



ICAR Newsletter

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International Committee
for Animal Recording



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REPORT FROM THE BOURG-EN-BRESSE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND TECHNICAL WORKSHOP

This year, the ICAR General Assembly and the annual Technical Workshop were organised in Bourg-en-Bresse (France), from 22 to 24 June 2011. The Programme of the meeting, the quality of the speakers and the satellite symposiums on new technologies and new challenges for breeding and herd management, attracted attendance of over 290 participants from 37 countries.

Themes of the Meeting included:

- A workshop of Milk Analysis Sub-Committee.
- A workshop on the ICAR Certificate of Quality.
- Meetings of the ICAR Board with Chairpersons of Sub-Committees (SCs) and Working Groups (WGs),
- Meetings organised by the SCs such as Animal Identification Sub-Committee, and
- Other meetings organised by Working Groups such as: InterBeef, AI and relevant technologies, parentage recording, animal recording data, parentage recording dairy and meat recording in goats.

The present issue of the ICAR Newsletter contains some hints and flashes from documents presented to the General Assembly and from some of papers submitted at the Certificate of Quality Workshop. Over forty power-point presentations submitted at the Technical Workshop and at the General Assembly are freely available on the ICAR web site at: www.car.org/Documents/Bourg-en-Bresse2011/

ICAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The ICAR General Assembly held on 22 June 2011 in Bourg-en-Bresse, France, received reports of the President and the Secretary General, approved Inspectors' report, the 2010 End Year Financial Statement and the budget for 2012. The Assembly welcomed National Agency for Reproduction and



The ICAR Vice-President, Jay Mattison (on the right), awarding Mauro Fioretti (on the left) with the Distinguished Certificate Award.

Animal Breeding of Romania, Livestock Research Institute from Taiwan and ANEB from Morocco as full Members of ICAR and the Association of Manufacturers of Livestock Products of Uzbekistan as an Associate Member of ICAR. It re-elected Badi Besbes (Tunisia) and elected Hans Wilmink (The Netherlands) for members of the ICAR Board for the four year term.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Uffe Lauritsen, President, and Jay Mattison, Vice-President, in the report presented at the General Assembly underlined that in the changing world and in conditions created by technology development, ICAR should strengthen its structure and bodies and its activities. In this connection, particular attention should be paid to the role of SERVICE-ICAR Srl as a commercial branch of the ICAR system and to strategic alliances with international associations and organizations that contribute to ICAR services. Cooperation among Members and dissemination of information are key issues to be the focus of the attention of ICAR technical and governing bodies. The future tasks include simplification and updating of ICAR guidelines and introduction of new topics to assure consistency with requirements of Members and their clients - animal farmers worldwide.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Andrea Rosati, Secretary General of ICAR, pointed out that activities of ICAR technical and governing bodies in the period between the 2010 and 2011 General Assemblies were aimed at the attainment of strategic objectives and at meeting requirements of ICAR Members stemming from developments in technologies related to the mandate of ICAR. Application of genomics in evaluation of breeding values of dairy bulls partly modified but in general increased demand for recording, both for recording of production and functional traits with bearing on economic efficiency of livestock operations. Testing and approval of identification and recording devices was the main preoccupation of related Sub-Committees which also, in cooperation with Developing Countries Working Group, worked on developments of techniques for low to medium input production systems. The Interbeef Working Group is developing implementation plans for international evaluation of beef bulls. In small ruminants there is a growing interest for recording of more traits of economic importance, such as meat and fibre. Four new members joined ICAR during the past 12 months, while two organizations cancelled their membership. Future plans include strengthening of some basic services provided to Members, such as ICAR Certificate of Quality, dissemination of information, patent sentinel and action service and benchmarking.

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND NEW CHALLENGES FOR BREEDING AND HERD MANAGEMENT

Technical Workshop on new technologies and new challenges for breeding and herd management was structured in five sessions. The session on new technologies in performance recording dealt with issues related to management of RFID techniques in cattle herds, recording claw disorders, heat detection and with practical implementation of recording systems at the national level. Six presentations in the session on phenotyping of complex traits discussed the need for new ontology encompassing all relevant traits, registration of health traits, phenotyping the reproduction functions in cattle and the phenotyping that maximises the value of genotyping. The session on new genomic

tools for selection and management included of the state of the art of genomics for selection, potential application of genomic information beyond breeding, nutrigenomics and future plans of the INTERBULL Sub- Committee. The session on milk analysis discussed new technologies, developments, interest criteria for consumers, cattle breeding and management. The final session of the workshop offered examples of new approaches in management of recording activities demonstrating benefits of herd recording that make our business attractive.

FROM THE CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY WORKSHOP

ICAR has developed the Certificate of Quality to reflect the needs of the members of ICAR to demonstrate to their members, costumers and peers, on a regular basis, that the services which they provide are in line with the ICAR Guidelines, technical competency and sound commercial practices. Certificate of quality has been granted to organizations from 30 countries. ICAR Auditors have been recruited from 17 countries.

Four papers presented by auditors and representatives of organizations that received Certificates (Folkert Onkert - Germany, Pavel Bucek - Czech Republic, Franz Schallerl - Austria and Martina Rafajova - Slovak Republic) - summarized experiences, lessons learned and benefits of the system. Here are some of the main benefits of the Certificate of Quality as indicated by the authors of presentations:

- Maintenance and increasing costumers' trust and also the trust of the ministry and further decision makers.
- Additional confirmation of professional expertise.
- Quality assurance for the work and delivered services.
- National and international compatibility of the results; acceptance of recorded data across ICAR family; a powerful tool to harmonize recording systems worldwide.

Polish Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers Federation receive acknowledgement of their award



Frank Armitage (left), Folkert Onken (auditor second left)) and representatives of the PCB & DF

- Reducing costs and increasing revenue; increasing value of our business.
- Potential tool in the international trade in animals and genetic material.
- Contributes to the preparedness for future developments and challenges.

Complete PowerPoint presentations of the ICAR Meeting can be freely downloaded from the ICAR web site at: www.icar.org/Documents/Bourg-en-Bresse2011

NEWS FROM ICAR SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The **Milk Analysis Sub-Committee** under the chairmanship of Olivier Leray continues its work in developing international cooperation in this field. The future program includes collaboration in calibration of instruments for fat and protein analysis using MIR technology..

The **Working Group on Artificial insemination and related technologies** chaired by Laurent Journaux has launched a program for the bar-code system and printing on straws.. Up-date of straw printing and bar code use in different countries is published together with test of different length of straws.

The **Working Group on Data Exchange** started a project on data exchange on livestock equipment. Noting the discrepancy between various international standard setting bodies in data exchange Erik Rehben, the chairman of the Group, proposed to the Board to initiate the coordination of these with the work of ICAR.

The **Developing Countries Working Group**

chaired by Badi Besbes and composed of 8 members works through email contacts and cooperates with other ICAR technical bodies.

The group monitors ID and recording in 172 developing and transition countries through monthly survey undertaken by FAO. The Group is preparing a comparative analysis of FAO, ICAR and EU standards and their relevance to developing countries. The WG organized a side event on ICAR in an FAO meeting in November 2010, Hammamet (Tunisia) workshop on ID in Maghreb countries and undertook preparations for the workshop on animal identification in Latin America to be held in Santiago, Chile.

The **Parentage Recording Working Group** chaired by Suzanne Harding met on the occasion of the Bourg-en-Bresse meeting and approved the recommendation to adopt SNP technology in parentage verification.

Marco Winters informed the ICAR Board that the **Working Group on DNA Technology** continued the work on laboratory accreditation for the use of microsatellite in parentage verification and that it intended to continue this work also after the introduction LD and HD SNP technology.



The Chairman of the Milk Analysis Sub-Committee (Olivier Leray) on top and the Chairman of Animal Identification Sub-Committee (Kaivo Ilves) below. (Source: L. Journaux).

Recent activities of the **Recording Device Sub-Committee** chaired by Martin Burke included a meeting in Israel, project on Afikim-Afilab zero test in The Netherlands in spring 2011, work on standardization of robotics and change of guidelines.

The administrative work related to activities of the **Animal Identification Sub-Committee** chaired by Kaivo Ilves has been moved to the Secretariat. As proposed by the SC Animal Identification the General Assembly in Bourgh-en Bresse endorsed the discontinuation of the field test part of the ICAR approval test of conventional plastic ear tags. In Bourgh-en Bresse the Subcommittee had a full day meeting where the main issue discussed was the revision of the laboratory test part of the plastic ear tag testing based on proposals from the two ICAR test centres of CETIM and DLG. The revisions were agreed in the meeting and the two labs collaborate to present the final draft for the next meeting of the SC and then for the endorsement of the GA next year conference in Cork. In Bourgh-en Bresse meeting of the SC all the test centre representatives were invited as observer members. This proved to be beneficial for both parties and will be continued followed in the future meetings.

Under the chairmanship of Brian Wickham the **Interbeef Working Group** at the meeting held on 20th and 21st June in Bourgh-en-Bresse agreed that the final draft of the Agreement on the establishment of the international genetic evaluation of beef cattle was acceptable to service users. The Group considered that the contract with the potential provider of services for international genetic evaluation should be based on the Agreement, Project Plan and the budget.



Badi Besbes awarded with the President Award at the ICAR Meeting held in Bourgh-en-Bresse.

It recommend that general statistics on beef cattle and beef performance be implemented along similar lines to that for dairy and milk recording. Options for expanding the existing survey framework to meet this need for information should be further explored. Revisions of guidelines are under development relating to information on sale animals and a new device for measuring chest girth in beef cattle.

The **Working Group on Milk and Meat production in Goats** had a meeting and the group is increasing in size and importance under the chairmanship of Zdravko Barac. New members to the group have accepted from Spain, Norway, South Africa and SAC. We would welcome others who have the required knowledge and are wishing to promote the efficient production from these small ruminants.

Industry Session at EAAP meeting in Stavanger (Norway)

At the 62nd annual meeting of EAAP there will be an “Industry session” with accent to activities and expertise related to ICAR. In fact all invited speakers are known to ICAR community.

The program is dedicated to the latest scientific application and technologies to dairy farming, title of the Session is New and advanced technologies applied in the dairy herd. The chair will be Andrea Rosati and speakers will be Martin Burke (Applying technologies to add value in recording and data management in the dairy herd), Kees de Koning (Precision livestock farming and the use of new sensor technologies), Gil Katz (Incorporating automated daily milk components collection in modern dairy farm management), Pieter Hogewerf (Animal Radiofrequency Identification the basis for Smart Dairy Farming) and Ivan Andonovic (Data gathering technologies for livestock).

More details for Stavanger annual meeting are available on the EAAP website (www.eaap.org) or at the Session website (www.eaap2011.com).

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