
Foreword

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This is the first Workshop on buffalo recording that has been organized at an international level; the preparation has taken years of work and has required the inputs of animal production experts from many countries.

Several FAO offices have contributed to giving financial support to this Workshop: the Animal Production Division at FAO Headquarters, as well as the Regional Offices for Europe, the Near East and Asia, because FAO considers buffalo as a very important component in developing countries. Cattle numbers are stagnant, buffaloes are rising, both in number and production.

Objectives of the Workshop were to:

- promote buffalo recording in developing countries and to make possible comparison of animal productivity across countries;
- enforce international collaboration (network) for the development of buffalo production;
- increase awareness of the value of appropriate recording systems for the management of buffalo genetic resources;
- promote the use of records to assess the merit of animals, improve farm management systems and increase profitability of farming.

Cooperation between FAO and ICAR is active and continuous; in 1997 a Joint FAO-ICAR Workshop on “Animal Recording for Smallholders in Developing Countries” was held in Anand (India), ICAR’s efforts to expand its activities to developing countries were appreciated.

ICAR has established an *ad hoc* Task Force for developing countries and this Workshop shows the common platform that we have to promote milk recording in buffalo. We look forward to the ICAR guidelines and standards to be applied in FAO Member Nations.

By allowing everybody to discuss their positive and negative experiences in verifying constraints and benefits of establishing buffalo recording systems, FAO expects active participation in this Workshop. FAO hopes that the Workshop discussions will produce a set of guidelines and recommendations for the initiation and successful maintenance of recording systems for buffalo.