



ICAR Newsletter December 2011

**International Committee
for Animal Recording**



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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The feed back received from majority of participants at the General Assembly and the technical workshop held in Bourg-en-Bresse, France, in June this year, has confirmed their satisfaction with quality of the program, relevance of themes discussed and with excellent organization and hospitality offered by our French colleagues. This event has been followed by intensive activity of all ICAR governing and technical bodies. The Executive Board held two meetings and consultations focusing on the preparation of Strategic Plan for 2012-14, revision of ICAR Guidelines, internal regulations and new system of membership fees. All sub-committees and majority of working groups approved their programs of future activities focusing on adjustments to new developments in science, technology and agricultural policies, in particular to the impact of genomic evaluation, growing global interest for animal identification and to new policy requirements at national and regional levels. The rich and well prepared program for the 38th ICAR Biennial Session in May-June 2012 in Corl, Ireland will be an excellent opportunity for ICAR and its technical bodies to evaluate past activities, review technology developments and trends and develop future strategies and programs. ICAR membership has increased to 86 members with a good potential for further expansion in 2012, particularly in Latin America and Asia. Constructive and mutually beneficial cooperation with our international partners, particularly with IDF, ISO, FAO and the European Commission has continued.

This fourth and the last Newsletter in 2011 is also an opportunity to express to our Members, to their employees and to their clients Season Greetings and best wishes for success in 2012.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Executive Board at its meeting held in Rome, Italy, on 17 and 18 November agreed to propose to the ICAR Board elements for the approval as strategic goals to be attained in 2012-2014 period. These are:

- Governance and finance
 - Develop robust ICAR strategy
 - Risk management
 - Ensure organizational structural capacity
 - Ensure resources to carry out delivering strategy

- Technical studies and guidelines
 - Maintain and up-date relevant technical standards and guidelines
 - Cover all fields of data recording and focus non
 - Functional traits
 - Welfare and transport
 - Greenhouse gases and environmental impact
 - Genomics evaluation

- Communication
 - Improve international industry communications
 - Delivery of Guidelines
 - Dissemination of information on relevant activities worldwide
 - Improve interaction and communication with key stakeholders

Although the final draft will be officially presented to Members for comments prior to the submission to the General Assembly, readers of this Newsletter are invited to comment the presented draft and send their suggestions to the ICAR Secretariat.

REVISION OF GUIDELINES

Dynamic developments in science and technologies (e.g. automated milking, on-line analyses, use of genomics in evaluation) new requirements of markets (e.g. quality of services to clients, reducing costs of animal production) have been reflected in adding new sections and a number of changes and amendments in guidelines approved in Interlaken and following updates, particularly in sections under responsibilities of Sub-Committees. During the current decade, ICAR guidelines have grown in volume and content, sometimes with overlapping and without clear concept and understanding of their purpose. For this reason, the Executive Board at its meeting held in November 2011 requested the Secretariat to proceed with preparations for the general revision of ICAR Guidelines and provide support to Sub-Committees and Working Groups in carrying out their duties in accordance with their respective terms of reference.

COOPERATION WITH EU

Animal identification

Mr. Sergio Pavon, the new officer for zoo-technical legislation in the EU, visited ICAR offices in October this year. He discussed with representatives of ICAR (Andrea Rosati and Kaivo Ilves) with Pieter Hogewerf (representing IMA-Wageningen Laboratory), about legislation related to animal identification. ICAR representatives were informed about EU plans to have electronic cattle identification on a voluntary base all through Europe. ICAR was asked information for creating a sound technical legislation. The need for continuation of the EU financial support to INTERBULL, particularly in view of the fact that activities related to genomic revolution are to be intensified, has been emphasized by the ICAR representatives. Mr. Pavon promised to do his best to defend ICAR requests.

COPA-COGECA, an European lobbying union representing farmers, at its meeting in October 2011 noted that the new EU legislation will include the obligation of all Member States to accept RFID, but that individual states can make RFID compulsory. Copa Cogeca requested the Commission to consult ICAR once the legislation has been defined.

ICAR in the EU project in Turkey

ICAR and the German Holstein Federation (DHV) are partners in the EU funded project of the Association of Turkish Cattle Breeders on development of advisory service for dairy farmers in the province of Aydin. ICAR will provide trainers for local advisors, speakers at the final projects conference and co-authors of a manual for advisors.

A study tour organized by ADT Project included the attendance of a group of dairy farmers and professionals from the cattle breeder association from Aydin at the DHV cattle auction, participation at two workshops on cattle breeding and milk production and visit to the GEA Farm Technologies – the Associate Member of ICAR.

CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY

It is expected that current audit for ICAR Certificate of Quality in Israel and England would be completed shortly and that the new audit would start in Lithuania by the end of 2011. Certificates will be delivered in Cork on the occasion of the 38th Biennial Session.

MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

In the period July – November the Executive Board held two meetings. Main subjects discussed were the assessment of developments and changes in livestock technologies, particularly the growing use of genomics in genetic evaluation and their impact on ICAR programs and activities, preparation of the strategic plan 2012-2014 and financial situation of the organization.

Revision of ICAR Statutes and internal regulations

The Executive Board in reviewing the ICAR legal documents noted that the some of provisions of the ICAR Statutes were outdated, such as those related to Special Stamp, and requested the Secretariat to prepare draft amendments to the Statutes for submission to the ICAR Board and the General Assembly for approval. The draft will be placed on the ICAR web site and presented to Members for comments and proposals.

It also agreed on the need for changes in the internal regulations of the Board so as to clearly define roles and responsibilities of Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. Revised regulations will be submitted to the next meeting of the Board.

NEW MEMBERS OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

- Jan Philipsson, the outgoing secretary and one of fathers founders of INTERBULL, left the office due to his retirement. ICAR NEWSLETTER joins ICAR Members, Board, Sub-Committee INTREBULL and the Secretariat in extending thanks for his valuable work and contribution to the attainment of ICAR objectives. Best wishes for happy and active retirement! Jan, ICAR counts on your experience and wisdom!
- Erling Strandberg, head of the Department for Animal Breeding and Genetics of the Swedish Agricultural University (SLU) is the new Secretary of Interbull
- Andrew Cromie replaces Hans Wilmlink as member in the Interbull Steering Committee.
- Christa Egger-Danner from Austria is the new chairman of the Functional traits Working Group and replaces Erling Strandberg.
- Hans Wilmlink is the new Chairman of the Dairy Cattle Milk Recording Working Group. Members of the WG so far are Filippo Miglior and Ernst Bohlsen
- Silverio Grande from Italy , Juan Manuel Serradilla Manrique from Spain , Pierre van Rooyen from South Africa and Joanne Connington from UK have become new members of the Goat Recording Working Group.
- Susan Tellez from USA is the new member of the Animal Fibre Working Group



THE 38th BIENNIAL SESSION

Ireland is hosting the 38th ICAR Biennial Session in the City of Cork between 28th May and 1st of June 2012. Cork is a city of 120 000 people located in the south west of Ireland. It is serviced by Cork Airport with direct flights to most major European capitals. It is easy to get to with all travel options. Rochestown Park Hotel is the venue for ICAR 2012.

The program of the Session includes beef and sheep industry day, meetings of Sub-Committees and working groups, plenary and parallel sessions, industrial exhibition, study tours and the program for accompanying persons. Themes of plenary sessions “How Can Animal Recording Improve the Profitability of Animal Farming” and “Practical Implications of Genomic Technologies for Animal Agriculture” will certainly provoke great interest of participants.

The proposed Main Sessions are summarised in the following table.

Further details at: www.icar2012.ie

Call for papers

Call for papers for the ICAR Session is open until 31 December. In case you are planning to present

| Session | Date/Time | Theme | Target Audience |
|---------|--|--|--|
| 1 | Mon 28th May from 10:30 to 18:00. | Information for Profitable Dairy Farming. | Policy and decision makers in the worldwide dairy recording and breeding industry. |
| 2 | Tues 29th May from 10:30 to 18:00. | Information for Profitable Beef & Sheep Farming. | Policy and decision makers in the worldwide beef & sheep recording and breeding industry. |
| 3 | Wed 30th May from 8:30 to 10:30. | How Can Animal Recording Improve the Profitability of Animal Farming? | Policy and decision makers, and technical experts in the worldwide recording and breeding industry. |
| 4 | Wed 30th May from 14:00 to 18:00. | Identifying the Most Profitable Animals for Breeding - Dairy, Beef, Sheep. | Policy and decision makers, and technical experts in the worldwide breeding industry. |
| 5 | Wed 30th May from 14:00 to 18:00. | On-Farm and On-Animal Devices for Identification and Recording. | Policy and decision makers, and technical experts in the worldwide animal recording industry. |
| 6 | Thurs 31st May from 8:30 to 10:30. | Practical Implications of Genomic Technologies for Animal Agriculture. | Policy and decision makers, and technical experts in the worldwide recording and breeding industry. |
| 7 | Thurs 31st May from 11:00 to 13:00. | Information Systems for Providing Farmers (and Breeders) with Information Needed to Increase Profitability. | Policy and decision makers, and technical experts in the worldwide field of information systems applied to the recording and breeding industry. |
| 8 | Thurs 31st May from 11:00 to 13:00. | Developments in Off-Farm Recording & analysis - for Milk, Meat, ... | Policy and decision makers, and technical experts in the worldwide field of laboratory measurement systems applied to the recording and breeding industry. |
| 9 | Fri 1st June from 8:30 to 10:30. | The Future Organisation of Animal Recording & Genetic Evaluations - Keeping the balance between Commercial, Industry Good and Public Good. | Policy and decision makers in the worldwide recording and breeding industry |

a paper, or poster, please indicate a title and provide a short abstract by registering as a potential speaker at: www.icar2012.ie/presentations/submit_title.php



Taller Regional
**Identificación animal y sistemas de registros
para la trazabilidad y el desarrollo de la ganadería
en países de Latinoamérica y el Caribe**

5 al 7 de diciembre 2011
Oficina Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe

FAO
FIAT PANIS

FEPALE
Federación Panamericana de Lecherías
Federação Pan-Americana do Leite
Pan-American Dairy Federation

ICAR
INTERNATIONAL CATTLE AND BUFFALO ASSOCIATION

THE FAO/ICAR/FEPALE WORKSHOP ON ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION (5-7 DECEMBER 2011, SANTIAGO DE CHILE)

The FAO/ICAR/FEPALE Workshop on Animal Identification held 5-7 December 2011 in Santiago de Chile (Chile) was attended by some 150 participants from all Latin American countries. Most of the participants were persons responsible for animal identification. Uffe Lauritsen, President, and Andrea Rosati, Secretary General, together with Brian Wickham, Erik Rehben, Joao Durr, Kaivo Ilves, Pieter Hogewerf, Ole Hansen and Elena Couto participated on behalf of ICAR as lecturers and contact persons. Other relevant speakers were Sergio Pavon (EU), Gerardo Caja (University of Cataluña) and Badi Besbes (FAO/ICAR). The direct contacts established with representatives Latin American countries and visits to ICAR Members in Uruguay, Brazil and Chile were good



Participants to the FAO/ICAR/FEPALE workshop.

opportunities for exchange of information on local livestock industry and activities in the fields of animal identification, performance recording and genetic evaluation and on ICAR activities and services offered to local industry.

The workshop was co-sponsored by Allflex Europe (France), Gepe-Geimpuplast (Germany), Caisley (Germany), Datamars (Switzerland), Nedap (The Netherlands), CEITEC and Fockink Ind. Eletricas (Brazil).



DATAMARS



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The presentations, photos and short CV of the speakers will be available on the ICAR web site in the next days and an email alert will be circulated to inform our recipients. A restricted committee will review/edit the papers with the support of ICAR and FAO. The final papers will be published as ICAR Technical Series in English and Spanish and will be available for free download from the ICAR web site. The publication is scheduled to be finalised by April 2012.

THE 1ST ICAR WORKSHOP ON CASHMERE GOAT PRODUCTION BY LORO PIANA SPA 24-25 OCTOBER 2011, CHANGCHUN JILIN PROVINCE (CHINA)

ICAR Animal Fibre Working group organized in China the first workshop on Cashmere goat production supported by Loro Piana SpA. The event was attended by some 40 participants from China, Mongolia and Italy. The Chinese participants came from the main Province having cashmere goat production: Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Liaoning, Jilin, Ningxia and Qinghai. The



Participants to the ICAR workshop on cashmere goat production

participants came from local Universities and research centres but also from textile factories and goat breeding centres as in China as in Mongolia. ICAR organized the event in collaboration with Prof. Lou Yujie from Jilin Agricultural University (China) and

Prof. Carlo Renieri from the School of Environmental Science of University of Camerino (Italy). Dr. Pierluigi Loro Piana, President of Loro Piana Spa (leader firm in cashmere fashion industry), participated to the workshop offering a lecture together with his Mongolian and Chinese staff and other main lectures were done by Prof. Ma Ning from Jilin Agricultural University, the historical main expert on cashmere production in China. The presentation will be published and available on ICAR website. Marco Antonini, ICAR animal fibre Working Group Chairman, proposed the definition of a specific group in cashmere production with the important participation of Mongolian and Chinese experts.

EAAP-ICAR JOINT SESSION, STAVANGER (NORWAY)

ICAR Secretariat reminds that videos of the Industry Session of the EAAP Annual Meeting 2011 co-organised by ICAR held in Stavanger (Norway) are available on the web at: www.eaap.org/Stavanger

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