



Minutes of the meeting of the ICAR Sheep, Goats and Camelids Working Group

31 May 2022

8.30 – 11.30 Montréal time

Participants

- Antonello Carta (remote)
- Elena Ciani (remote)
- Eva Ugarte (remote)
- Jean- Michel Astruc (on site)
- Kevin McDermott (remote)
- Marco Antonini (remote)
- Marija Spehar (remote)
- Mojca Simcic (on site)
- Pamela Burger (remote)
- Cesare Mosconi (on site)
- Carlos Pastrana (remote)
- Hasan Al-haddad (remote)

AGENDA

1	Opening and welcome
2	Membership: <i>Evolution since 2021</i>
3	Activities of the milk recording EAG: <i>Survey dairy sheep and goats</i>
4	Activities of the fibre recording EAG: <i>Follow-up form meeting 16 Feb 2022</i>
5	Large camelids: <i>Presentations by new WG members</i>
6	Activities of the meat recording EAG: <i>Guidelines achieved</i>
7	Project of guidelines of resilience and efficiency traits
8	Project of reference centre in small ruminants
9	Technical session – New developments in SGC within ICAR
10	Date of next meetings
11	Any other business & Closure



THE GLOBAL STANDARD FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

MEMBERSHIP

- New members: Riccardo Negrini (AIA - Italy) in the Milk Expert Advisory Group; Carlos Pastrana (University of Cordoba - Spain) and Hasan Al-haddad (University of Kuwait – Kuwait) in the Camelid Expert Advisory Group

MILK RECORDING ADVISORY WG

- Quick presentation of a set of slides synthesising the results of the yearly on-line survey on dairy sheep and goats.
- Call to members of the WG to check the data related to their own country. For that, the slides will be sent after the meeting.
- The set of slides will be made available on the ICAR website for any use.
- 7 members in sheep and 9 members in goats submitted data for the period 2020-2021.

MEAT ADVISORY WG

- The section 21 of the ICAR guidelines (Guidelines on reproduction, maternal and meat traits) has been published on 27 November 2021.

FIBER ADVISORY WG

- Feedback on the meeting that was held on 16 February 2022. We agreed at this meeting that the future guidelines on wool would be constituted by a sub-section on wool recording (built from the results of the survey) and a subsection on recommendations on wool collection and promotion centres (as presented by Marco).
- Follow-up on wool recording recommendations. Marija will present the wool survey at the technical session on Thursday 2 June. The slides presented at the meeting in February should be edited as a document to be sent to the respondents, so that they have feedback on their inputs and may correct or make suggestions (to be done). Start writing the guidelines by using a template presented during the meeting. Involve WG member from Australia and New Zealand.
- Follow-up on recommendations on wool collection and promotion centre. The draft guidelines presented in February by Marco (part collection and promotion centre) should be reviewed by the WG. Marco takes into account the updates and comments and write the missing sections (territories of production & farming system: from breeding to collection centre).

CAMELIDS ADVISORY WG

- Presentation by Hasan Al-haddad: "The camel coat: variation and industrial potential".
- Presentation by Carlos Pastrana: "Preliminary results of a current investigation about a mathematical model for the extraction of zoometric linear and perimetral measures in dromedaries".
- Meeting of the Camelid EAG to finalise the sending of the survey result to the respondents.

GUIDELINES ON RESILIENCE AND EFFICIENCY TRAITS

- This is a deliverable of the SMARTER project.
- A joint meeting SMARTER + ICAR has been held on 9 February 2022 to launch the action.
- The scope was defined with 7 sub-sections: feed efficiency, GHG emissions, record of environment, health and disease, survival of foetus and young, behaviour, lifetime resilience.
- For each sub-section a coordinator and contributors (resource teams, including out of SMARTER) were proposed.
- Final deadline in June 2023. Step point in September 2022.



THE GLOBAL STANDARD FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

EU REFERENCE CENTRE (EURC) ON PERFORMANCE TESTING AND GENETIC EVALUATION IN SMALL RUMINANTS.

- In the SMARTET project, one deliverable is the conception (not the realisation) of what could be a EURC on performance testing and genetic evaluation in small ruminants.
- Such EURC are mentioned in the Breeding Law 2019/1012 (article 29). A reference centre already exists in bovine: it is Interbull Centre.
- The different items of such a EURC are:
 - Facilitate the uniform application of methods for performance testing and genetic evaluation
 - Inform breed societies on methods
 - Review regularly the results
 - Compare methods
 - At the request of EU/member state: provide assistance in the harmonization of methods ; recommend calculation methods ; establish a platform for the comparison of the results
 - Provide data on the genetic evaluation
 - Facilitate the resolution of emerging problems, cooperate, provide technical expertise
- The objective would be to formalise a cooperative work already partially existing. Propose and harmonise recording method (in a informative way, not a normative way) as done by ICAR guidelines. Gather and discuss information on genetic evaluation (models, genetic parameters, computation of traits): not really done yet in small ruminants.
- The discussion during the WG meeting focus on the opportunity to propose such a EURC.
 - The article 29 says: “Where there is a recognised need to promote the harmonisation or improvement of the methods of performance testing or genetic evaluation”. Is there a recognised need in small ruminants (given there is not yet any international evaluation)? During the discussion we said that there is not a recognised need, but there is a general need (“repository” of models and genetic parameters and trait computation of domestic evaluation).
 - The article 29 mentions 2 paragraphs: one on “harmonisation or improvement of the methods of performance testing or genetic evaluation” and one on “preservation of endangered breeds or the preservation of the genetic diversity”. Does it mean that there could be 2 separate EURC? Or would it be the same? (concern Elena). The discussion seems to promote 2 separate EURC.
 - What does the EU expect? Do we fit the EU legal background? Is there a call? Or is it possible to apply out of any call? Is there strict requirements in the outline of the EURC or may we propose a scope that would not cover all the items (eg. don't yet provide data on genetic evaluation). We must seek and have answer on that. A proposition is that there might be a modulation in the scope and that the EURC might go step by step.
 - Would ICAR be the only candidate? At this step this is not the question, but it looks like if ICAR really represents all the feelings, ICAR is a good and natural candidate.
 - Antonello thinks that the EURC is a sort of scientific reference and wonders whether ICAR represents this scientific reference. As well, Antonello brings forward the question of the role of breeding society in such a EURC.
 - Mojca suggest to set up a questionnaire on the needs of members, towards WG members + breed societies and genetic evaluation centres. Before, ask more information on EURC (Kevin).
 - Meanwhile getting more needed information, and regardless of the answer, we could try to build a frame and a content. And build the frame so as to solve the problems we raised in the discussion.



THE GLOBAL STANDARD FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

TECHNICAL SESSION (THURSDAY 2 JUNE 2022)

- New developments in sheep, goat and camelids within ICAR
- 4 presentations
 - Milk recording in sheep and goats: state of the art using the data from the ICAR on-line yearly survey
 - The implementation of standard lactation and standard milking length in the milk recording of dairy sheep and goats breeds in Slovenia
 - Wool recording in sheep: results from an ICAR on-line survey
 - Genetic improvement : A fundamental pillar for the Canadian sheep industry

NEXT ICAR MEETING

- 45th ICAR Conference: Toledo (Spain) 2023 – 22-26 May
- Final meeting of the SMARTER project in the same time