

**MA SC**

*ICAR Sub-Committee on  
Milk Analysis*



## ICAR Reference Laboratory Network

- 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Niagara Falls, 16 June 2008

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 1

### - Agenda -

- 8.00 : Opening - Welcome - Round table for presentation
- 8.20 : Introduction : ICAR Reference Laboratory Network history and objectives  
ICAR analytical strategy - International anchorage & harmonisation (O. Leray, Cecalait, FR)
- 8.50 : Interlaboratory reference systems and centralised calibration – Prerequisites and standard optimum procedures (O. Leray, Cecalait, FR)
- 9.10 : Discussion
- 9.40 : The way to reference systems and centralised calibration for milk recording testing - Present status in Germany (C. Baumgartner, MPR, DE)
- 10.00 : Health break
- 10.20 : Reference system and centralised calibration for milk recording testing in Argentina (R. Castañeda, Inti-Lacteos, AR)
- 10.40 : Reference system and centralised calibration for milk (payment) testing in USA, (D. Barbano, Cornell University, USA)
- 11.00 : Assessment of laboratory performances and analytical equivalence in milk testing in North America, (P. Sauvé, Canadian Laboratory Services, CA)
- 11.30 : Discussion
- 12.00 - Closure of the meeting

## - INTRODUCTION - GENERAL OBJECTIVES -

**History :** ICAR Session in Ottawa 1994,  
=> Analytical Quality Assurance (AQA) policy by ICAR

**General objective :** Develop an **international AQA system for DHI**  
based on harmonised laboratory practices.

**Goal :** **Confidence, equivalence, comparability**  
=> within / between countries,  
=> worldwide : international genetic evaluation.

**Implementation by MA SC (MTL WG) :**  
> **Guidelines** for the harmonisation of analytical practices :  
Analytical methods, Quality Assurance,  
> **International network** of reference laboratories for milk recording  
analytical performances

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 3

## ROLES OF THE LABORATORY NETWORK

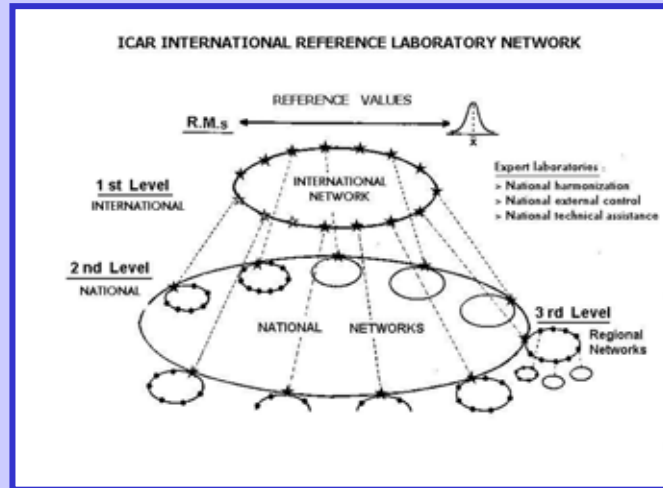
ICAR Reference Laboratory Network is **expected** to operate as **an international platform for milk recording** as to

- diffuse/promote GLP and AQA based on international guides and standards => **communication** (*Internet, website*)
- provide **precision traceability** and anchorage to **consensual international "true values"** to routine labs via network members  
=> **analytical data harmonisation** (*PTs, RMs*)
- a mean for developing collaborations for laboratory purposes  
=> **Co-operation** (*Education, training*)

**Model & explanation provided every year to ICAR member organisations**

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## THEORETICAL STRUCTURE



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## Missions / activities expected - Eligibility criteria -

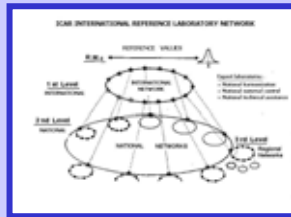
- 1- National ring test organizer
- 2- Reference Material supplier
- 3- Master laboratory for centralized calibration
- 4- Teaching and training in laboratory techniques
- 5- Information on analytical methods
- 6- Evaluation of analytical methods/instruments
- 7- Research on analytical methods
- 8- National regulatory control of analyses
- 9- Routine testing where only 1 or 2 labs/country

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## ICAR Reference Laboratory Network

### Composition & evolution

from 1998 to 2008



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## ICAR Reference Laboratory Network

### Membership in 2008

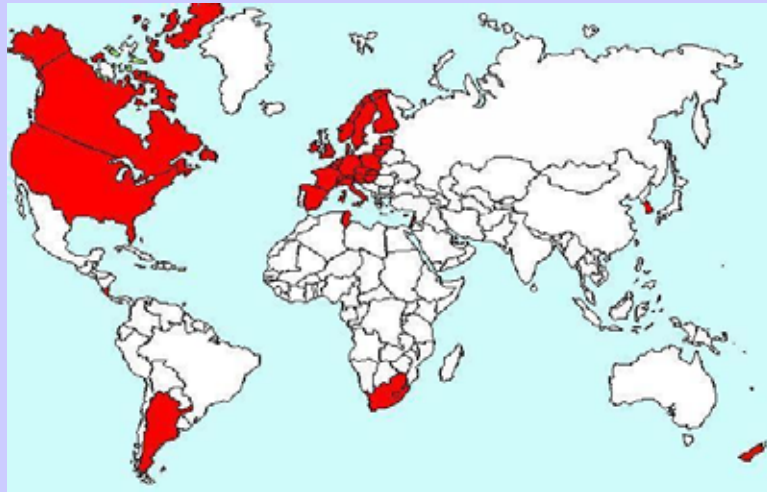
38 laboratory members from 32 countries as follows:

Argentina	(1)	Austria	(1)	Belgium	(2)	Canada	(1)
Cyprus	(1)	Czech Republic	(1)	Denmark	(1)	Estonia	(1)
Finland	(1)	France	(1)	Germany	(1)	Hungary	(1)
Ireland	(1)	Israel	(1)	Italy	(1)	Korea	(1)
Latvia	(2)	Lithuania	(1)	The Netherlands	(1)	New Zealand	(1)
Norway	(1)	Poland	(1)	Slovak Repub.	(1)	Slovenia	(1)
South Africa	(3)	Spain	(1)	Sweden	(1)	Switzerland	(1)
Tunisia	(2)	United Kingdom	(1)	U.S.A.	(2)	Zimbabwe	(1)

(n) : number of member(s)

among which : 38 members for cow  
16 members for goat  
14 members for sheep

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Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 - 9

### ICAR Reference Laboratory Network - Evolution since 1998 -

Evolution of the composition and national roles from 1998 to 2007 (end of year)

YEAR	NRTO	RMS	MLCC	TLT	IAM	EAMI	RAM	NRCA	DHIA	PAYMENT	Other anal.	Members
1998	15	16	13	13	16	1	11	2	2	1	1	23
1999	17	18	17	14	17	1	12	2	3	1	1	28
2000	16	21	19	15	19	1	13	3	5	1	1	33
2001	19	22	19	18	21	3	15	5	6	2	1	35
2002	20	23	19	19	23	8	15	8	11	5	1	37
2003	21	26	19	21	24	12	16	9	14	7	3	38
2003	21	26	19	21	24	12	16	9	14	7	3	38
2004	25	26	18	20	24	14	16	9	16	9	3	38
2005	24	24	17	19	22	13	15	10	15	8	3	37
2006	24	24	17	20	22	14	15	10	15	10	3	36
2007	22	24	18	22	24	17	17	13	17	13	3	38

NRTO = National Ring Test Organiser      RMS = Reference Material Supplier      MLCC = Master Laboratory for Centralised Calibration  
 TLT = Training in Laboratory Techniques      IAM = Information on Analytical Methods      EAMI = Evaluation of Analytical Methods/Instruments  
 RAM = Research on Analytical Methods      NRCA = National Regulatory Control of Analyses      DHIA = Dairy Herd Improvement Analyses  
 Membership = Officially nominated by ICAR National Committees      Payment = Analyses for milk payment

Evolution of the proportions of national roles from 1998 to 2007 (end of year)

YEAR	NRTO	RMS	MLCC	TLT	IAM	EAMI	RAM	NRCA	DHIA	PAYMENT	Other anal.	Members
1998	68	73	59	59	73	5	50	9	9	5	5	100
1999	63	67	63	52	63	4	44	7	11	4	4	100
2000	48	64	58	45	58	3	39	9	15	3	3	100
2001	54	63	54	51	60	9	43	14	17	6	3	100
2002	54	62	51	51	62	22	41	22	30	14	3	100
2003	55	68	50	55	63	32	42	24	37	18	8	100
2004	66	68	47	53	63	37	42	24	42	24	8	100
2005	65	65	46	51	59	35	41	27	41	22	8	100
2006	67	67	47	56	61	39	42	28	42	28	8	100
2007	58	63	47	58	63	45	45	34	45	34	8	100

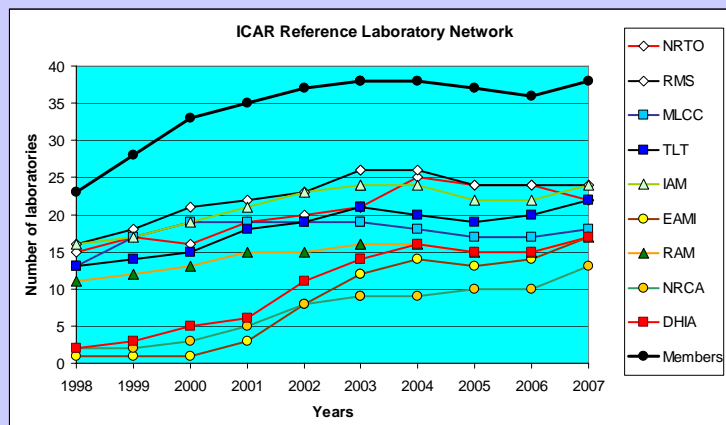
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### Eligibility criteria declared in 2008

Criteria number N	Proportion %	Lab number with N	Lab % with N	Lab number with at least N	Lab % with at least N
8	100%	5	13%	5	13%
7	88%	4	11%	9	24%
6	75%	4	11%	13	34%
5	63%	4	11%	17	45%
4	50%	7	18%	24	63%
3	38%	3	8%	27	71%
2	25%	2	5%	29	76%
1	13%	4	11%	33	87%
0	0%	5	13%	38	100%

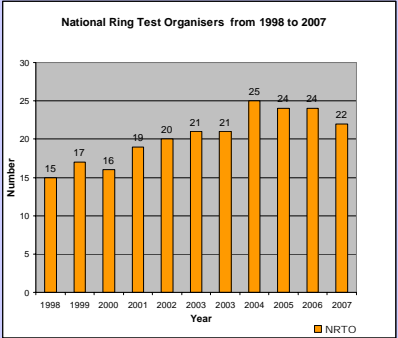
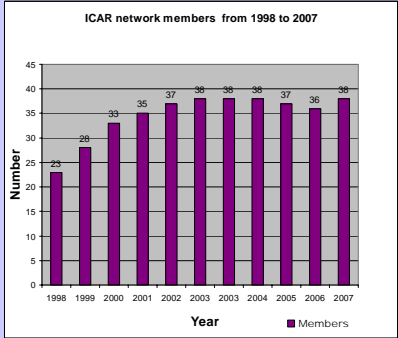
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### Evolution of membership and missions/activities from 1998 to 2008



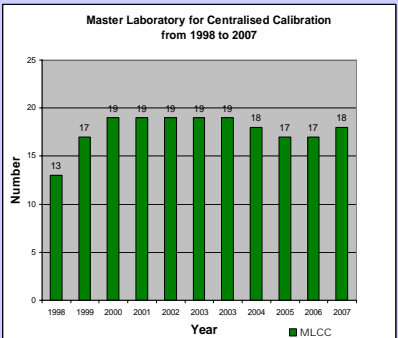
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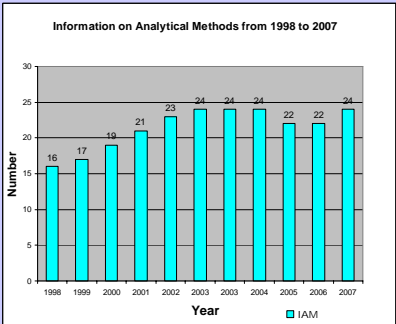
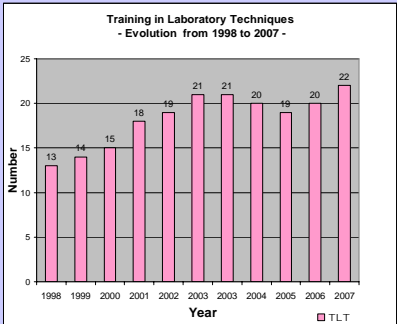
Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 13

## Evolution of membership and missions/activities from 1998 to 2008



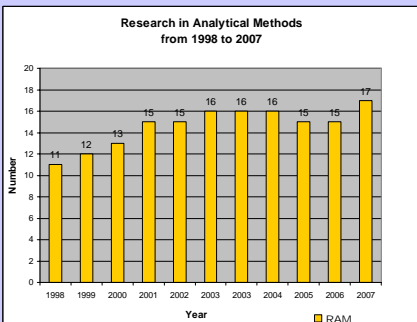
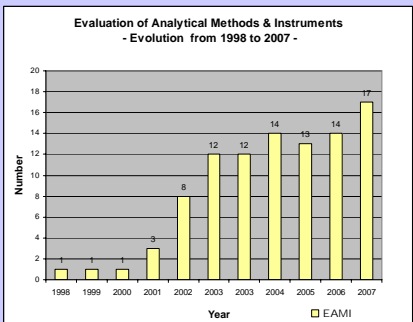
Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 14

## Evolution of membership and missions/activities from 1998 to 2008



Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 15

## Evolution of membership and missions/activities from 1998 to 2008



Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 16



## International interlaboratory proficiency studies

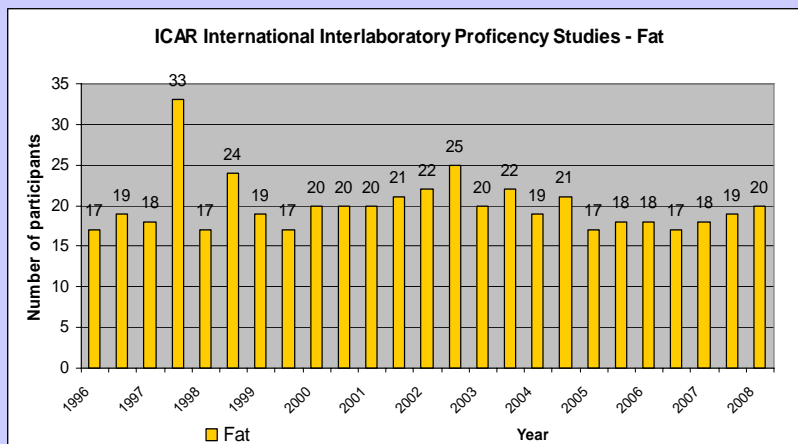
**From 1996 :** International proficiency scheme organised by ICAR  
**Frequency :** twice a year  
**Participants :** members of ICAR ref lab Network  
**Analytical methods :**

- reference methods to calibrate routine methods for fat, protein and lactose
- methods for urea somatic cell counting

**Type of milk :** cow milk

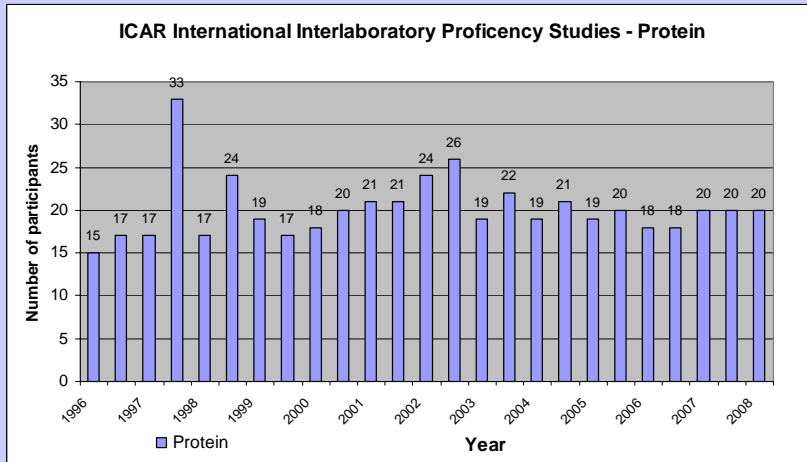
Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 17

## Participation in international proficiency studies from 1998 to 2008



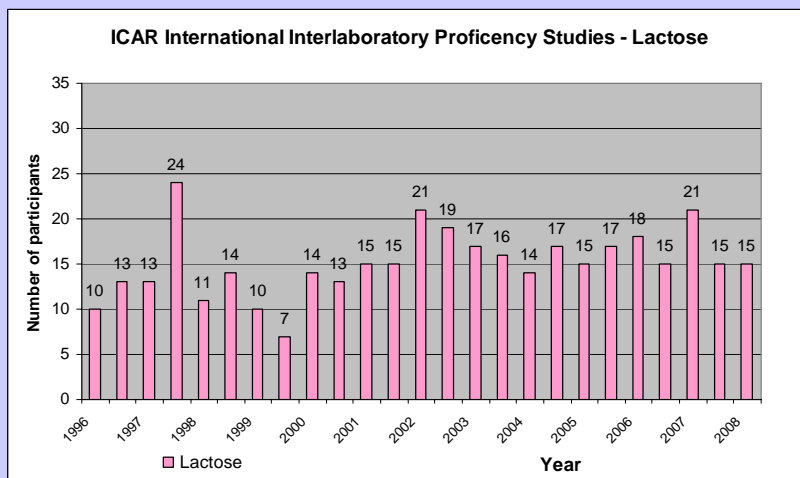
Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 18

**Participation in international proficiency studies from 1998 to 2008**



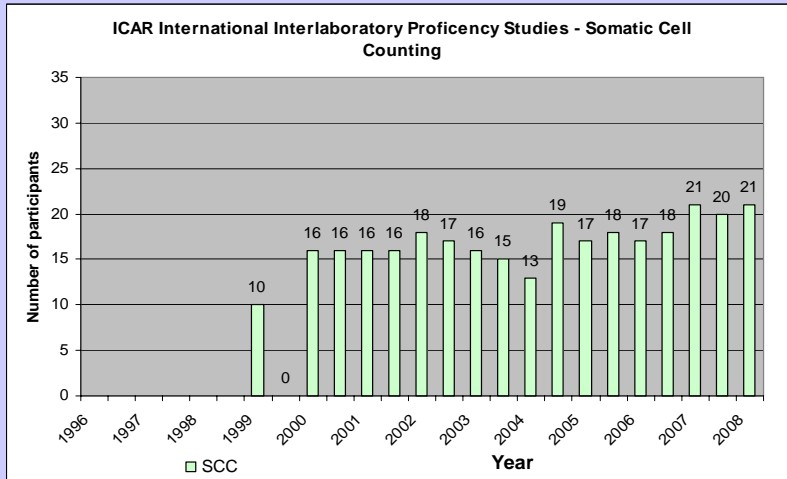
Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 19

**Participation in international proficiency studies from 1998 to 2008**



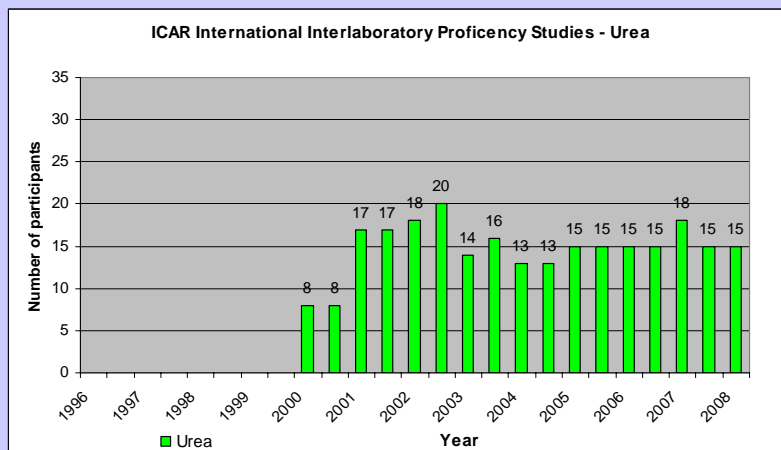
Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 20

### Participation in international proficiency studies from 1998 to 2008



Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 21

### Participation in international proficiency studies from 1998 to 2008



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## CONCLUSION ON THE NETWORK IMPLEMENTATION

### Nominations by national organisations :

- **Number :** **Stability** from **2003** around **38** members  
⇒ growth completed
- **Qualification :** **Increase of mission numbers** (eligibility criteria)

### International Proficiency Testing schemes :

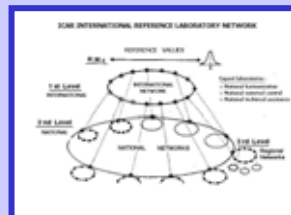
- **Regular** participation of about **50%** of laboratory network members
- **Improvement** of performance from 2003

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## ICAR AQA Strategy

### International anchorage & harmonisation

Olivier Leray, Cecalait, France



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## ICAR analytical anchorage

### Intent

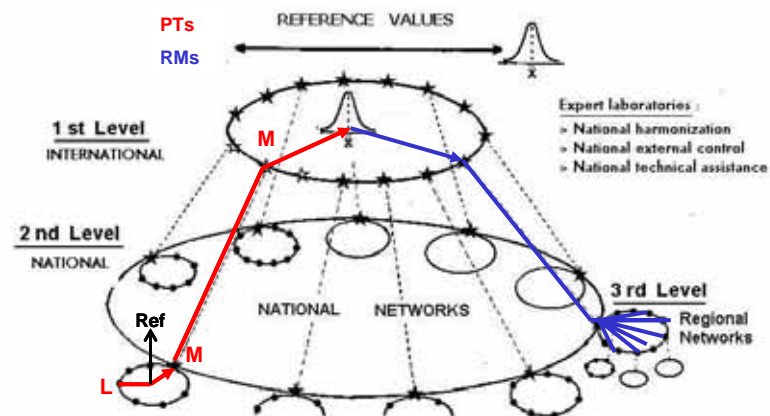
- > to establish links from **local/national/regional** levels to the **international** level
- > to harmonise laboratories on a **international collective reference**

### Means

- > Guidelines, standards, GLP, AQA
- > Interlaboratory proficiency studies  $\Rightarrow$  lab trueness traceability
- > Reference materials  $\Rightarrow$  trueness improvement

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 25

### ICAR INTERNATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORY NETWORK



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## Requirements for the reference

### 1- Technical :

- ⇒ Use of international reference methods (IDF/ISO)
- ⇒ Compliance with precision figures of the methods

### 2- Statistical : Unbiased and low uncertainty

- ⇒ sufficient number, representativeness of participants

### 3- Political/economical : recognition for the purpose

- ⇒ consensus of participants / organisations based on representativeness

*For international genetic evaluation (Interbull), it should be built from results of laboratories from different countries !!!*

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 27

## Possible uses of interlaboratory proficiency studies

- 1- Measuring laboratory performance
- 2- Measuring result uncertainty
- 3- Comparing laboratories (assess equivalence)
- 4- Providing traceability to international reference
- 5- Qualifying/selecting reference/expert laboratories
- 6- Assessing/certifying reference materials

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 28

# 1- Measuring laboratory performance

## Laboratory L

- participates with p laboratories, q samples in n replicates
- the estimate of sample S true value is  $\bar{X}_S$
- means of n replicate (average) are  $\bar{x}_{Lk}$
- level score (individual bias) is  $d_{Lk} = \bar{x}_{Lk} - \bar{X}_S$

Laboratory score = Average of q level scores :

$$\bar{d}_L = \sum \bar{d}_{Lk} / q \text{ also } \bar{d}_L = \bar{x}_L - \bar{X}$$

Additionally:

- standard deviation of repeatability  $sr_L$
- standard deviation of differences  $sd_L$
- Euclidian distance (equivalent to SEP)  $D = (\bar{d}_L^2 + sd^2)^{1/2}$

Within lab reproducibility :  $sr_L^2 = sr^2 \cdot (1-1/n) + \bar{d}_L^2 + sd^2$

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 29

## Evaluation example : ICAR PT scheme (10 samples in duplicates)

DETERMINATION of FAT in RAW (cow) MILK - page 1/6

Tableau I : Ranking of the laboratories

Units : g / 100 g

Nb	%	N°	d	Sd	D
1	5	1	+ 0.002	0,004	0,004
2	10	6	+ 0.001	0,005	0,005
3	15	8	+ 0.003	0,004	0,005
4	20	18	+ 0.004	0,004	0,005
5	25	3	- 0.002	0,005	0,005
6	30	13	- 0.000	0,005	0,005
7	35	10	- 0.001	0,005	0,005
8	40	12	- 0.006	0,005	0,008
9	45	2	+ 0.004	0,008	0,009
10	50	20	- 0.007	0,007	0,010
11	55	14	+ 0.007	0,007	0,010
12	60	17	+ 0.009	0,005	0,010
13	65	15	+ 0.005	0,010	0,011
14	70	11	- 0.009	0,007	0,012
15	75	7	+ 0.009	0,009	0,013
16	80	16	+ 0.002	0,013	0,013
17	85	5	+ 0.011	0,007	0,014
18	90	9	+ 0.001	0,017	0,017
19	95	19	- 0.023	0,008	0,024
20	100	4	- 0.023	0,012	0,026

The table should be studied in parallel with figure 2 where the laboratories are located according to an acceptability area (or target) the limits of which are :

$$\pm 0.02 \text{ g / 100 g for } \bar{d} \text{ and } 0.03 \text{ g / 100 g for } Sd$$

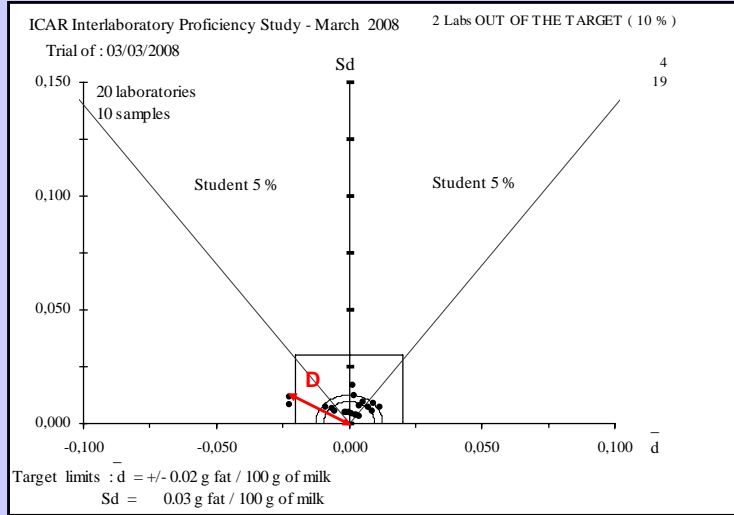
The reference values are the average values of 20 laboratories having used the extraction method and after outlier discarding using Grubbs test at 5 % risk level.

(NC : OUT of RANKING because of insufficient data number)  
 (Nb : laboratory rank, % : relative rank)  
 (N° : laboratory identification number)  
 (d et Sd : mean and standard deviation of the differences (laboratory -reference))  
 (D : Euclidian distance to YX-axis origin = SQUARE ROOT(d<sup>2</sup> + Sd<sup>2</sup>))

Note : Limits are only indicative and so far do not constitute standard values; they indicate what is normally reachable by labs for their self evaluation.

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 30

**Evaluation example : ICAR PT scheme (10 samples in duplicates)**



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## 2- Measuring test result uncertainty

### Estimation from several ( $N_t \geq 8$ ) last successive PT trials

**ISO 5725-2:** (replacing laboratory variable by trials)  
Precision of Laboratory L  $\Rightarrow$   $sr_{L,ref}$  and  $sR_{L,ref}$

**ISO 5725-6:** Reference method for  $q$  samples and  $n$  replicates  
uncertainty  $= \pm u_{0.975} \cdot [sR_{L,ref}^2 - sr_{L,ref}^2 \cdot (1-1/nq)]^{1/2}$   
(in calibration)  $\approx \pm u_{0.975} \cdot (sR_{L,ref}^2 - sr_{L,ref}^2)^{1/2}$  (1)

**ISO 8196:** Routine (alternative) method  
uncertainty  $\approx \pm u_{0.975} \cdot (sR_{L,alt}^2 + s_{y,x}^2)^{1/2}$  (2)

From (1) + (2)  $\Rightarrow$  Overall uncertainty of routine testing results

$$\approx \pm u_{0.975} \cdot (sR_{L,ref}^2 - sr_{L,ref}^2 + sR_{L,alt}^2 + s_{y,x}^2)^{1/2}$$

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 32



### 3- Comparing laboratories

#### Same PT study

With scores of laboratories L1 and L2

$$\bar{d}_{L1} = \bar{x}_{L1} - \bar{X} \text{ and } \bar{d}_{L2} = \bar{x}_{L2} - \bar{X}$$

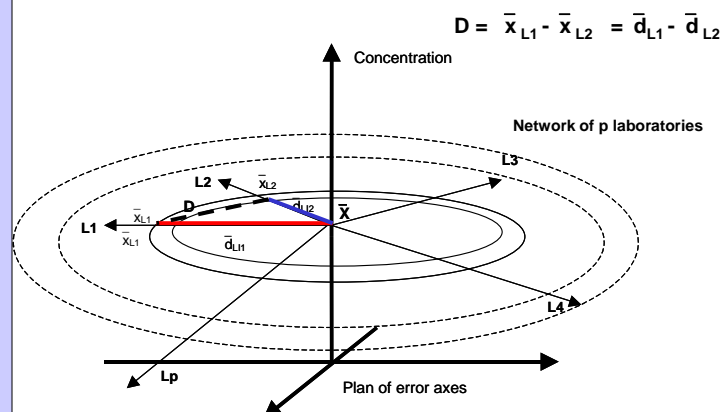
Between lab performance comparison is made through the difference

$$\bar{d}_{1,2} = \bar{x}_{L1} - \bar{x}_{L2} \Leftrightarrow \bar{d}_{1,2} = \bar{d}_{L1} - \bar{d}_{L2}$$

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### Comparison between laboratories L<sub>1</sub> & L<sub>2</sub>

Figure 1 – Between laboratory comparison through an interlaboratory study



Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 34

## 4- International laboratory anchorage

### Parallel national and international PT studies

Thanks to scores of the reference laboratory M

in national study  $\bar{d}_{MN}$

in international study  $\bar{d}_{MI}$

the virtual error between reference  $\Delta = \bar{d}_{MN} - \bar{d}_{MI}$

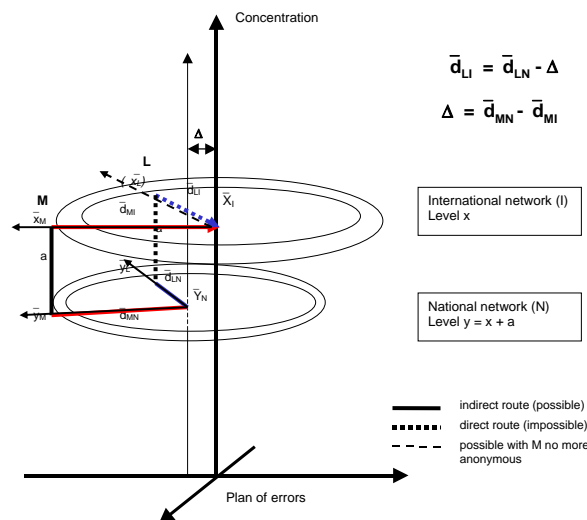
the effective score of Lab L in the national study  $\bar{d}_{LN} = \bar{x}_L - \bar{x}_N$

the virtual international score of Laboratory L is

$$\bar{d}_{LI} = \bar{d}_{LN} - \Delta = \bar{d}_{LN} - \bar{d}_{MN} + \bar{d}_{MI}$$

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 35

## 4- International laboratory anchorage



Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 36

### 3- Indirect laboratory comparison

#### Different PT studies

Thanks to scores of reference laboratories M1 and M2

in national studies  $\bar{d}_{MN1}$  and  $\bar{d}_{MN2}$

in international studies  $\bar{d}_{M1}$  and  $\bar{d}_{M2}$

the virtual bias between reference  $\Delta_1 = \bar{d}_{MN1} - \bar{d}_{M1}$  and  $\Delta_2 = \bar{d}_{MN2} - \bar{d}_{M2}$

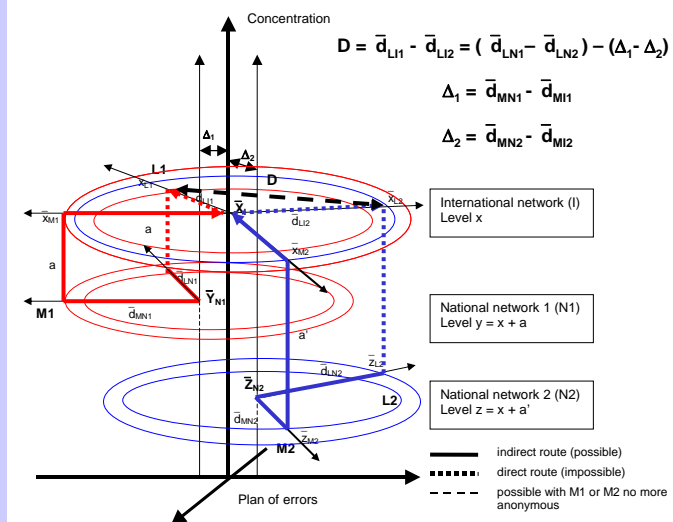
the effective scores in national studies  $\bar{d}_{LN1} = \bar{x}_{L1} - \bar{x}_{N1}$  and  $\bar{d}_{L2} = \bar{x}_{L2} - \bar{x}_{N2}$

the virtual international difference between laboratories L1 and L2 is

$$D = \bar{d}_{L1} - \bar{d}_{L2} = (\bar{d}_{LN1} - \bar{d}_{LN2}) - (\Delta_1 - \Delta_2)$$

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 37

#### Comparison between laboratories L<sub>1</sub> & L<sub>2</sub>



Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 38

## 5- Qualifying/selecting reference laboratories

### Required regular good performance in PTs

#### RMs certification :

- > Regular score compliance in a number of successive trials

#### Laboratory anchorage :

- > Regular score compliance throughout time
- > Constant bias (better 0)  $\Leftrightarrow sR_{L,ref} \approx sr_{L,ref}$

**Means of success :** Trueness adequacy and stability ensured through RMs and special training, competence, caution.

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## 6- Assessing/certifying reference materials

### Focus is given to **reference values determination** and **reference material quality**

#### ICAR protocol :

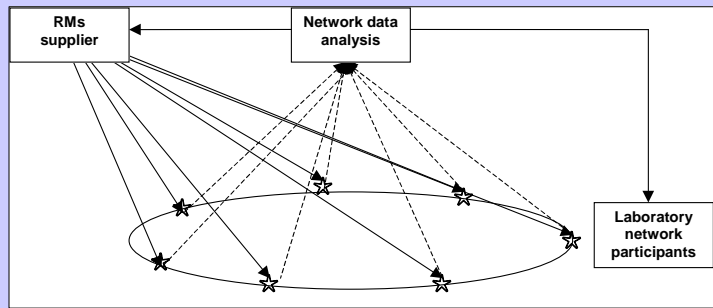
- > Experimental design for PTs also possible for RMs
- > Both tools are dedicated to calibration :
  - $\Rightarrow$  same concentration ranges
  - $\Rightarrow$  same sample numbers

**Combined use** is possible provided respective specific caution :

- **Reference values:** according to **ISO 5725-4** with uncertainty
- **Laboratories :** **Qualified / selected** on performance for the **lowest uncertainty**
- **Experimental design:** Consider **long term** homogeneity/stability

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 40

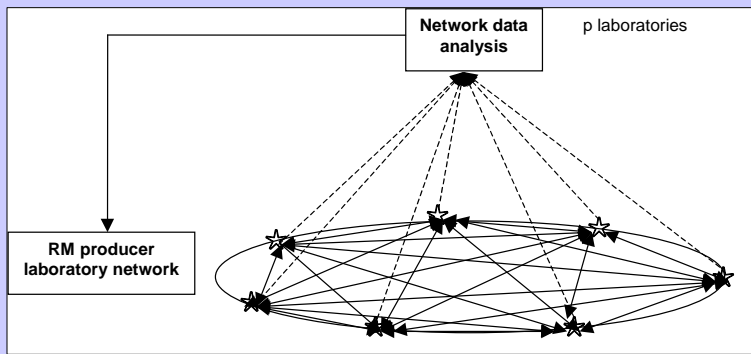
**Example : Central RM system**



General model : Numerous laboratories and samples ; robust reference

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 41

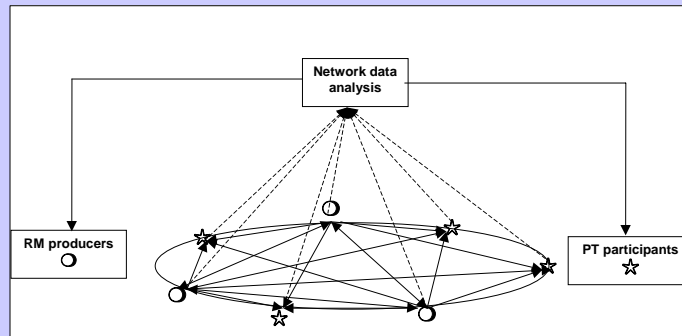
**Example : Multiple RM system = crossed system**



Specific model : Homogeneous laboratory groups ; numbers of laboratories and samples limited ; good performance must compensate small laboratory number ; consensus on group reference better than individual

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### Example: Mixed system



Intermediate model : Heterogeneous laboratory groups ; a few laboratories address samples to a larger group ; samples number still limited ; more robust reference

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 43

## Conclusion

### International anchorage

can provide objective elements on :

- the overall accuracy & uncertainty of milk testing
- the (degree of) analytical equivalence within ICAR



### ICAR International Reference Laboratory Network

corner stone for analytical harmonisation  
in milk recording

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 44

**Thank You for your attention!**

Meeting of ICAR Reference Laboratory Network, 16 June 2008 - ICAR Session Niagara Falls 2008 45

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- 8.00 : Opening - Welcome - Round table for presentation
- 8.20 : Introduction : ICAR Reference Laboratory Network history and objectives  
ICAR analytical strategy - International anchorage & harmonisation (O. Leray, Cecalait, FR)
- 8.50 : Interlaboratory reference systems and centralised calibration – Prerequisites and standard optimum procedures (O. Leray, Cecalait, FR)
- 9.10 : Discussion
- 9.40 : The way to reference systems and centralised calibration for milk recording testing - Present status in Germany (C. Baumgartner, MPR, DE)
- 10.00 : Health break
- 10.20 : Reference system and centralised calibration for milk recording testing in Argentina (R. Castañeda, Inti-Lacteos, AR)
- 10.40 : Reference system and centralised calibration for milk (payment) testing in USA, (D. Barbano, Cornell University, USA)
- 11.00 : Assessment of laboratory performances and analytical equivalence in milk testing in North America, (P. Sauvé, Canadian Laboratory Services, CA)
- 11.30 : Discussion
- 12.00 - Closure of the meeting

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