



2014 ICAR Board meeting with Chairpersons

Berlin, Germany, 23rd May, 2014

From 15h30 to 16h30

Estrel Saal C1 and 2

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 15h30 under the chairmanship of Jay Mattison, Vice-President of ICAR. Copy of the attendance list is attached.

The chairman welcomed all the participants and asked B. Wickham, as responsible of the ICAR Groups, to manage the meeting.

2. Future ICAR (H. Wilmink)

The presentation by Hans Wilmink, President of ICAR, took place during the General Assembly. The participants were requested to comment on any aspect of the document "Future ICAR".

R. Reents, chairman of the Interbull Sub-Committee, expressed the desire of the Interbull Steering Committee to maintain a strong relationship between the Interbull Steering Committee and the ICAR Board, especially now that he will not be in the ICAR Board. R. Reents and all Interbull Steering Committee members see a risk that the relationship with Interbull may suffer if the current flow of exchange of information is reduced.

H. Wilmink agreed that this problem has to be addressed, not only for Interbull also for the other sub-committees. The ICAR Board needs to find a general structure to ensure a strong and effective relationship between the Board and sub-committees. This item will be in the agenda of the Board for discussion at its next meeting. B. Wickham also confirmed that the oversight relationship Board-Chairs has to be discussed.

E. Rehben, commented on the certification process of devices in ICAR. B. Wickham advised that this is under discussion at the Future ICAR level, but these activities are one of the functions of S.I. and under its Board responsibility. Interbull Centre is different because the Centre is not under ICAR control like S.I.

It was underlined that the Certificate of Quality process is under development and will be updated next year. P.L. Gastinel expressed the interest of collecting information back from the audit process to improve the new document and for the continuous improvement of ICAR Guidelines.



The meeting thanked H. Wilmink for the presentation and expressed its support to the WG Future ICAR.

1. Board Decision Required: **How to ensure effective communication between ICAR Board and each of the ICAR Groups, including the Interbull Steering Committee.**

3. Introduction of new Groups (B. Wickham)

B. Wickham indicated that the presentations of the Groups took place during the pervious open Session; this meeting with the ICAR Board will give the opportunity to the chairs to present specific requests and follow-up if needed.

All the reports will be available on the website with changes in composition and other specific information.

2. Board Decision Required: **To approve all changes in the membership of ICAR Groups as reported by Chairpersons.**

4. Roundup of issues not already covered (Chairs)

M. Burke (Sub-Committee Recording Devices)

The chairman presented the main activities of the SC and its close collaboration with the Sub-Committee Milk Analysis, especially in the Carry Over project.

There is a need of updating/changing the website which will be done in close collaboration with the Secretariat.

J. Mattison (Sub-Committee Animal identification)

The SC is working on new areas for ICAR. There is a project for a test on environmental conditions for three manufacturers (pilot test) and the new 5-years length for renewal of certification. This will imply a review/creation of new presentation on the website.

At this stage the SC has no other specific requests to the Board.

R. Reents (Sub-Committee Interbull)

The mandate of S. Mattalia has been renewed. To facilitate the GENOEX service development a consultative group would be formed with participation from the Parentage Recording, Genetic Analysis and Interbeef WGs. The chairperson of the World Breed Federation group should be involved as well. The SC asked about the process for granting requested financial support outlined in November 2013 for the GENOEX project.



H. Wilmink indicated that applications for funds have to be presented with details to the Board, a sort of business plan, explaining how it fits with ICAR strategy. When this is received the Board will make its decision.

3. Board Decision Required: To decide if funding support will be provided on receipt of funding application to support GENOEX.

B. Wickham (Sub-Committee Milk Analysis)

The chairman and some members of the SC had a meeting in Berlin with Jay Mattison, and Brian Wickham to clarify concerns arising from the Board decision in November 2013 to not support the business case presented by the SC. At the meeting it was agreed the matter would be taken back to the Board of ICAR by Jay with a view to reviewing the decision.

4. Board Decision Required: To review decision to not support the proposal from MA SC in November 2013.

B. Wickham (InterBeef Working Group)

The WG has great potential for further development. A Technical Committee was established and the Group is looking for chairperson for this. Brian also indicated that it was a good time to consider his role as Chairperson of this WG

E. Rehben (Animal Data Exchange Working Group)

The WG defined the criteria for the data exchange database but expressed the difficulties for the WG to realise such work only on voluntary base. There is a need to find a sustainable way to maintain this database.

The Group will consider some proposals for request of funding to the Board, most probably for November 2014 following the meeting of the Group in Hannover.

B. Wickham (Breed Associations Task Force)

The TF requested the Board to convert into a WG. The Group is sharing its expertise and avoiding overlapping between the Groups of ICAR and the World Breed Federations.

5. Board Decision Required: To agree to convert the Breed Assn & ICAR Task Force into a permanent Working Group along the lines recommended by the Task Force.



B. Wickham (Animal Fibre Working Group)

The Group presented new guidelines on cashmere production. The guidelines of this Groups have been edited for English, which is a good proposal for consideration by other Groups if needed.

B. Wickham (AI&RT Working Group)

There is no feed-back from this Group after their meeting in Berlin.

Bianca Lind informed there is a German member in this Group who reported about the traceability on the bar codes system. This system is not established in Europe and she requested more details.

She informed that there will be a letter to the ICAR Board from Germany for further discussion with the Group and its Chairperson.

B. Wickham (Conformation Recording Working Group)

There is no particular concern about this Group.

H. Wilmink (Dairy Cattle Milk Recording Working Group)

Following the election of H. Wilmink as ICAR President the Group is looking for a new Chairperson to propose to the Board.

B. Wickham (Developing Countries Working Group)

The Group is organising a Workshop in South Africa scheduled for March 2015 in collaboration with FAO.

A. Rosati clarified that a Workshop which will take place in Moscow end of June this year is focussed on Animal Identification and it is not jointly organised with FAO-Rome but with the regional office of FAO in Ankara.

The scope of this Group is mainly to spread ICAR around the World, not only in developing countries. The involvement of FAO has been until now useful because of its official contacts at government level.

C. Egger-Danner (Functional Traits Working Group)

The WG is proposing a redesign of the Guidelines by merging two sections for better understanding and suggests a better visibility of the Guidelines.

B. Wickham agreed and informed that some discussions took place in the last 2-3 years about the revision of the Guidelines and its visibility, taking an example from the platform adopted by Interbull.



Z. Barac (Goat Performance Recording Working Group)

The Group updated the Guidelines and would like to enlarge the survey with new tables to collect more data particularly for non-milking traits.

There is also a request to enlarge the Group with one or two persons experts in goat meat population.

S. Harding (Parentage Recording Working Group)

The Group will set-up a survey to collect information among different countries. It also requested easier access to parentage SNP tables on the ICAR website.

J.M. Astruc (Performance Recording in Dairy Sheep Working Group)

The Group finalised the review of the Guidelines which, in addition to technical amendments (udder morphology, quality assurance) and several clarifications, have benefited from a linguistic reviewing.

P.L. Gastinel (Animal Welfare Recording Working Group)

The Group is developing a cross analysis between the ICAR Guidelines and the principles on animal welfare by OIE to better identify possible relations with the different chapters of ICAR Guidelines. In the next 4 months, with Brian Wickham, he will propose a method to discuss these interactions inside the other concerned WGs.

5. Other Business

C. Baumgartner thanked all the participants to the Session in Berlin and informed that the last issue of the Newsletter will be electronic and distributed next Tuesday.

6. Adjourn

J. Mattison closed the meeting at 16h30.