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1. A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this newsletter we present the main activities carried out by our technical and governing bodies, as well as salient points relating to the 40th ICAR Biennial Session to be held in Latin America for the first time in ICAR's 65 years.

The ICAR Board has met in three teleconferences and one face-to-face meeting since our last newsletter. The board's system of monthly meetings has made it possible for all members of the board to contribute to policy and operational actions, thus ensuring high-quality and relevant decisions.

The central event in 2016 – our 40th Biennial Session – will take place in a few weeks' time at Puerto Varas in Chile. The rich programme includes one plenary session, five open lectures and nine technical sessions with more than 60 presentations, expositions, study tours and social events. In addition to the quality and the content of presentations, the location of the event symbolises our strategic 'Global Reach' orientation to provide services for all types of production systems and all species of economic importance.

Registrations are still open and we expect a high number of attendees, particularly from those in the region, and in view of the fact that the main part of the programme will be carried out in both English and Spanish. Intensive work to improve the content and forms of activities of our technical bodies has been reflected in the development of updated terms of reference of some of them and the initial work on restructuring our guidelines to make them more to the point and user friendly.

Certification and accreditation activities carried out by Service-ICAR s.r.l. have related to ID, recording and sampling devices, DNA and milk analysis laboratories and the quality of services of ICAR members. The 'ICAR Brand' project has been completed with great anticipation that the new logo and restructured ICAR website will contribute to a better visibility for ICAR and its mission and to the improved services that ICAR provides to its members and to global animal production.

Hans Wilmink



The ICAR President, Hans Wilmink (3rd from the left) with part of the ICAR Team and Board Members. From the left: Silvia Orlandini, Bianca Lind, Hans Wilmink, Bevin Harris, Marco Winters, Jorge Lama and Niels Henning Nielsen



News for Puerto Varas

2. ICAR'S 40TH BIENNIAL SESSION, PUERTO VARAS, CHILE

'Performance Recording as a Tool for Developing Countries' is the theme of the 40th ICAR Biennial Session to be held in Puerto Varas, Chile, 24-28 October 2016. The programme encompasses a range of issues relating to the use of ID and the recording and evaluation techniques applicable to a variety of animal production systems around the world.

The 2016 Interbull Annual Meeting, the leading event for research on bovine genetics and genomic national and international evaluations, will be held alongside the 40th Biennial Session. The theme and the venue represent an important step in the implementation of the ICAR Global Reach programme as a part of the 'New ICAR' strategy.

The Biennial Session has been organised into one plenary session, five open lectures and nine parallel technical sessions. The programme also includes study tours, social events and a programme for those accompanying the attendees.

The ICAR Board has monitored preparations and expressed its satisfaction with the cooperation between the ICAR executive team and Cooprinsem, the local organiser, which guarantees the success of this important event.

The high number of registrations so far indicates that the 40th Biennial Session is going to be marked both by the quality of the programme and the number of participants. For more information, see the official website www.icar2016cl.



The home page of the meeting in Puerto Varas

Global Reach

3. THE GLOBAL REACH PROGRAM

Following the approval of the Global Reach programme and the decision by the ICAR Board to establish a Global Reach WG, the ICAR executive team has produced information material and a leaflet on the mission and function of Global Reach. The information material will be available in several languages; the first has been produced in English and Spanish and underlines the Global Reach mission to bring ICAR's benefits to the world.

The model is a decentralised structure in which each region has its own ICAR Global Reach sub-group. Each sub-group will comprise professionals living and working within a region in which implementation of the ICAR approach will improve



their production systems, taking local interests and special factors into account. After all, the best people to decide what is required or what will not work in a region are the professionals who are practitioners there. The material will be available on the ICAR website and in the printed form.

The Board

Brand

News from SCs and WGs

ID SC

4. FROM THE ICAR BOARD

4.1 ICAR BRAND

Members of the board and the ICAR executive team actively participated in all phases of the design and implementation of the ICAR Brand project. The project has been presented to all ICAR members and to professionals involved in ICAR activities. They were invited to provide their views and suggestions prior to the completion of the project, which will take place in the Biennial Session in October 2016 in Puerto Varas.



5. NEWS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

5.1 ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Animal Identification Sub-Committee would like to warmly thank its former chair, Ken Evers, for his long and dedicated service to the SC. The SC is now welcoming nominations or applications from suitably qualified persons to take on the role of chair. A position description for this role can be found here.

The Animal Identification Sub-Committee updated its terms of reference (ToR) in June, also outlining its top priorities for 2016 and 2017: opening the SC membership to wider national/regional representation, appointing a new chair, consolidating the new test services introduced in 2015/2016, and fostering further engagement with national Competent Authorities (CAs). The approved ToR will appear on the ICAR website shortly.

In April ICAR contacted those national CAs responsible for animal identification in their national territories to inform them of the new standards and procedures that ICAR has adopted in the testing and certification of animal identification devices. Positive reactions were received from various authorities. The list of CAs is on the ICAR website and can be found here. The ICAR Secretariat can be contacted for requests for contact details.

The Animal Identification Sub-Committee, together with the ICAR Secretariat, has worked to improve those pages on the ICAR website listing the certified ID devices, RFID and conventional ear tags, resulting in pages that are clearer, more user-friendly and easier to navigate.



The services launched by ICAR in 2015, namely the device change notification (a mechanism for manufacturers to notify ICAR of the latest product revisions and have them tested and certified) and the re-certification of devices after the expiration of their five-year certification, are increasingly being requested. Information can be found in Section 10 of the ICAR Guidelines. In addition, the ICAR Secretariat is available for advice and guidance.

RSD SC

5.2 RECORDING AND SAMPLING DEVICES SUB-COMMITTEE

The ICAR Recording and Sampling Devices Sub-Committee (RSD SC) continues to move forward with its routine work and new priorities. With three new members joining the RSD-SC over the past year, the RSD SC has a balance of leadership and technical expertise from members in France, UK, Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, New Zealand, Canada and the United States. The RSD-SC also enjoys technical support from the ICAR Test Centres in the Netherlands, France, and Germany.

The RSD SC met in Rennes, France in June, 2016 – many thanks to FCEL and IDELE for being such gracious hosts. In addition to a review of the tests in progress on recording devices, the RSD SC is working with the ICAR Secretariat on revisions to the web listing of certified recording and sampling devices. With a new database-driven website, the RSD SC is committed to improving the ease of access to information useful to ICAR members. The new web listing will include updated pictures and current routine calibration procedures and installation approvals, all within a user-friendly, searchable website.

The challenge of testing and approval of different AMS models with sampling shuttles was also identified as a priority for RSD SC moving forward. Another parallel project includes an update on the 'Periodic Checking of Meters' publication, which includes the most current routine calibration procedures for ICAR-certified recording devices.

The RSD SC also endorsed the goals of the newly created ICAR Sensor Devices Task Force (SD TF). The Task Force is charged with reviewing the suitability of the sensor data for recording programmes, along with defining sensor approval requirements and data standards. A joint task force with representation from the RSD SC, the Sub-Committee for Milk Analysis, and the Dairy Cattle Milk Recording Working Group, the Sensor Devices Task Force will deliver initial recommendations at the ICAR 2017 meeting in Scotland. This work is important to the ICAR mission and to ICAR members, and ultimately to dairy producers. Comments on sensor devices and this project are most welcome and should be directed to Steven Sievert, Chair, at sjsievert@dhia.org.



Members of the Recording and Sampling Devices Sub-Committees participating to the meeting in held in Rennes, France, in June 2016.

The RSD SC Carryover Task Force continues its work and plans on a technical session at ICAR 2017 on best practices for managing carryover in different phases of herd recording and laboratory milk analysis. In addition, initial groundwork has been laid recording guidelines for devices that provide estimates of body condition scores in cattle. With a balance between the core work of recording/sampling device testing, maintenance of existing devices and forward-thinking projects, the RSD-SC continues to be focused on the needs of our member organisations.

Finally, the RSD SC would like to thank Juhani Mäki-Hokkonen for all the support he has provided the sub-committee over many years while at Service-ICAR and welcomes Andie Dimitriadou to the RSD-SC team, providing support from Service-ICAR to our projects moving forward.

Milk Analysis SC

5.3 ACTIVITIES IN THE FRAME OF MILK ANALYSIS SUB-COMMITTEE

As announced in the ICAR March Newsletter, the ICAR Proficiency test accredited ISO 17043 was launched in March and in September. The participants from 21 countries in the 5 continents are mapping a great picture of the DHI laboratories. For the first two rounds the participant have had the possibility to participate with the determination of fat, protein, lactose, urea and somatic cell with reference and routine methods.

From December 2016 ICAR proficiency test will be offered to determine Bacterial DNA (PCR technique) beta hydroxybutyrate (BHB) and Pregnancy associated glycoprotein (PAG). With this service ICAR offers the possibility to the milk laboratories to be connected at global scale, by improving the analytical traceability for DHI analyses and ICAR DHI laboratories will provide a better service to the farmers.

To present more details on this activity, during the 40th biennial session in Puerto Varas, a presentation on Wednesday 26 October is scheduled.



In details, the program in Puerto Varas dedicates 2 Sessions to the milk analyses:

- On Tuesday 25th October, (Session on “What can we found out from a Milk Sampling”), four speakers will provide information on the application of new technologies on milk samples. These technologies are providing useful indication for a modern farm management.
- On Thursday 27th October, (Session on “Milk Analyses what’s the next”) the analytical strategies to get milk analyses results equivalent at global scale will be presented with the illustration of the new technologies for milk analyses

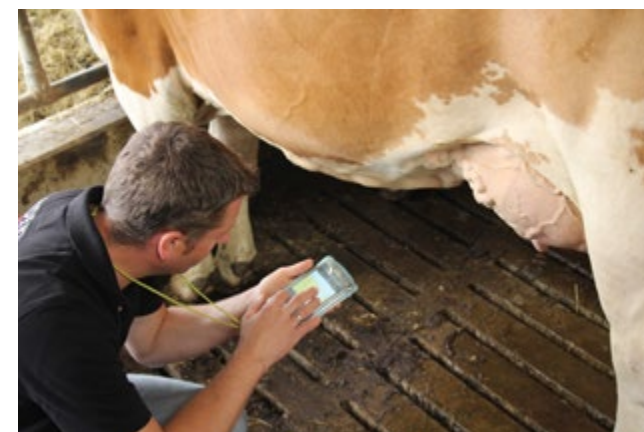
If you are interested in participating in the ICAR activities in the frame of the milk analyses, please do not hesitate in visiting the ICAR website and to joint us through the ICAR Milk Analyses activities by contacting the ICAR secretariat (icar@icar.org).

DCMR WG

5.4 PRIORITIES OF THE DAIRY CATTLE MILK RECORDING WG

The ICAR Board recommended to the Dairy Cattle Milk Recording Group to include in its program the following priorities in its program of work for the next two years:

- Continue developing the ICAR Guidelines.
- Collaborate with the ICAR Sensor Task Force.
- Develop 24-hour calculation guidelines and update guidelines for accumulated milk yields.
- Arrange regular sessions in Chile, Scotland and beyond and stimulating discussion relevant for milk recording in cattle.
- Monitor and report developments in milk recording.
- Review options for ICAR to support quality management and quality assurance dairy cattle milk recording.



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CoQ

6. CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY

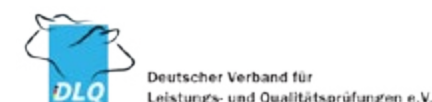
During the past three months the ICAR Auditors for the Certificate of Quality carried out two full audits and four consultative reviews. On the basis of their findings and recommendations the ICAR Board endorsed the renewal of:

- **Vereingte Informationssysteme Tierhaltung wV**, Germany, for genetic evaluation of dairy and beef cattle and other species.
- **Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Dairy Farmers** for identification of dairy and beef cattle and other species, production recording of dairy and beef cattle and laboratory services, production recording of other species, genetic evaluation of dairy and beef cattle and other species, data processing and herdbook services.



The following Member had a Consultative Review based on the new approved procedures:

- **Agricultural Data Center of Latvia** for identification, performance recording, genetic evaluation and data processing of dairy and beef cattle and other species.
- **Czech and Moravian Breeders' Association** for identification, performance recording, genetic evaluation, linear classification and laboratory analysis in dairy cattle;
- **Deutscher Verband für Leistungs- und Qualitätsprüfungen eV** (Germany) – Successful Review of CoQ activities: Identification of Dairy Cattle, Production Recording of Dairy Cattle, Laboratory Services (Milk samples) and Data Processing
- **South African Studbook and Improvement Association** for animal identification, herd book recording, genetic evaluation and data processing of dairy and beef cattle and other species;



The new ICAR logo for the Certificate of Quality and examples of the Certificate that will be delivered to ICAR Members, following the Audit.

New DNA-Based service

7. LAUNCH OF TWO NEW DNA-BASED SERVICES BY ICAR AND INTERBULL CENTRE

During the ICAR and Interbull Meetings in Chile at the end of October 2016, two new services will be launched:

- **Parentage SNP Exchange ("GenoEx-PSE")** - a service for exchanging standardized sets of SNPs for genotyped animals to facilitate parentage analysis activities.
- A service for **Accreditation of DNA Data Interpretation Centres**.

Both services will be provided by ICAR through the Interbull Centre.



GenoEx-PSE

7.1 GENOEX-PSE

The proposal to develop an International **Genotype Exchange Platform** "GenoEx" was originally presented during the Interbull Meeting in May 2014, in Berlin, Germany, with a view to establish an infrastructure able to support and develop international cooperation based on SNP data.

The GenoEx infrastructure has since been developed at the Interbull Centre, with financial support from Interbull, SLU and ICAR, and **Parentage SNP Exchange ("GenoEx-PSE")** will be the first service provided through this platform.

The main purpose of GenoEx-PSE is to provide a service for exchanging standardized sets of SNP for genotyped animals to facilitate parentage analysis activities carried out by authorized service users of the GenoEx-PSE service.

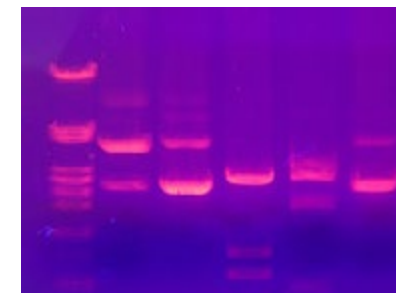
Centre accreditations

7.2 DNA DATA INTERPETATION CENTRE ACCREDITATION

Each authorized service user for GenoEx-PSE will be required to achieve ICAR accreditation for its Parentage Analysis capability, appropriate to the level of parentage analysis service it wishes to provide.

The implementation of both services has taken place under the guidance of the ICAR-appointed GenoEx-PSE Implementation Task Force, responsible for developing GenoEx-PSE policies and business rules, and the GENOEX-PSE Expert Group, addressing specific scientific and technical issues for both GenoEx and DNA Data Interpretation Centre Accreditation.

More details on these two services will be published on the ICAR and INTERBULL web sites before the Puerto Varas Biennial Session.



ICAR Team

8. FROM THE ICAR EXECUTIVE TEAM

Juhani Maki Hokkonen- Jussi for friends - left the ICAR Executive Team in June 2016 after thirteen years of service as a technical advisor providing support mainly to the Identification and Recording and Sampling Devices Sub-Committees. Before joining ICAR he worked in his home country – Finland - as a professional and high level manager in DHI organizations and in FAO as a senior livestock production officer. His professional background and experience combined with his pleasant character and hard work greatly contributed to the positioning of ICAR as the global certifying body for ID and recording and sampling devices. The ICAR Board, two Sub-Committees and his colleagues from the Executive Team expressed appreciations for his work with best wishes for happy retirement.

Antigoni Dimitriadou – Andie joined the Executive Team in December 2015. In the recent past she worked for international organizations located in Rome (FAO, IFAD, WFP) as a consultant. Since June 2016 she is in charge of administrative support of ID and Recording and Sampling Devices Sub-Committee and of managing the organization's standard operating procedures.



Jussi Mäki-Hokkonen (the first on the left) at the recent ICAR Board held in Amsterdam in May 2016