

Quick summary of the decisions taken at the WG meeting on Tuesday 18/06 (morning) in Prague

Membership

- 1-Elena Ciani and Pamela Burger try to find a couple of motivated members for large camelids EAG. People coming from less developed countries would be welcome, even if they do not belong to a ICAR member country.
- 2-Marija Špehar (Croatia) replaces Danijel Mulc in milk EAG.
- 3-Kevin McDermott (Ireland) replaces Eamon Wall
- 4-Somebody from AIA will replace Alessia Tondo (either Lorenzo Pascarella or Mauro Fioretti).
- 5-Remove Juan Manuel Serradilla & Silverio Grande (Spain covered by Eva Ugarte and Italy covered by AIA + Antonello Carta).

Wool questionnaire

- When the questionnaire is validated, it will be sent to all ICAR countries (not only countries from Southern Hemisphere)
- Add some traits in the list of traits:
 - homogeneity fleece
 - density of the fiber
 - visual appreciation
- Mojca sends propositions for a couple of slides on breeding system and shearing system (before end of June). Propositions of Mojca will be shared among the WG ... Then the specifications will be added to the questionnaire by ICAR Secretariat.
- Send the questionnaire to WG for feedback before mid-sept
- Launch the questionnaire in autumn.

Large camelids

- Presentation of the survey
- Ask Cesare what means “complete”. Because 163 questionnaires “complete” seem a lot.
- Pamela asks for advises on how to start the recommendations because a lot of objectives of production, a lot of traits, but few answers, diversity of respondents.
- Important to work on behavior.
- See if it's possible (in the future) to merge the EAG large camelids into the other EAG (milk / meat / fiber)
- Seen after the meeting with ICAR Secretariat: the results of the survey (when finalized) will be sent to the respondents by ICAR Secretariat.

Meat guidelines - Presentation Joanne

- Health & robustness & fitness monitoring: could actually be in a specific section on resilience traits (following SMARTER project). To start: to address next meeting.
- Question on long lactations in goats => is a problem for assessing fertility, but also milk production (already expressed in the Edinburgh meeting in 2017). Question to address more properly next year.
- Gather genetic parameters in a table at the end of each sub-section.
- Add calculation of weight at standardized age & growth in an annex ... but describe the calculation.

- How to address major genes: as it may evolve quickly, difficult to draw a list => put a link. But which link? Maybe give the main elements of context for each trait group.
 - Meat traits: add linear scoring (e.g. shoulder width, rump width ...)
 - Reproduction traits: concerns all sheep and goats (not only meat)
 - Mention DEXA?
 - Outline for each trait group: put rationale into general considerations
 - Question of whether it is necessary or not to list all the possible traits (measured from CT, for ultra sound scanning)
 - Lambs aborted vs born dead
 - Reporting hot vs cold weights at abattoir
 - Timing of live weight recording to get KO%
 - Adding health / longevity/ fitness traits
 - Adding conformation traits for meat sheep & goats – should this be done within our group or Conformation group at ICAR?
 - Using new technology vs visual scales for some traits (e.g. meat trait evaluation in France)
 - Under section 1.1 it states that an effective genetic link is considered to be 20 or more animals. Thierry has done a lot of work on this, perhaps putting in the best method for calculating connectedness would work better than a definitive number?
 - Ewe mothering ability to be considered
 - Ewe Milkability to be considered
 - Create a table of all traits and which countries collect each trait? (maybe for the next version)
- Next step: Joanne take into account the suggestions of the meeting. Send the draft #2 circulate among WG. Second round of suggestions are expected for end of September => draft #3 sent to ICAR Secretariat for editing before end of the year.

On-line survey on dairy sheep and goats

- Correct the map on goats (Portugal and Slovenia missing)
- Mojca provides the figures of number of dairy sheep and goats in Slovenia (for correction)

Additional question on type traits

Goats: udder traits and type traits are currently in guidelines on conformation.

Dairy sheep: udder traits are currently in dairy sheep section.

Type traits in sheep: not still addressed. Should be in conformation guidelines. But first, address the question in SGC-WG. To be done next year.

SMARTER

Important to involve the WG in SMARTER outcomes in order to build guidelines on resilience and efficiency traits, but also to keep aware of the possibility of int'l evaluation in sheep and goats.

AOB: potential barriers to genetic improvement.

A questionnaire on this topic initiated by Andrew Cromie from Interbull but addressed to all domestic species will circulate among WG members.