Sub-Committee or an ICAR Working Group. Proposals should be forwarded to the Board for submission to the General Assembly for approval. The ICAR Board, Sub-Committees, Working Groups and auditors are in charge of monitoring the implementation of the guidelines.

New agreement

Agreement on Identification, Recording and Evaluation in Animal Production

The new agreement defines ICAR as a worldwide membership-based organisation whose aim is to facilitate improvements in animal productivity, animal health, animal care, food safety, and in the impact of animal production on the environment. It does this through the formulation of rules, definitions, standards, and guidelines for the recording of traits of economic importance and the characteristics of production systems.



ICAR is also a certifying organisation: ICAR members issue certificates containing recording and genetic evaluation results in accordance with the relevant section(s) of the ICAR Guidelines and certificates relating to animal health, animal care, safety of animal products and to environmental impact. Certificates on the suitability of identification and recording devices and the Certificate of Quality confirming the adherence to this agreement and to the ICAR Guidelines are issued by ICAR.

New Members

New ICAR members since the Berlin session

Since the biennial session in Berlin, the ICAR Board has endorsed the membership of the following organisations:

Full members

- Deltamune Ltd. (South Africa)
- National Livestock Identification System (Australia)
- Dairy Cattle Improvement Center (South Korea)
- All-Russian Research Institute of Farm Animal Genetics and Breeding (Russia)
- MilkTestNZ (New Zealand)
- DairyNZ (New Zealand)
- University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Agriculture, Dept. Animal Science (Serbia)



Associate members

- Wageningen UR Livestock Research (The Netherlands)
- Felixcan S.L. (Spain)
- Dairymaster (Ireland)
- Waikato (New Zealand)
- AgTags Limited (New Zealand)



Some of logos of the new ICAR Members

From SCs and WGs

Claw Health Atlas

From Sub-Committees and Working Groups

ICAR Claw Health Atlas – International harmonisation of claw data recording

Lameness in dairy cattle is a major issue worldwide that affects animal welfare and management. Foot and claw disorders are the predominant cause of lameness, resulting in reduced milk production and reproductive performance, and ranking high among the reasons for involuntary culling of cows, implying considerable impact on farm profitability. Over 50 claw experts from around the world, including scientists, claw trimmers, bovine practitioners, and geneticists, have collaborated to produce a new standard for the identification and recording of foot and claw disorders that was approved by the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) in June 2015.



The ICAR Claw Atlas, a new publication from ICAR

Co-ordinated by the ICAR Working Group for Functional Traits and based on an inventory of existing recording systems for claw data, definitions and illustrations of the major foot and claw conditions in dairy cattle have been included in the ICAR Claw Health Atlas. The ICAR

Claw Health Atlas will assist claw trimmers in identifying disorders, ensuring that, for example, a sole ulcer in Canada will be defined the same way as a sole ulcer in Germany, Norway and in other countries using the new standard.

This support of comparisons of data collected in different countries by different groups using different recording systems is a critical step in the targeted improvement of feet and claw health, and will benefit animal welfare and increase the efficiency and profitability of dairy enterprises. This unique summary reference is now available online in English at http://www.icar.org/Documents/ICAR_Claw_Health_Atlas.pdf and will be available in a wide range of languages from ICAR member countries. Hard copies of the atlas can be ordered from the ICAR office.

SCs and WGs meetings

Meetings of SCs and WGs

Fourteen Sub-Committees and Working Groups held meetings during the Technical Workshop. They reviewed developments in their specific fields and in their programmes. Information on their activities will be published in the next issue of the ICAR Newsletter.

Board and Chairpersons

Meeting of the Board with Chairpersons

The ICAR Board met with chairpersons of Sub-Committees and Working Groups to review activities since the Berlin session (what went well and what did not go well) and to identify priority actions for the next six months. They noted that the high level of the engagement of volunteers in the ICAR technical bodies was also due to the support provided by the ICAR Executive Team.



Meeting of the ICAR Board with Chairpersons

Awards

ICAR Awards in 2015

President's Award

Christa Egger-Danner, Chairperson of the ICAR Working Group for Functional Traits, received the President's Award for 2015.

Distinguished Service Award

During the General Assembly, the President presented the Distinguished Service Award to members of the Board or chairs of Sub-Committees who left their positions during the course of this year:

- Badi Besbes (Board member and chair WG Developing Countries)
- Clara Diaz (Board member)
- Christian Baumgartner (Chair SC Milk Analysis)
- Martin Burke (Chair SC Recording Devices)
- Kaivo Ilves (Chair SC Animal Identification).



*Christa Egger-Danner
(ICAR 2015 President's Award)*

Distinguished Certificate Award

The President presented the Distinguished Certificate Award to members of the Sub-Committees and Working Groups who left their positions this year:

- Silvia Orlandini (Member Milk Analysis SC)
- Ephraim Ezra (Member Dairy Cattle Milk Recording WG)
- Lucy Andrews (Member Functional Traits and Conformation Recording WG)
- James Godfrey (Member World Breed Federations WG)

The President and the audience thanked them for their valuable support to ICAR.

CoQ

Certificate of Quality

Hans Wilmink, President of ICAR, presented the Certificates of Quality granted by the ICAR Board since the last General Assembly:

- Association Wallonne de l'Élevage (ASBL) (Belgium). Identification, production recording and genetic evaluations in dairy cattle, identification of beef cattle, and linear classification
- Breeding Services of the Slovak Republic. Identification and recording production of beef cattle and data processing
- CONVIS (Luxembourg). Identification and production recording in dairy and beef cattle, laboratory analysis and data processing
- CRV Holdings BV (The Netherlands). Identification in dairy and beef cattle, production recording in dairy cattle, genetic evaluation, and linear classification.
- Czech Moravian Breeders' Association (Czech Rep.). Identification and recording production of beef cattle
- Deltamune Ltd. (South Africa). Laboratory analysis for milk samples
- State Animal Breeding Supervision Service (Lithuania). Identification and production recording in dairy cattle, laboratory analysis and data processing
- Tine (Norway). Identification, production recording and genetic evaluations in dairy cattle, laboratory analysis and data processing
- Vöxa (Sweden). Identification, production recording and genetic evaluations in dairy and beef cattle



The Certificate of Quality given to (from the first line: Association Wallonne de l'Élevage (ASBL) (Belgium); CONVIS (Luxembourg); CRV Holdings BV (The Netherlands); Czech Moravian Breeders' Association (Czech Rep.); State Animal Breeding Supervision Service (Lithuania); Tine (Norway); Växa (Sweden).

ICAR Board

From the ICAR Board

Hans Wilmink re-elected as President of ICAR

The ICAR Board, at its meeting on 10 June 2015, unanimously re-elected Hans Wilmink as President of ICAR.

Executive-Board

Executive Board members

The ICAR Board elected Jay Mattison and Kaivo Iives as Vice-Presidents, Laurent Journaux as Treasurer and Marco Winters as Secretary. These members, together with the President, constitute the ICAR Executive Board.



New Chairs of SCs

New Chairs of the Sub-Committees

The ICAR Board nominated the following new chairpersons: Ken Evers (Australia), Sub-Committee Animal Identification; Gavin Scott (New Zealand), Sub-Committee Milk Analysis; and Steven Sievert (USA), Sub-Committee Recording and Sampling Devices.



Gavin Scott (Chairperson of the Milk Analysis SC), Steven Sievert (Chairperson of the Recording and Sampling Devices SC) and Ken Evers (Chairperson of the Animal Identification SC)

Feed and Gasses WG

New ICAR Working Group for Feed and Gasses

The establishment of this new WG was endorsed by the Board. The Chief Executive and Brian Wickham were requested to finalise the Terms of Reference and, in cooperation with experts involved, propose members for the WG, including the IDF and research groups as required.

News Interbull SC Director

Interbull Centre hires new Director

It is with great pleasure that the Interbull Steering Committee and the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) announce the engagement of Mr. Toine Roozen as the new Interbull Centre Director.

As Chairman of the Interbull Steering Committee, Reinhard Reents stated "The selection committee was impressed by Mr. Roozen's knowledge of Interbull's structure and services, including its link to ICAR, as well as his passion and experience in business, communication and technology transfer." "There is no doubt that his background and leadership will be valuable assets both within the Interbull Centre and through his collaborations with the various stakeholders interested in the growing portfolio of services offered by the Interbull Centre", he added.



Toine Roozen the new Director of the Interbull Centre.

Toine Roozen was born and raised in The Netherlands and graduated from Wageningen University with a B.Sc. degree, as well as an M.Sc. in Animal Breeding and Genetics. After his studies Mr. Roozen relocated to the United Kingdom and, for the first eight years of his professional career, Mr. Roozen held various positions within PIC in the swine industry, including Business Development Manager for PIC Europe. Since 2003, Mr. Roozen has been employed by the Genesis Faraday Partnership, the Biosciences KTN and, since April 2014, the Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN Ltd), which are interdisciplinary networks that provide powerful vehicles for promoting innovation by accelerating the rate of technology transfer from research to industry adoption. His career progressed to the position of Knowledge Transfer Manager, Agri-Tech and Sustainability at KTN Ltd and led to his involvement in the Gene2Farm project in Europe. He previously managed two other key bio-tech related projects in the EU, namely SABRE and Quantomics, both of which involved many researchers and consortium members as well as significant budgets. While employed at Biosciences KTN, Mr. Roozen also completed an Executive MBA from the University of Oxford at the Saïd Business School in the United Kingdom.

Hans Wilmink, President of ICAR, commented "The Interbull Centre plays an important role for many countries around the world in providing international evaluations for dairy bulls, including MACE, GMACE and Intergenomics, as well as for beef populations through Interbeef." He added, "On behalf of the ICAR community, I wish to welcome Mr. Roozen as the new Interbull Centre Director and look forward to continuing the strong positive relationship between ICAR and Interbull for many years to come."

Polish Federation

Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers – host of the 2015 ICAR Technical Workshop

The Federation was established in 1995 by cattle breeders and dairy farmers from 20 regional associations. It is managed by breeders and provides herd book services (678,332 cows registered in herd books) and milk recording (754,128 recorded cows or



33% out of the total population). The average milk yield of recorded cows in 2014 was 7,582 kg. Breeding programmes are carried out in cooperation with AI centres. Services to breeders also include: type conformation, nutritional advice and organisation of cattle shows. The Federation has four milk laboratories, one genetics laboratory and one forage laboratory. Services are carried out by more than 1,000 employees, of whom 670 are field technicians.

Next 40th ICAR Biennial Session

The 40th ICAR biennial session, Puerto Varas, Chile, 24-28 October, 2016

The 40th ICAR biennial session will be held in Puerto Varas, Chile, from 24 to 28 October 2016 at the kind invitation of Cooprinsem, our member from Chile. Puerto Varas is located in southern Chile, near Lake Llanquihue and the Osorno volcano, in an important agricultural area that produces 70% of the total national milk production.



ICAR
Chile 2016



Sergio Niklitschek presenting the 40th ICAR Biennial Session (Puerto Varas, Chile, 24-28 October 2016)