

## Meeting IDF SCAHW and ICAR WGFT

**Date:** 13/6/23017

**Location:** Edinburgh

### Participants:

Andrew Bradley (ICAR WGFT)

Martin Burke (CEO ICAR)

Olav Osteras (Chair IDF SCAHW)

María Sánchez Mainar (IDF Head Office)

Silvia Orlandini (ICAR, IDF)

Kathrin Stock (ICAR WGFT)

Christa Egger-Danner (Chair ICAR WGFT)

Bjorg Heringstad (ICAR WGFT)

### Agenda

- **Welcome and introduction** (M. Burke)
- **Short overview about status of work and available documents of ICAR (ICAR WGFT) relevant to welfare** - (outline on Cross Analyses which reviewed ICAR guidelines sections with respect to welfare and the 10 suggestions) (K. Stock)
- **Short overview of status of work and available documents relevant to welfare from IDF** (O. Osteras)
- **Identification of aim of cooperation, work topics and role of partners**
- **Further steps**

### Summary of results:

**BURKE** explained the background including the discussion about working closely together with IDF in animal welfare without having an extra group within ICAR. The idea is that the ICAR WGFT covers this topics in collaboration with IDF SCAHW. **BURKE** explained that ICAR so far haven't been involved heavily in animal welfare although some member organisations in various countries are working in this field. A cross analyses which reviewed ICAR guideline sections with respect to animal welfare was done by a temporary ICAR working group on animal care. The approach of ICAR is to define best practices, guidelines

for members and farmers on animal welfare in general and the parameters to measure animal welfare. The aim of this meeting is to elaborate with IDF SCAHW and the ICAR WGF first steps of a cooperation and to clarify the role of the two partners.

**OSTERAS** explains that a new ISO standard has been recently released the „ ISO Animal welfare management — General requirements and guidance for organizations in the food supply chain“ (ISO standard 34700 ). The level above the ISO standard is the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code with Section 7 on Animal Welfare.

([http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=titre\\_1.7.htm](http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=titre_1.7.htm))

IDF is serving the global dairy sector (all dairy stakeholders). One of the major focus of IDF is contributing to the development of science-based globally harmonised standards to improve regulatory environments for the dairy sector. There are 17 different standing committees that cover aspects from dairy science and technology, policy and marketing, environment,.. till animal health and welfare. Focus of work are also topics of food safety, nutrition, Food Safety, Nutrition,

Sustainability and Standards

The members of IDF are covering 85% of the milk produced worldwide. The expert leading the Action Team on animal welfare is Luc Mirabito, who is working also within the standards of ISO and OIE. IDF has published several guidelines. One of them is a „Guide to good animal welfare in dairy production (2008) “. In 2017 and 2018 an Action Team of IDF will have updated this guideline referring to the OIE – standard. IDF is working on behalf of the global dairy sector with the aim of collecting global animal welfare practices and filling the gap of the OIE and ISO standards and to give recommendations on animal welfare to the dairy sector globally.

The aim of the cooperation with ICAR is to cover the dairy chain from the beginning. ICAR has expertise on farm level with focus on recording and setting standards for trait definitions. The aim is to avoid overlap in the work and to use synergies.

**STOCK** shares the information about actions already taken by ICAR within animal welfare over the last months (see attachment). The aim of the work is to create more awareness, increased transparency and monitoring as well as work for improvement. The pressure on the farms has increased. A temporary ICAR Working Group on Animal Care did a Cross Analyses comparing the OIE principles with the ICAR guidelines and identified gaps.

### General discussion

The strengths of ICAR is the focus on standardisation of phenotypic information. ICAR can provide information on parameters from individual animals. The challenge is to cover the gap from the lab to the field and from the field to the lab.

Open question: What to do with those not within milk recording?

### Roles IDF and ICAR

- IDF – working on behalf of industry – make system in connection with ISO/OIE
  - how to use it in management e.g. SCC how to use it such that you treat the right cow at the right time
- ICAR – standardising traits / recording – from OIE-standards

- standardised recording (correct measurement (repeatability,..))
- use of data/traits (link to other guidelines - ..)
- ICAR will provide the link from the OIE standards down to farm level. The priority of the OIE standard are the outcome / output variables in animals (behaviour, culling,..). OIE is also providing some resource based recommendations. The focus of ICAR is the harmonised recording of the traits.

#### **ICAR – work topics**

- Identify main traits – related to updated OIE standard (cross reference) with gap analyses. Within ICAR it has to be defined whose responsibility it is ? Which working group is concerned?
  - Identification of traits
  - Definition of traits
  - How to collect the data?
    - Traditional traits
    - Measurements from sensors (harmonized information across sensors – challenge) – (Taskforce IDF, Taskforce ICAR)
    - Standardise bio-model
- Go to WGs and share work concerning welfare recording – coordinate and put it together
  - consistency
  - visibility
- Cooperation/Link to IDF and other organisations (OIE, FAO,...)
  - IDF observer of OIE – ICAR indirect link to OIE ,.. via IDF SCAHW
- How to use the variables? – *IDF (experts)*
  - *Are data out of sensors usefull for farmer, how can the use it – validation ?*
  - *Epidemological use*
  - *The aim is not to provide a welfare index – is task of industry*

Focus of ICAR is on harmonized recording of parameters and traits on animal level set by OIE standard!

#### **Topics to cooperate / starting point**

- Animal Welfare – focus recording on traits (output variables of OIE standard) - standardisation/harmonization of tools and traits used
- Regular exchange of information between ICAR WGFT and IDF SCAHW
  - Exchange on regular basis
  - Contact point IDF: María Sánchez Mainar (*technical manager from IDF*) – to have access to ICAR platform , *and ensure that ICAR WGFT has access to relevant IDF documents*)
    - Shared space both sides have access - updated documents to be there (e.g. google docs,..) – **ICAR will set up shared space**
    - To share technically relevant information between IDF and ICAR WGFT
      - Invitation to relevant ICAR WGFT *meetings* (topics) (minutes)
      - **To clarify – access to relevant information from IDF** (María Sánchez Mainar)
  - Liasion person – Luc Mirabito (IDF), María Sánchez Mainar, Olav Osteras, Ylva Persson
  - Liasion person – ICAR WGFT: Kathrin Stock, Christa Egger-Danner

**Next steps:**

- ICAR will create shared space
- Minutes
- IDF Belfast – meeting of IDF SCAHW – 28.10.2017 – participation would be appreciated

**Chairperson ICAR WGFT**  
(Christa Egger-Danner)

**Chairperson IDF SCAHW**  
(Olav Osteras)