



SECRETARY GENERAL REPORT

The ICAR General Assembly and the Technical Workshop held in Bourg-en-Bresse (France) were followed by many activities undertaken by ICAR technical and governing bodies.

ICAR Membership

The total number of Members has increased, currently there are 12 new members and now there are 70 full members and 28 associate members.

Full members:

- Asociatia Crescatorilor de Vaci “Baltata Romaneasca” Tip Simmental – Romania
- Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding – Bulgaria
- Registros Genealógicos Zootécnicos del Perú , Peru
- Consejo Nacional de los Recursos Genéticos Pecuarios A.C. (CONARGEN A.C.), Mexico
- Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuacultura y Pesca - Subsecretaría de Ganadería, Ecuador

Associate members:

- Pyramid-protection of plants-777 Ltd. – Kazakhstan
- IDEXX Europe BV – The Netherlands
- KazPoliPlast Ltd. – Kazakhstan
- TarazPolyHim Ltd. – Kazakhstan
- Confidex – Finland
- Datamars SA – Switzerland
- Allflex Europe SAS, France

ICAR Board and Executive Board

The Executive Board held two meetings. The meeting which was held in Rome focused on the preparation of Strategic Plan for 2012-14 and on the development of the fee structure and rationale; while the meetings held in August in Stavanger and in November in Rome agreed on the need to undertake the revision of the ICAR Statutes and the ICAR Guidelines. The Executive Board discussed developments and changes in livestock technologies, particularly the growing use of genomics in genetic evaluation and their impact on ICAR programs and activities; also it reviewed the financial situation of the organization. It prepared new internal regulations and new system of membership fees for the approval by the Board.

The ICAR Board at the meeting held in Paris, France, 27-28 February 2012 agreed to propose to the General Assembly the approval of strategic plan and goals to be attained in 2012-2014 period. These include:

- 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 on:
 - Functional traits
 - Welfare and transport
 - Greenhouse gases and environmental impact
- Genomic evaluation
- Communication
 - Improve international industry communications
 - Delivery of Guidelines
 - Dissemination of information on relevant activities worldwide
 - Improve interaction and communication with key stakeholders

Statutes and Internal Regulation

The draft amendments submitted by the Board for endorsement by the Extraordinary General Assembly contains minor amendments, which reflect changes in ICAR, such as introduction of the Certificate of Quality and abolition of the Special Stamp and some clarifications in the existing formulations. The draft approved by the Board has been placed on the ICAR web site and presented to Members for comments and proposals.

The Board finalised its internal regulations as a tool that would ensure greater efficiency of the Board and facilitate work of members of the Board.

Revision of Guidelines

Dynamic developments in science and technologies (e.g. automated milking, on-line and in-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 up-dating, particularly in sections under responsibilities of Sub-Committees. During the current decade, ICAR guidelines have grown in volume and content, sometimes overlapping and without clear concept and understanding of their purpose. For this reason, the Executive Board at its meeting held in November 2011 launched the new round of revision. It 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.

The Secretariat has prepared and the Board approved, draft documents related to the procedure of the revision of Guidelines and the draft revision of the Section 1. The reaction of Sub-Committees and Working Groups was extremely positive. They produced four completely new sections and a number of amendments to the existing ones. These are:

Preamble (ICAR Board)

Sections 1.1 to 1.6 (ICAR Board)

Section 11.6.2 (amendment proposed by Recording Devices Sub-Committee)

Section 3.1.5 - Guidelines for sales and marketing (merchandising) - is a new section proposed for inclusion into the Guidelines proposed by InterBeef WG.



Section 3.2.3.5.6 Chest girth circumference as a predictor of growth (amendment proposed by Interbeef WG)

"Electronic data exchange for livestock (Business requirement specification)". A complete new Section proposed for approval by the Animal Recording Data Working Group

"Parentage Testing in Cattle" by the Genetic Analysis Working Group

"Approval procedure for milk analyzers in milk recording". A complete new Section proposed for approval by the Milk Analysis Sub-Committee

"Recording, Evaluation and Genetic Improvement of Health Traits". A complete new Section proposed for approval by the Functional Traits Working Group

The Animal Identification Sub-Committee is proposing some amendments to Section 10.7 and its Annexes on "Approval of official permanent identification devices. Part 1: conventional permanent plastic eartags with or without machine readable printing" has been proposed for amendments

Section 10.7

Annex 10.7.1 (Application form)

Annex 10.7.2 (Preliminary assessments of plastic tags)

Annex 10.7.3 (Test protocol for tags to be included in eartag family)

Annex 10.7.4 (Sets of figures to be used as reference printing)

Drafts approved by the Board, Sub-Committees and Working Groups have been placed on the ICAR web site for comments by Members and also placed on the agenda of the current General Assembly for approval.

Membership Fees

The new system of calculation and payments of membership fees has been discussed by the Executive Board and submitted to the Board for approval. The system takes into account the volume and type of activities carried out currently by ICAR and the estimation of future activities to be supported by its Members as well as their capacity in providing financial support to these activities.

Activities of Sub-Committees and Working Groups

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, functional traits, growing global interest for animal identification and to new policy requirements at national and regional levels.

Sub-Committee ID has set up a new web page for ICAR approved "Permanent plastic ear tags" after successful laboratory tests. The list now contains 14 approved tags.



Since Bourg-en-Bresse meetings, there have been 49 new ID devices approved and 14 permanent ear tags approved.

Fifty-six papers were submitted at the **INTERBULL** meeting held in Stavanger in September 2011 discussed new challenges and opportunities for the animal industry and the role of ICAR in the genomic era.

The workshop held in Verona, Italy, in February 2012 was attended by 79 representatives from 25 countries. Participants discuss the methods for international comparisons of genomic evaluations, as well as the logistics of the collaboration hosted by Interbull around this topic. The workshop focused on two main themes, international genomic evaluations and validation of genomic enhanced breeding values (GEBVs). The final session was dedicated to understand the changes expected from the introduction of a sire-dam pedigree structure in the computation of MACE EBVs. As usual in Interbull events, both the Interbull Technical Committee (ITC) and the Interbull Steering Committee (SC) had their meetings before and after the workshop. Interbull expresses a very special thanks to the Veronafiore and the Associazione Nazionale Allevatori Razza Bruna Italiana (ANARB) for the excellent organization and impeccable support!

ICAR Animal Fibre Working group organized in China the first workshop on Cashmere goat production supported by Loro Piana SpA. Some 40 participants attended the event 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 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).

New Members of Sub-Committees and Working Groups

Jan Philipsson, the outgoing secretary and one of father founders of INTERBULL, left the office due to his retirement.

Richard Cantin, Canada is new member of Recording Devices Sub-Committee.

Jorge Lama, Chile is new member of Animal ID Sub-Committee.

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 Wilmink 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 Wilmink is the new Chairman of the Dairy Cattle Milk Recording Working Group. Members of the WG so far are Filippo Miglior and Ernst Bohlsen. The questionnaire sent out by Hans for suggested names still requires suggestions from the US and Australasia.



Dan Meihak, from the US, has become a member of the Parentage Recording Working Group.

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. We are still awaiting a name from Norway.

Susan Tellez from USA is the new member of the Animal Fibre Working Group.

Certificate of Quality

Since the last Board meeting the Israel Cattle Breeders Association and National Milk Recording (UK) have renewed their Certificates of Quality, both with auditors visiting. Press questions since have raised the point that the visit makes the audit more valid and it has taken time to confirm the concept of the old Special Stamp and the evolution of CoQ into a valuable reward. Lithuania had its first audit for the Certificate of Quality. 2012 will be a busy year for renewals.

Cooperation with EAAP

ICAR co-sponsored the special Industry Session held during the EAAP Annual Meeting in August 2011 in Stavanger, Norway. The session reviewed some specific issues about technologies applied in the farm for recording and identification. The session required attention of international scientific community and organizations providing support to the animal industry. Martin Burke, Ivan Andanovic, Kees de Koning, T. Schcolnik, Pieter Hogewerf were the speakers of this very interesting session that can be seen, since was video recorded, in the EAAP website.

Cooperation with EU

Animal identification. Mr. Sergio Pavon, the new officer for zoo-technical legislation in the EU, visited ICAR offices in September 2011. 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, for breeders, all through Europe. ICAR was asked information for creating a sound technical legislation.

Interbull. 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.

Mr. S. Pavon also participated in the FAO-ICAR-FEPALE workshop on animal identification held in Santiago de Chile in December 2011.

COPA-COGECA, a European lobbying union representing farmers, at its last two meetings in October 2011 and April 2012, noted that the new EU legislation will include the obligation of



all Member States to accept RFID if asked even by a single breeder, but that individual states can make RFID compulsory. Copa Cogeca recommends the Commission to consult also 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 provided two trainers for the training workshop for future dairy farm advisers held in January in Aydin, Turkey, and authors of specific chapters of the manual for advisors.

“The congress on farm advisory systems and dairy farm management” was held on 15th and 16th March 2012 in Kusadasi (Aydin, Turkey). The congress was organized by the Cattle Breeders’ Association of Aydin within the EU funded project on development of dairy farm advisory system in the province of Aydin. There were over 370 participants – Turkish dairy farmers, representatives of producers associations, and academic community.

Turkish state authorities and international participants – reviewed the state and perspectives of the dairy sector and needs for improvement in support services for dairy farmers. Participants from several European countries (France, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Croatia) presented dairy farm advisory systems in their respective countries. Sergio Pavon from the DG SANCO of the EU presented EU policies in this sector with particular emphasis on animal identification as the tool in control of animal health and in farm management. ICAR as the project partner supported the organization of and actively participated in the congress. Uffe Lauritsen, Andrea Rosati, Pierre-Louis Gastinel and Milan Zjalic represented ICAR. In addition to their roles of invited speakers and moderators of panels, members of the ICAR team had intensive contacts with representatives of our ICAR Member - the Cattle Breeders’ Association of Turkey and with the local association of dairy farmers. Visits to dairy farms and discussions with farmers contributed to the better understanding of the state of dairy production in Turkey and on the development potential of this sector.

A handbook for dairy farm advisors prepared by a group of Turkish and international experts was published within the project and presented at the congress. English version of the handbook and presentations submitted at the congress will be placed on the ICAR web site.

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, Badi Besbes, 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 (FAO/ICAR).



The direct contacts established with representatives Latin American countries and visits to ICAR Members in Uruguay, Brazil and Chile were good 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).

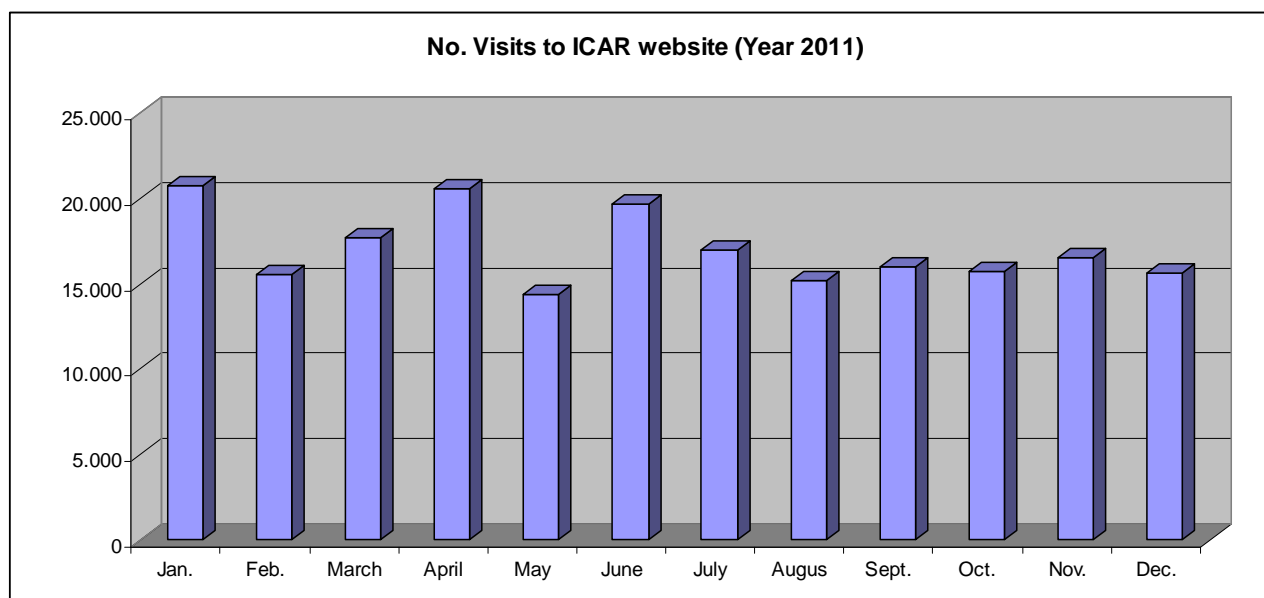
The meeting with the stakeholders produced to enlarge the importance and relevance of ICAR and to welcome new members. This is particularly easy to notice considering the amount of new members from South America and East Europe.

ICAR Newsletter

After the Bourg-en-Bresse meeting, the Secretariat has published four issues of the ICAR Newsletter that included information on main themes of the technical workshop, decisions of the Board and the General Assembly and on activities of technical bodies.

ICAR web site

Number of visits to ICAR site compared to those of the previous years remains stable. On average the site was visited 16.000 times/month with an average of 3.5 visited pages per visitor.

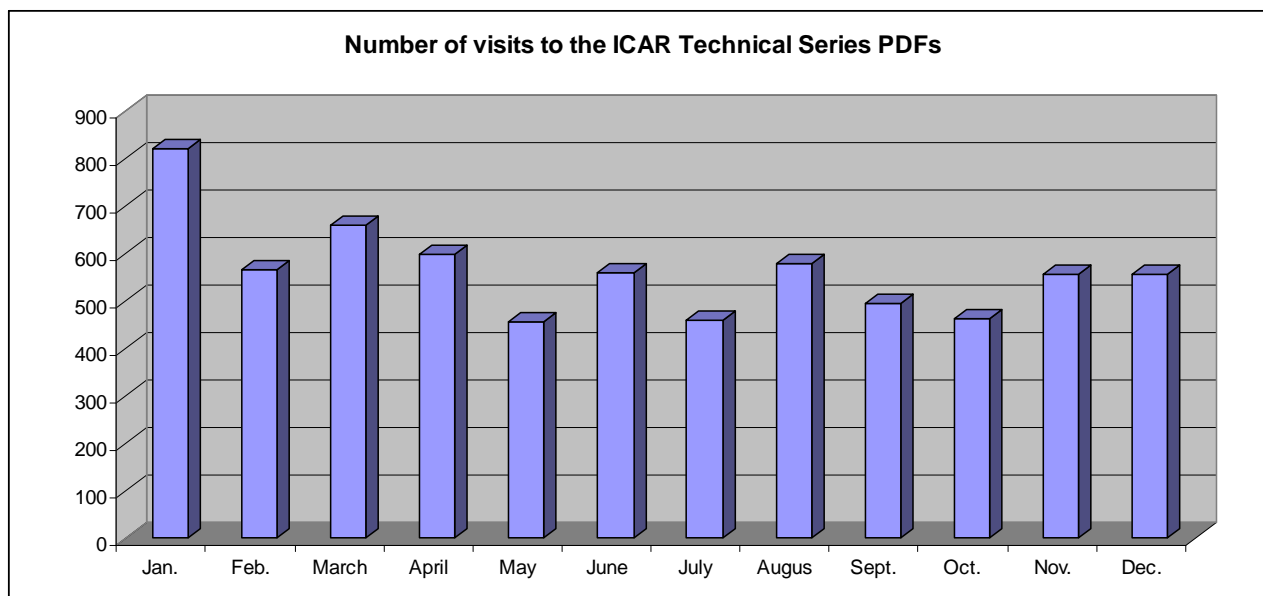


In 2011 the site was visited from 204 000 visitors.



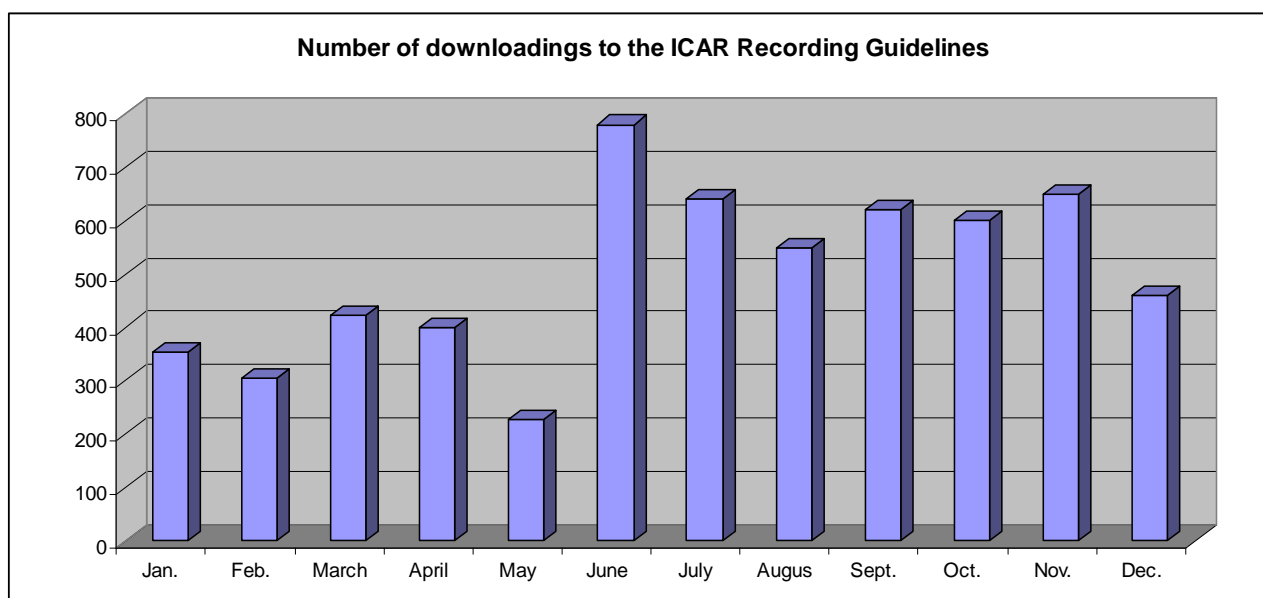
- **ICAR Technical Series**

In 2011, the ICAR Technical Series (available in 14 PDF files) have been downloaded 6 700 times and no particular issue has been significantly downloaded in a higher percentage than the others.



- **Recording Guidelines**

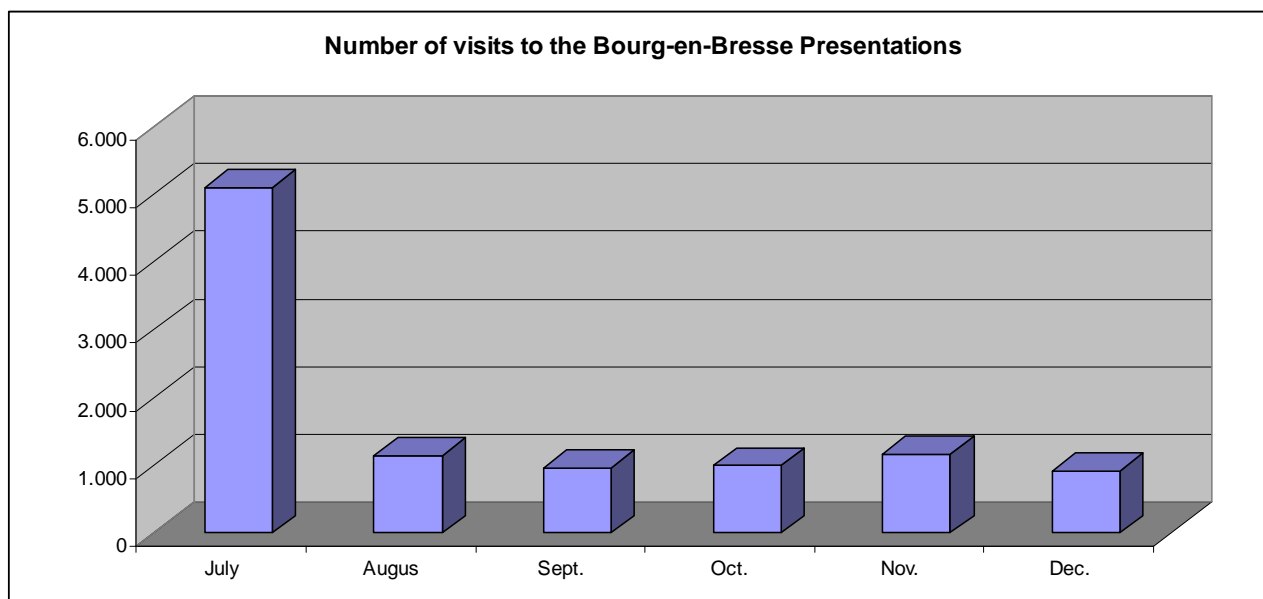
In 2011, the ICAR Recording Guidelines have been downloaded 6.000 times and an increase of downloading has been noticed from June, when the new edition (2011) was made available on the site.





- **Technical Meeting held in Bourg-en-Bresse**

The material produced during the Technical Meeting held in Bourg-en-Bresse was made available in June 2011 and in total files were downloaded 10.300 times. In the first month 5.100 downloads were realised from that section, stabilising to around 1.000 visits/month until December 2011.



- **Newsletter**

The ICAR Newsletters issues were downloaded 6.000 times and peaks of visits were reached when new issues were published (June and December).

