Minutes from ICAR meeting at Cork, Ireland on Tuesday 29th 2012

Attendants:

- Zdravko Barac, Croatia
- Jean-Michel Astruc (France)
- Drago Kompan, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia – represented by Marija Klopcic

New group members since 2012:

- Joanne Conington, Scottish Agricultural College, UK represented by Mike Coffey
- Silverio Grande, Italian Breeders' Association, Italy represented by Alessia Tondo
- Pierre van Rooyen, South African Stud Book and Livestock Improvement Association, South Africa represented by Japie Van der Westhuizen
- Juan Manuel Serradilla Manrique, University of Cordoba, Spain none
- Guests: Zeljka Fatovic, Croatia and Ming-Che Wu, Taiwan

Minutes: Maja Drazic, Croatia

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introduction of the new group members
2. Report on goat milk recording – results from the on-line data base and discussion
3. Harmonization of the Guidelines for goat milk recording – material sent by e-mail
4. Including non-milking traits into the Guidelines – discussion
5. Report on the survey on goat meat recording and discussion
6. Miscellaneous

1. WG constitution

Representatives of the new members gave short introduction on their relations to goat recording/breeding in their respective countries.

2. Report on goat milk recording

The data from the on-line data base have been presented and discussed. Until the Cork meeting, 7 member countries submitted data. ICAR Secretariat published the data on Goat milk recording in a separate publication. The publication was distributed among Conference attendees.

The main conclusion was to make further efforts in yearly data submission, especially from the countries with large goat populations. Also, on-line database should be enlarged with data on milk composition (fat, protein) and major diseases in goat flocks.

3. Harmonization of the Guidelines for goat milk recording

Material has been sent earlier by e-mail, together with proposed changes in the text. After discussion, it was decided that WG members should review the text and send it back to
Z. Barač in the next four weeks. Revised material will be sent to ICAR Secretariat for further procedure.

4. Including non-milking traits into the Guidelines

It was concluded that udder score traits should be included in the Guidelines as a result of data analysis from the on-line data base. Materials and experience from the member countries (Spain, Portugal) that already run performance tests on udder traits should be collected. Based on these, a sub-chapter in the Guidelines should be prepared.

5. Questionnaire on meat breeds

The survey about recording on goat meat traits was prepared and distributed by e-mail to all member countries. 9 countries responded on survey: Belgian region Wallonia, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Israel, Portugal, Republic of South Africa, Slovenia and Spain.

One of the conclusions was that we should continue to follow goat meat breeds. It was decided to increase contacts directly to the countries/organizations that have performance recording and to collect their experience and procedures. The decision on writing guidelines will be discussed on the next meeting.

6. Miscellaneous

There were no other topics for discussion.