



ICAR Newsletter

June 2013

International Committee
for Animal Recording



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ICAR TECHNICAL WORKSHOP 2013, AARHUS, DENMARK 29-31 MAY 2013

270 participants attended the ICAR Technical Workshop, which was held in Aarhus, Denmark, from 29 to 31 May 2013. Under the main theme of the workshop: "ICAR MOVING FOR THE FUTURE", three technical and one parallel session covered issues related to valid identification, identification in milk recording and in recording of reproduction and functional traits and to recording of beef and sheep and goat. Manufactures show and exhibition of new products was an opportunity for participants to get acquainted with new developments.

Presentations and pictures taken during the meeting submitted at technical and parallel sessions have already been placed on the ICAR web site at: www.icar.org/Documents/Aarhus_2013/PowerPoint/index.htm



ICAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The ICAR General Assembly held in Aarhus on 29 May 2013 received President's Report as well as reports submitted by the Treasurer and Inspectors, approved the 2012 financial statements and the budget for 2014 and elected two new members of the ICAR Board.

From the President's Report

The increase in global animal production was mainly due to an increase in productivity of farm animals attained by improvements in genetics, nutrition and technology. These improvements were accompanied by structural changes in almost all regions. The share of the industrial sector in pork and poultry production exceeds 60%. In dairy sector, the expansion of the herd size together with productivity has become the principal engine behind the rise in milk production.

ICAR Members' core business - animal identification, recording and genetic evaluation - significantly contributed to increase productivity of farm animals, particularly of dairy cows, in regions covered by services provided by ICAR Members - Europe, North America and Oceania - the total number of cattle shows a stagnation or constant decline, while milk production is constantly increasing.

Strategic priorities in 2013

In his address to the ICAR General Assembly Uffe Lauritsen, President of ICAR, underlined that in the implementation of the Strategic Plan in 2013 and future years priority shall be given to:

- Development of measurable indicators and corresponding guidelines for recording of animal welfare and environmental effects.
- Strengthening the ICAR presence in South America and Asia.
- Development of guidelines for recording in medium input production systems, including the establishment of a special Task Force to recommend optional recording devices and recording methods and practices suited for these systems.
- Genomic evaluation.
- Recording data transfer and management.
- Dissemination of information including publication of parts or complete Guidelines in national languages.



New ICAR Members

ICAR has two Members and four new Associate Members.

New Members are: World Simmental-Fleckvieh Federation (Czech Republic) and Sistema Nacional de Identificación Individual del Ganado (SINIIGA, Mexico).

New Associate Members are: Zee Tags Ltd. (New Zealand); Compass Animal Health Inc. (Canada); Hadid Sanat Khavaran Ltd. (Iran); Milkline (Italy), and Orion Machinery Co. Ltd. (Japan).



Certificate of Quality

Andrea Rosati, Secretary General of ICAR, during the General Assembly delivered the ICAR Certificate of Quality to:

- QMMS, UK, for dairy cattle production.
- ProAgria, Finland, for dairy cattle identification and production recording.
- NABC, Poland, for reference laboratory.



Representatives of the Organisations granted with the "Certificate of Quality" (from the top: ProAgria, Finland, NABC, Poland; Estonian Recording Centre, Estonia; DLQ, Germany; SA StudBook, South Africa; CRV Holding BV, The Netherlands)

- Estonian Recording Centre, Estonia, for dairy and beef identification, recording dairy cattle, genetic evaluation dairy cattle, lab. Analysis, data processing, herdbook keeping.
- DLQ, Germany, for identification and production recording of dairy cattle, sample transport, laboratory analysis, data processing, recording and sampling devices.
- SA StudBook, South Africa, for identification in dairy cattle, beef cattle, dairy sheep, dairy goats; recording and production in dairy cattle, beef cattle, dairy sheep, meat sheep, dairy goats, meat goats; genetic evaluation in dairy cattle, beef cattle, other species, data processing, herd-book.
- CRV Holding BV, The Netherlands, for type classification.

Awards

President's Award

At the official dinner offered by the Danish hosts on the occasion of the Technical Workshop, Uffe Lauritsen, President of ICAR delivered the 2013 ICAR President's Award to Christian Baumgartner (Germany).



Christian Baumgartner awarded with the President's Award in Aarhus 2013

Distinguished Certificate and Service Award

Distinguished Certificate Awards were delivered at the General Assembly to outgoing members of ICAR Sub-Committees and Working Groups:

- Hans Graser (InterBeef WG)
- Ernst Bohlsen (Dairy cattle WG)
- Brent Woodward (Parentage Recording WG)
- Ian Davison (Animal Fibre WG)

On the same occasion, the Distinguished Service Award was accorded to the outgoing Board members and former Chairmen of Sub-Committees and Working Groups:

- Daniel Abernethy (Board member)
- Ole K. Hansen (Board member)
- Laurent Journaux (Artificial Insemination and Relevant Technologies working group)



Daniel Abernethy (on top) and Ole K. Hansen (below) awarded with the the Distinguished Service Award in Aarhus 2013

FROM THE ICAR BOARD

New members of the Board

The General Assembly elected Japie van der Westhuizen (South Africa) and Bevin Harris (New Zealand) as new members of the ICAR Board for next four years time.

Executive Board

The ICAR Board elected Uffe Lauritsen as President. He then proposed J. Mattison and Hans Wilmink Vice Presidents, Marco Winters Secretary and Pierre-Louis Gastinel Treasurer.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

During the Technical Workshop held in Aarhus, the ICAR Board and Chairpersons of Sub-Committees and Working Groups reviewed activities and problems encountered in the past twelve months and agreed on future programs in accordance with the ICAR Strategic Plan. At the same time it was debated the responsibilities of the ICAR technical bodies to monitor developments in fields of their competence, review the implementation of ICAR Guidelines and develop new guidelines whenever required. They adopted standard format of terms of reference and agreed on the need to review the structure of guidelines and the process for maintaining them.

New Working Group

The ICAR Board established the Welfare Recording Working Group. The Board approved its terms of reference. The Group will establish criteria for recording of animal welfare relying on results of current research in this field and on the work of other international organizations.

New Chairman of the Working Group for Artificial Insemination and Related Technologies

The ICAR Board nominated Gordon Doak as Chairman of the Working Group Artificial Insemination and Related Technologies. He replaced Laurent Journaux who served in the Group for many years.

Budgetary surplus for new projects

The 2014 budget approved by the General Assembly foresees a budgetary surplus that will be used for projects aimed at developing new activities for ICAR and its Members. The first project to be taken into consideration for financial support is AQAS Project of the Sub-Committee Milk Analysis. The ICAR Board nominated Jay Mattison, Hans Wilmink, and Pierre-Louis Gastinel to work with the

Secretariat and the Milk Analysis Sub-Committee to review the proposal in detail and bring back to the Board a detailed business plan for the envisaged AQAS.

THE ICAR 2013 HEALTH DATA CONFERENCE

In conjunction with the ICAR Technical Workshop, the ICAR 2013 Health Data Conference organized by the ICAR Functional Traits Working Group was held in Aarhus, Denmark from 30th–31st of May, 2013. There were 145 participants from over 30 countries representing different disciplines – farmers, veterinarians, representatives of research and dairy industry, breeding and recording organizations, advisory services, administrators.

The popularity of this conference demonstrates that the topic of health data recording has been addressed properly and at the right time. Dr. Sergio Pavon, a relevant EU official, stressed the increased focus on animal health in the context of animal welfare, food safety and environmental aspects. The program included many other well known experts covering data legislative aspects, recording, logistics, processing, data quality and validation, benefits as well as challenges of working with health data. The delegates exchanged their views and experiences ranging from countries with experience in health data to countries that are in the planning or start-up phase.

Main outcomes:

- Easy care, healthy, "invisible" cow is what farmers want.
- The aim is to have minimum effort for recording with maximum benefit for herd improvement.



Group picture of the authors that presented their work at the ICAR 2013 Health Data Conference.

- Multidisciplinary use of farm and veterinary data will help to achieve this aim.
- Clear agreements concerning data ownership and use are needed.
- Legal regulations may be supportive for establishing health monitoring systems, but motivation of the stakeholders involved is the key factor for long-term success.
- Disease information such as mastitis, infertility, lameness, metabolic disorders are necessary for targeted improvement of animal health which is in accordance with the EU-strategy "Prevention is better than cure".
- Data quality and data quantity assurance measures are very important.
- There is a need for international standardization.
- Electronic devices and automated systems may contribute to future solutions.
- Each country has to find solutions fitting their circumstances.
- We can do better when we work together (multidisciplinary, multi-country approaches)!

Presentations of this Conference are already available at: www.icar.org/Documents/Aarhus_2013/PowerPoint/index.htm

FUTURE ICAR MEETINGS

- The 39th ICAR Biennial Session will be held in Berlin (Germany) from 19th to 23rd May, 2014. Preliminary programme and information have been already placed on the web site (www.icar2014.de). The meeting will be preceded by the analytical week of IDF, so that the participation of experts and technicians of milk analysis will be facilitated.
- The 2015 Technical Workshop and the General Assembly of ICAR will be held in Krakow (Poland) from 10th to 12th June, 2015, while Osorno (Chile), will be the venue of the 40th Biennial Session to be held in October 2016.

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