
Main conclusions of the seminar

Choice of the most suitable identification system is dependent on local objectives and needs. To get access to high developed markets, identification and registration systems have to meet the required levels (e.g. in the EU-market). It is recognized, that under certain circumstances, e.g. for theft prevention, less sophisticated identification systems are suitable and sufficient. The following recommendations are more focused on situations, where an elevated level of identification and registration is required.

- Introduction of identification systems ensuring uniqueness of identification codes.
 - Identification codes should be used that follow “ISO 11784”-rules: 3 digits for country/manufacturer code, 12 digits for individual animal identification code.
 - Only one identification code for all purposes (e.g. Disease surveillance programs, performance recording, herdbook, etc.).
 - Where suitable (regarding use and cost), electronic identification (RFID) should be considered.
 - If electronic and visual identification are used in parallel, electronic ID-devices should be placed on the left side of the animal.
 - Preferred type of electronic identification device (inject, eartag, bolus) should be left to the choice of the clients.
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- ICAR should clarify with the EU, in exact and specific terms, what their import and traceability requirements are for meat importation from developing countries.
 - ICAR to set standards and a testing program for conventional plastic eartags as well as for RFID devices used in official identification systems.
 - ICAR and FAO should review in two to three years the current identification and recording schemes being initiated in developing countries and disseminate successes and any lessons learnt.
 - ICAR and FAO should prepare guidelines for developing countries wishing to establish an identification and registration systems that would be recognizable by ICAR. Such guidelines should provide a road map (check list) that assists in determining objectives, establishing minimum requirements, technical and implementation options and their implications and sustainability.

**General
remark**

Recommendations

**General
follow-up for
ICAR and
FAO**

- ICAR and FAO should assist in creating greater awareness in developing countries of the benefits of establishing appropriate identification and recording systems.
- As OIE has a mandate for identification and recording for disease surveillance, ICAR and FAO should open a dialogue with OIE to ensure compatibility and uniformity in identification and recording systems with the differing objectives.