
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TASK FORCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS RULES FOR THE PARENTAGE SNP EXCHANGE SERVICE (PSE) WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL GENOTYPE EXCHANGE PLATFORM (GENOEX)

BACKGROUND

Interbull service users have manifested interest in developing an international platform for genomic data exchange to enable Interbull to provide customized services to the current users and also to different players that are not directly involved with genetic evaluations but with genomic data. In order to identify clearly the existing demand, a survey among Interbull service users and collaborators was conducted in August 2012 and a total of 48 responses from 30 different countries were received. Considering the feedback received and the technical aspects, the Interbull Centre recommended adopting the BC|SNPmax data management system, by Biocomputing Platforms, as the database and SNP handling tool. This option was corroborated by an expert group invited by the Interbull Steering Committee. The Interbull Data Exchange Area (IDEA) will continue to be developed in parallel to manage pedigrees, national and international genetic evaluation data, and communication between the two databases will be developed. The objectives of the GENOEX proposal are: a. establishing the infrastructure necessary for international cooperation based on SNP data; b. optimizing customer investments in genotyping by avoiding duplication; c. establishing standard protocols for genomic data exchange; d. becoming the international source of bovine parentage SNPs; e. facilitating multilateral SNP data exchange by establishing a common repository and customer driven access rules; and f. providing affordable genomic data storage for small populations. The services to be provided through the implementation of GENOEX platform at the Interbull Centre are differentiated into three categories: parentage SNP exchange service (PSE), genomic data exchange service (GDE) and customized genomic repository service (CGR).

The GENOEX proposal was presented and extensively discussed during the 2014 ICAR/Interbull Conference in Berlin, Germany, and considering the feedback received the Interbull Steering Committee has decided to go ahead with an immediate implementation of the PSE service and leave the GDE and CGR services for a second stage. Given that parentage verification and discovery represents an area of intersection between Interbull and other ICAR working groups, the SC proposed the creation of the present task force to define business rules that consider and benefit from the different expertise existing within the ICAR community.

OBJECTIVE

- Propose business rules for the GENOEX Parentage SNP Exchange service, including:
 - Service eligibility
 - User rights and obligations
 - Data types
 - Data quality standards
 - Data usage
 - Conflict resolution
 - Service fee calculation criteria

MEMBERSHIP

The Interbull Steering Committee nominates as members of the task force:

1. Sophie Mattalia, Interbull Steering Committee member.
2. Suzanne Harding, Chair of the ICAR Parentage Recording Working Group.
3. Wim van Haeringen, Chair of the ICAR Genetic Analysis Working Group.
4. Matthew Shaffer, Chair of the ICAR Breed Associations Working Group.
5. Andrew Cromie, Chair of the ICAR Interbeef Working Group.

Convener: Hossein Jorjani, Deputy Director of the Interbull Centre.

Secretary: Brian Van Doormaal, Interbull Steering Committee member.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The task force is an advisory group to the Interbull Steering Committee, meant to provide recommendations on the policies to be adopted for the operation of the GENOEX Parentage SNP Exchange service.

The convener of the task force will be responsible for:

- Providing the means of communication for the task force.
- Organizing the meetings calendar.
- Proposing agendas.
- Moderating the discussions.
- Reporting to the Interbull Steering Committee.

The secretary of the task force will be responsible for:

- Keeping a log of the discussions.
- Writing the first draft of the recommended business rules.
- Handing the final version of the business rules with the edits approved by the task force.

All task force members will be responsible for:

- Attending all scheduled meetings.
- Reviewing all shared documents and expressing their opinions and suggestions.
- Performing specific tasks solicited by the convener given the member receiving the task agrees.

Discussions should aim to reach consensus around the rules to be recommended. When consensus is not possible a compromise should be established to accommodate the best possible scenario for all members. Casting votes to resolve impasses can be a resource used by the convener, but when the group cannot reach an agreement over a general policy a written consultation to the Interbull Steering Committee should be made.

MEETINGS

Discussions of the task force will occur in a continuous mode through an exclusive discussion forum to be set up by the Interbull Centre. Additionally, a number of web/video conferences will be held at critical moments of the process in order to facilitate communication and resolve outstanding issues.

REPORTING

The final report with the recommendations for the GENOEX Parentage SNP Exchange service business rules is expected to be sent to the Interbull Steering Committee not later than October 17, 2014.