

## **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON ACTIVITIES JUNE 2009 – MAY 2010**

### **I. Routine activities for both ICAR and SERVICE-ICAR Srl**

In the period under the review, the Secretary General was engaged in maintaining active contacts with ICAR Members and ICAR Governing bodies, particularly with the President of ICAR (routine telephone consultations), in providing the direct support to ICAR bodies and in leading and supervising the ICAR Secretariat.

Main routine activities carried out in this period were:

- a) Implementation of decisions and conclusions of the Porec General Assembly and meetings of the ICAR Board in May;
- b) organizational support in preparation of ICAR related activities during the EAAP meeting in Barcelona
- c) Preparation and servicing of the ICAR Board conference call held on 18 February 2010.
- d) Implementation of decisions and conclusions of the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Board.
- e) Contacts with the Latvian Member in the organization of the 37<sup>th</sup> Biennial Session.
- f) International cooperation.
- g) Management ICAR financial resources.
- h) Management of SERVICE-ICAR Srl.
- i) Dissemination of information:
  - o maintenance and updating ICAR web site and inclusion of information coming from the Porec meeting and regarding the Riga session;
  - o design and management of the ICAR Discussion Forum; and
  - o preparation and publication of four issues of the ICAR Newsletter.
- j) Five applications for membership arrived during this period:
  - o Animal Registration Foundation of Mongolia.
  - o Mifugo Tracking Kenya Ltd.
  - o Genetic Identification, Greece.
  - o CRV BV, the Netherlands.
  - o Korea Animal Improvement Association (KAIA).

On the request of the Executive Board during its meeting in March 2010, the Secretariat asked for further information about its activities and status to Mifugo Tracking Kenya Ltd. but to date there was no answer from their side.

In what concerns the Korea Animal Improvement Association, they were member of ICAR until 2007. They have asked to re-activate its membership. They promised to pay their outstanding dues (2005 and 2006) before the General Assembly in Riga and the proposal to the Board is to accept KAIA again as member of ICAR.

## **II. Servicing ICAR Members**

### **a) ICAR Certificate of Quality**

Since the last meeting in Porec, granted have been given to:

Agricultural Research Council (ARC), South Africa (September 2009) for:

Identification system for dairy cattle, beef cattle, milking sheep and milking goats, recording of production of dairy cattle, beef cattle and milking goats, and genetic evaluation of dairy cattle

South African Studbook and Animal Improvement Association (Studbook) South Africa (September 2009) for:

Identification system for dairy cattle, beef cattle, milking sheep, milking goats and other species of animals

Cattle Information System (CIS), United Kingdom (September 2009) for:

Recording of production of dairy cattle

Edinburgh Genetic Evaluation Services (EGENES), Scottish Agricultural College, United Kingdom (September 2009) for:

Genetic evaluation of dairy cattle, beef cattle and sheep

Associazione Italiana Allevatori (AIA), Italy (October 2009) for:

Identification system for dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, dairy sheep and dairy goats, production recording of dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, dairy sheep and dairy goats

Estonian Animal Recording Centre (November 2009) for:

Identification system for dairy cattle, production recording of dairy cattle and genetic evaluation

Deutscher Verband für Leistungs- und Qualitätsprüfungen e.V. (DLQ), Germany (November 2009) for:

Identification system and production recording of dairy cattle, laboratory analysis, data processing and sample transport.

Agricultural date centre, Latvia (November 2009) for:

Identification system and production recording of dairy and beef cattle, sheep and goats, and genetic evaluation.

VIT w.V., Germany (November 2009) for :

Genetic evaluation for dairy cattle

CONVIS, Luxembourg (November 2009) for:

Identification system for dairy and beef cattle, sheep and goats; recording production of dairy and beef cattle, sheep and goats; cattle genetic evaluation; laboratory analysis and data processing

Laboratorium Oceny Mleka KCHZ Laboratorium Referencyjne z/s w Parzniewie (NABC), Poland, (November 2009) for:

Reference laboratory

Zentrale Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreichischer Rinderzüchter (ZAR), LKV Steiermark, Austria, (November 2009) for:

Recording production of dairy and beef cattle

Association of Swiss Cattle Breeders (ASR) (February 2010) for its following members:

Swiss Brown Cattle Breeders' Federation (SBZV), Swissherdbook cooperative Zollikofen (swissherdbook) and Holstein Association of Switzerland (FSHo) for:

- Identification system for dairy cattle, recording of production of dairy cattle, genetic evaluation of dairy cattle, laboratory analysis and data processing work.

Swiss Beef Cattle Association (Mutterkuh Schweiz) for:

- Identification system of beef cattle, recording of production of beef cattle, genetic evaluation and data processing work.

Swedish Dairy Federation (May 2010) for:

Identification system for dairy cattle and beef cattle, production recording of dairy cattle and beef cattle, and genetic evaluation of dairy and beef cattle

Croatian Agricultural Agency (May 2010) for:

Identification system for dairy cattle, beef cattle, production recording of dairy cattle, sheep and goats, and beef cattle, and genetic evaluation of dairy cattle.

Slovak Breeding Services (May 2010) for:

Identification system for beef cattle, and production recording of beef cattle

In addition to this information we underline that:

Six members who have expressed interest, including those who have paid €640, have been prompted for their questionnaires: Denmark, Northern Ireland, Polish Cattle Breeders, MAPYA (Spain) and Belgium Wallonie.

With auditors: Norway, ICBF, France Génétique Elevage, Slovenia.

With Board: Czech Moravian Breeders' Association for beef i/d and production recording and Association Wallone de l'Elevage (Belgium).

All four non-CoQ Special Stamp members, who have not expressed interest, have been contacted: Argentina, Belgium (Vlaams), Cyprus and Lithuania.

New questionnaire and fees published.

In view of the fact that there is no apparent interest or reaction from Australia and North America, the Secretariat (Frank Armitage) will contact them on this matter.

## **b) Benchmarking**

The development of the Benchmarking service is still in the pipeline. It is planned as 2010 Secretariat objective of the strategic plan by the end of this year.

## **c) The on-line analyser procedure for testing**

The Sub-Committee Milk Analysis has finalized guidelines and procedure for testing and approval of on-line milk analysers. The Sub-Committee on Recording Devices prepared the update of the Section 11 of ICAR Guidelines. These two documents will be placed on the web site for information and comments by ICAR Members and then submitted to the Board and the General Assembly for approval. The first test will begin shortly after the Riga meeting.

#### **d) A questionnaire to Member Organizations**

A circular letter with a questionnaire has been sent to all MO in pursuance to the decision of the Board to collect information on activities and type of services ICAR Members are offering to their clients. As of 15<sup>th</sup> February 2010, replies have been received from 47 Members; 34 of them are involved in cow milk recording, 9 sheep milk recording, 15 goat milk recording and 4 buffalo milk recording; 34 carry out ID of dairy cattle, 14 sheep, 15 goats, 4 buffalo and 21 beef cattle; 31 members carries out genetic evaluation of dairy cattle.

A questionnaire on views of Members regarding their expectations from ICAR was prepared and will be distributed during the General Assembly in Riga.

#### **e) Preparation and visit to Brazil by ICAR representatives**

At the call conference (Neil Petreny, Andrea Rosati, Joao Dürr, Frank Armitage and Ms. Elena Couto) held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010 it was decided that J. Dürr and N. Petreny would attend the FEPALE meeting in March and based on their contacts there the following countries to be visited would be defined for the second visit.

For technical problems, Neil Petreny could not participate at the last moment to the visit that was done only by Joao Durr. The meeting took place in Belo Horizonte (Brazil) from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010. J. Dürr contacted the organisers and propose a session (if possible on 23<sup>rd</sup> March afternoon) to present ICAR. J. Dürr also arranged with the organisers the facilities to meet those people interested in ICAR activities.

The Secretariat has sent an invitation to its members in South America (Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay) informing about this meeting and the participation of ICAR. Another invitation was sent to the rest of delegates from Latin American countries introducing ICAR and informing about the session and possibility to meet with ICAR President during the Congress.

The second visit that has been postponed to Autumn 2010 and will be based on the contacts and the evaluation that Joao will give after his visit to Brazil. In any case Andrea and Frank will go to Brasilia to visit the Ministry and take contacts with EMBRAPA. The organization of the rest of the visits will be decided later on.

For this visit a list of manufacturers with ICAR approvals based in Brazil, printed version of a brochure on ICAR in Spanish were done.

#### **f) Follow-up South America visit**

There was a conference call on 31/3/2010 with the participation of Neil Petreny, Andrea Rosati, Frank Armitage and João Dürr about the visit to South America.

J. Dürr gave an overview of his attendance at the FEPALE meetings. Direct contacts and impressions were:

- a) Considered that ICAR gave favourable impression with misunderstandings being clarified.
- b) Media interviews given for Argentina and Uruguay.
- c) Membership fees for ICAR more favourable than for IDF.

The action taken were:

- a) J. Dürr provided list of contacts and attendees at FEPALE.
- b) Specific invitations to Riga were sent from the Secretariat to relevant persons such as:

- President, Secretary General and Technical Director of FEPALE. Points of mutual benefit will be laboratory network and identification.
  - President and Secretary General of Holstein Association of Brazil.
- c) Secretariat will contact Holstein Association of Brazil additionally as they are under the impression that ICAR will be with them soon and they are keen to join ICAR.

Consideration was asked to be given to reciprocal membership with FEPALE. There are advantages; however, care with have to be taken as such reciprocity could be asked for by organisations such as world breed federations thereby a direct effect on ICAR membership fees. Further discussion will follow in Riga.

Possible relationships with FEPALE:

- a) Joint ICAR/FEPALE workshops (could link in with the biennial FEPALE meetings).
- b) Regular presentations at the biennial meetings (could be reciprocal).

**g) A revised review of ICAR legal documents**

A revised review of all ICAR legal documents has been prepared and submitted to the Executive Board for approval and submission to the ICAR Board.

The following documents have been therefore prepared for approval by the Executive Board and submission to the ICAR Board:

1. a draft decision of the General Assembly regarding:
  - approval of draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the ICAR General Assembly; and
  - procedure for approval of ICAR Guidelines.
2. a draft decision of the General Assembly on the abolishment of By-laws regulating procedure of the Board and Executive Board and terms of reference of members of the Board and of Secretary General; and
3. the request to the Board to develop and approve its own rules.

**h) ICAR Brochure**

The new has been published and available since March.

**i) Marketing strategy**

The marketing strategy including definition of objectives and ways of presentation has been discussed and approved by the Executive Board and ready for submission to the Board.

### **III. Marketing plan & brochure**

The Executive Board note progress in the implementation of the marketing strategy (publication of the ICAR brochure, neckties and foulards with ICAR logo) and requested the Secretariat to include expenditures for marketing in 2010 budget. It also recommended that the target group be extended by inclusion of (umbrella) representative farmers associations. Representatives of these associations should be invited to attend ICAR meetings, such as is the case with the World Breed Federations which will attend ICAR meeting in Riga. French livestock agency proposed the participation of delegations from farmers' associations from other countries at the 2011 ICAR meeting. Use of protected ICAR corporate and quality logo as a marketing tool should be further promoted. In this respect, the Secretariat was requested to present draft manual and new rules for their use.

#### **a) Logo management**

Registration and protection of the ICAR logo and name in the USA has been completed. A relevant agency for logo protection and management was contacted. ICAR is using its own logo, in different formats, to protect and to give proper services to its members. A draft plan of logo management and protection has been discussed and will be presented at Riga meetings.

#### **b) Investment policies**

A new investment policies for ICAR economic reserves has been drafted and the proposal will be discussed at the Riga Board meeting. The goal is to make the best possible use of the ICAR reserves.

#### **c) New format of document**

The Secretariat plans to produce a new format of draft agenda and documents for meetings of the Executive Board and ICAR Board. Items and documents will have to be marked in accordance with the purpose: information, discussion, decision. Documents for decision contain a short summary, proposal and an explanatory note.

#### **d) Handbooks**

Handbooks for newly elected members of the Board and for delegates at the General Assembly have been prepared. They will be placed on the web site and published in a form of a brochure.

A handbook for chairpersons and members of technical bodies is in preparation. After Riga with the possible approval of the by-laws we will be ready to prepare the handbook.

#### **e) Reorganization of Beef and Interbeef Working Groups**

Brian Wickham, as chairman:

- has drafted new ToR for the WG, which have been circulated for discussion; and
- agreed membership of the new WG from the members of Interbeef and those members of the old Beef WG who expressed interest and enthusiasm.

#### **f) Board Charter**

The draft charter has been amended and proposed to the Executive Board for approval.

### **g) Terms of reference of the Working Group Functional Traits**

1. John Cole of the Animal Improvement Programs laboratory, Beltsville has volunteered to join the WG. This was following the piece in the ICAR newsletter.
2. A meeting was held in Peking with A. Rosati and E. Strandberg and one was held in Paris post ExB with F. Armitage and E. Strandberg to discuss: group membership and future work which may lead to a change of ToR. Drs. K. Stock and A. Bradley have also joined the group, they are both veterinarians.

### **h) IDF meeting**

A meeting was held in Brussels between A. Rosati and C. Robert to agree on joint cooperation between ICAR and IDF. Several cooperation has been agreed among the others: technical cooperation for common fields of interest, like milk analysis; a satellite meeting co-organized by ICAR and IDF at the IDF 2011 annual meeting; possible joint annual meetings in 2015

### **i) 2015 annual meeting**

The Polish Member – a candidate for hosting 2015 annual meeting – has been informed on the planned joint meeting with IDF, and Austria have also expressed interest.

### **j) Insurance**

In the period under review the Secretariat tried to collect information from the Executive Board members about insurance possibility to protect Board members of Service ICAR from any possible legal problem due to the commercial activity that is normally carried on but no relevant information of possible help were collected. Moreover the Secretary General attended an informative meeting with subject about “legal and fiscal responsibilities of managers” organized by the “Italian Association of Managers”. He reported to the Executive Board the details of the meeting.

### **k) Manual for use of ICAR forum**

A manual for members of the Board on the use of the ICAR forum has been prepared.

### **l) 2009 financial report**

Financial report for 2009 has been prepared and placed on the agenda of this meeting of the Executive Board together with the report of the Inspector.

### **Preparation for the Riga 2010 session**

The program of the 37<sup>th</sup> session has been finalized in cooperation with members of the Board and the Latvian Organizing Committee.

The programme and call for papers have been placed on the ICAR web site and on the web site of the local organizing committee [www.icar2010.lv/en/id1.php](http://www.icar2010.lv/en/id1.php).

### **Reviewing of the strategic plan**

A short review has been made for the implementation of the strategic goals in 2009 and a proposal for goals to be reached in 2010. Furthermore updating of future years of strategic objectives were

made as well with a new planning system that is, instead to prepare objectives after a strategic plan of four years, updating constantly the objectives.

### **Activities during EAAP Meeting in Barcelona**

One of 55 scientific sessions held during the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of EAAP dealt with “**Impact of globalization on cattle breeding programs and practices**”. The session was organized by EAAP, Spanish local organizers and INTERBULL Sub-Committee. Under the chairmanship of Jarmo Juga from Finland and former president of ICAR and G. Thaler from Germany researchers presented ten papers.

ICAR – FAO – EAAP Symposium at the 60<sup>th</sup> EAAP Annual Meeting: “Advances and use of electronic identification”. This symposium organized by ICAR Sub-Committee for Animal Identification and Task Force for Developing Countries, FAO and EAAP was attended by almost one hundred authors. There were fifteen theatre presentations and fifteen posters.

### **INTERBULL MEETING 2009**

One hundred fifty participants from 32 countries at the four day meeting discussed past experience, current problems and developments in science and technology in fields relevant to international genetic evaluation of sires.

### **INTERBULL Strategic Plan**

The Interbull Steering Committee under the guidance of the President of ICAR, Neil Petreny, reviewed the strategic plan prepared in January 2009 and presented at the business meeting. It was agreed that a more detailed version of the plan would be sent to the members for comments and suggestions in October 2009, and the should be approved in March 2010, at the Paris workshop.

### **Genomics Task Force**

Considering the numerous issues that still require special advice from specialists, the SC decided to extend the mandate of the Genomics Task Force until the next annual meeting, to be held in Riga, Latvia, from May 31 to June 4, 2010, during the more general ICAR meeting.

## **IV. Dissemination of information**

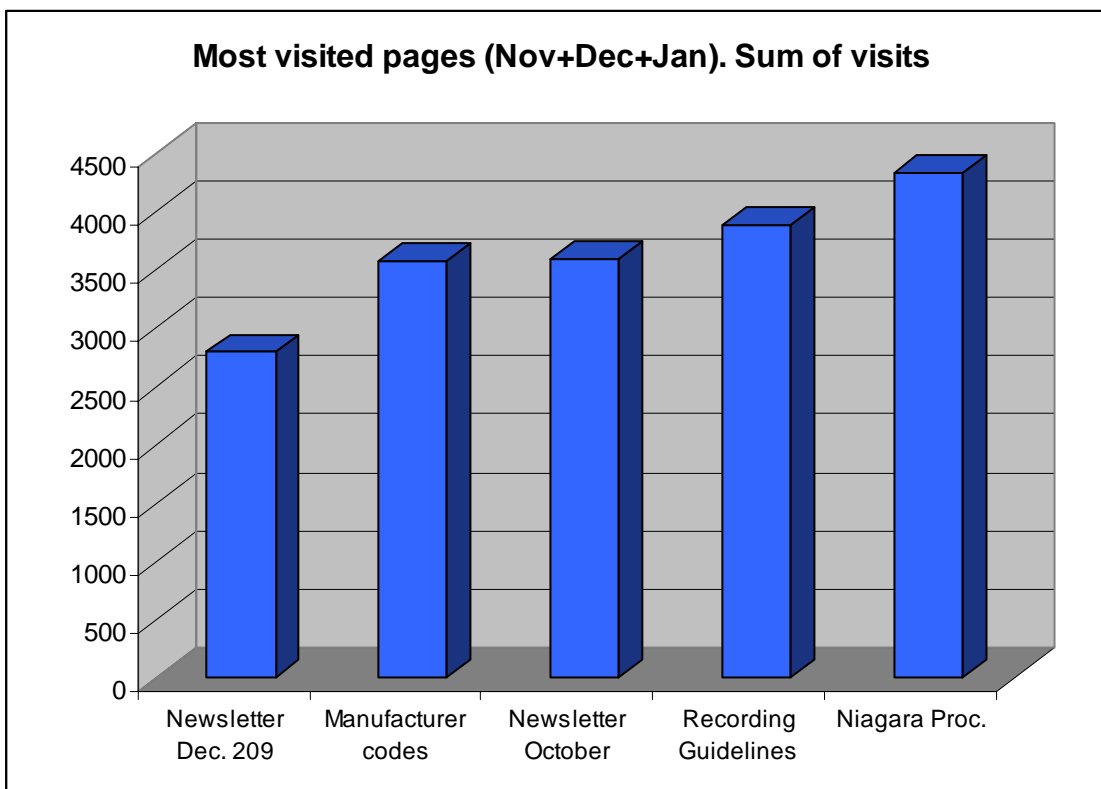
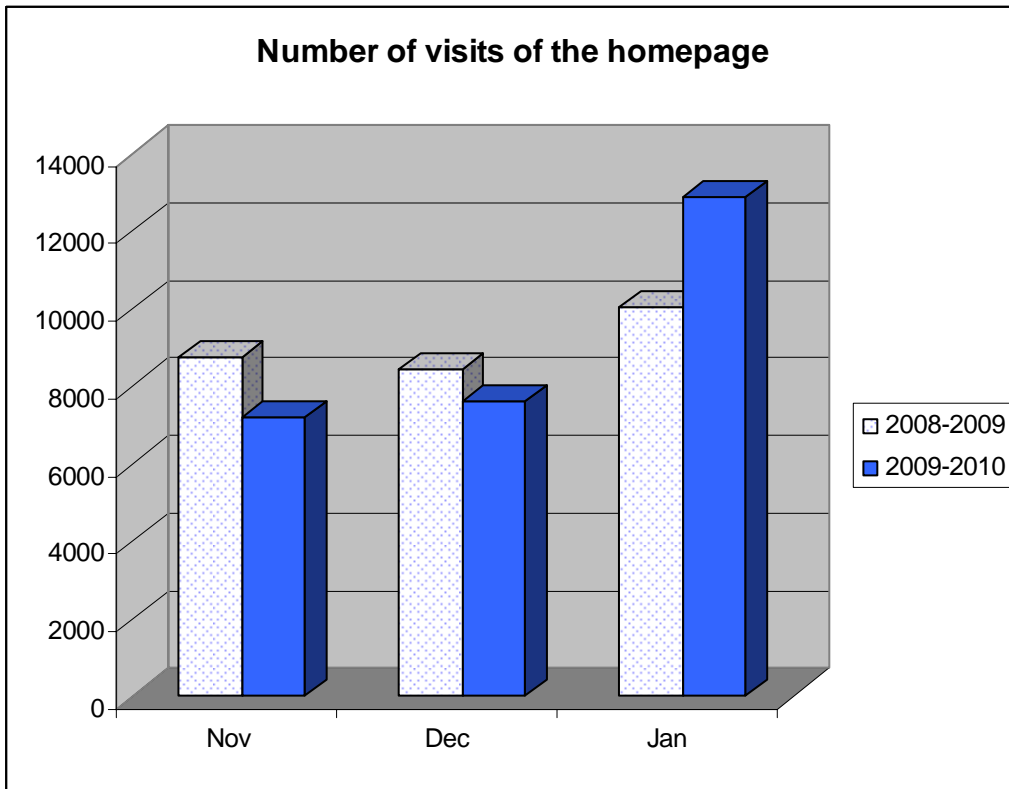
### **a) Newsletter**

Since Porec annual meeting, four issues of the ICAR Newsletter were published: July, October and December 2009 and April 2010.

### **b) Web site**

We will focus the attention on the last three months.





The **PSAS website** received visits (monthly based) ranging from 365 (Dec. 2009) to 663 (Sept 2009) for an average of 420 visits/month during 2009.

Users focused their navigation to the following files:

Specific cases of major interest (~ 110 visits/month)

Information on animal patenting (~ 90 visits/month)  
What's New (~ 60 visits/month)  
Patenting news (~ 50 visits/month)

No clear indication can be given on the remaining file since it seems not to have an homogeneous trend in the most interested files.

## **V. Contacts and visits**

In the period under review the Secretary General visited Riga for discussing with local organizers the preparation details of the annual session 2010. The visited was very informative and gave the possibility to know more about the preparation of the annual meeting and also to support with comments and ideas the local organizers.

The Secretary General then visited the IDF annual meeting in Berlin (Germany) in September 2009. The goal was to strengthen relations. This visit was followed by a meeting in Brussels with C. Robert, Secretary General of IDF.

In early October A. Rosati visited the to Agency for Animal Identification and Registration in Kiev (Ukraine). During the meeting the Secretary General met the Ukrainian Minister of Agriculture and was able to explain the services given by ICAR to its members.

In the period under review the Secretary General met the representatives of the Chinese Association for Animal Breeding in Beijing on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was very interesting and there was the possibility to know more about the identification, performance recording and genetic evaluation of dairy cattle in China. There was also the possibility to introduce ICAR activities to the four representatives of the Chinese Association for Animal Breeding. They were seriously interested to join ICAR and, hopefully, they will participate to the Riga conference. The objective is to link the Chinese breeding organization to the ICAR community.

Olivier Leray and Andrea Rosati visited Russia during the Dairy Forum Exhibition in Moscow. In this week many Russian relevant representatives were met. It was clearer the situation of dairy industry in Russia and proposal to participate to ICAR activities were made. Hopefully ICAR can have members from this huge and important country and some Russians will visit the Riga meeting.

The Secretary General also attended the COPA-COGECA meetings held in Brussels on October 29<sup>th</sup> 2009 and April 8<sup>th</sup> 2010. The agenda of the meetings concerned several items of ICAR interest, like Interbull activities, animal identification, etc.

During those meetings in Brussels A. Rosati also met the EU representative, Kai-Uwe Sprenger. The topic of discussion was about EU legislation and relations to ICAR, for instance at the last meeting the development of animal ID EU legislation and the ICAR implications on this matter was discussed. Also the Secretary General requested support for Interbeef activities and other matter of common interest were discussed.

There were several meetings with the marketing company, with members representatives and with other guests arrived to the Rome office. Daily contacts through many emails or some telephone calls, were also kept.

