

January 27, 2015



**ICAR Acting Secretary General
Report for ICAR Board Meeting
20:00 CET, Tuesday 27th January 2015.**

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1 Priorities

1.1 Our priorities are currently:

- Chief Executive orientation and handover
- Revision to Budgets for 2015 and 2016.
- Keeping members and stakeholders informed.
- Supporting Organisers of Future Conferences.
- Identifying Issues of Strategic Importance.

1.2 Priorities from November 2014 Board Meeting

The following table contains the identified priorities from the Nov. '14 Board Meeting.

Group Name	Group Type	No.	Priority from November Meeting of ICAR Board
Board / Secretariat	CP	1	Extend scope of ICAR to better cover research developments for new recording devices, traits and systems.
Board / Secretariat	CP	2	Review groups - link to species, to product (milk, meat, fibre, ...), to traits, to farming system (intensive, low input, climate).
Board / Secretariat	CP	3	Review communication with members - visibility - more regular report of work going on, priorities, newsletter, promotion of services.
Board / Secretariat	CP	4	Review internal communications and tools to aid communication between groups, board and secretariate.
Board / Secretariat	CP	5	Website revision - easier to find - better communication - wiki like - new guideline structure.
Board / Secretariat	CP	6	Establish WG on climate change (methane) and sustainability.
Board / Secretariat	CP	7	Structure of guidelines - link to species, to product (milk, meat, fibre, ...), to traits, to farming system (intensive, low input, climate).
Board / Secretariat	CP	8	Build confidence in "back-office" by becoming familiar with key service providers - identifying any vulnerabilities and taking corrective action.
Board / Secretariat	CP	9	Review and enhance links to international bodies - ISO/ISAG/IDF/OIE/SLU etc.
Board / Secretariat	CP	10	Build on South African workshop to grow reputation in Africa.
Board / Secretariat	CP	11	Move to next level of detail in business processes.
Service-ICAR	CP	1	Conduct full review of Certificate of Quality and report results in June 2015.
Service-ICAR	CP	2	Patent watch - develop relationship with EFFAB.
Service-ICAR	CP	3	Seek participation in relevant EU and other country public funded research projects.

These priorities have been used to help formulate the budgets and ICAR and Service-ICAR for 2015.

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2 Recruitment & Remuneration Committees

The Recruitment Committee has identified and recommended a candidate to the ICAR Board. The Board has supported their recommendation. The Remuneration Committee is currently finalising an agreement with the preferred candidate. The ICAR Board met on January 14th, 2015 to discuss the recommendations of the Remuneration Committee. The Chairperson of both Committees will report further to this meeting of the ICAR Board.

3 Meeting with Reinhard Reents

The President (Hans Wilmink) and Acting Secretary General (Brian Wickham) meet with Reinhard Reents the Chairperson of the Interbull Steering Committee on Tuesday 20th January as part of a routine commitment in advance of each ICAR Board meeting. The discussion included:

- An update on recruitment of the ICAR CE and recruitment of a new Interbull Centre Director and operational staff.
- Plans for the upcoming Interbull Workshop being held in Verden, Germany over three day from 23rd to 25th February, 2015. It was agreed that ICAR should ideally be represented during these meetings by the President and Chief Executive.
- Progress by the Genoex PSE Task Force.

4 Service-ICAR

The Service-ICAR Board meet on Tuesday 20th January, but with three Board members not in attendance no decisions could be taken. However, it was decided that support for key decisions would be sought by email and that the outcome would be communicated to this meeting of the ICAR Board.

4.1 Staffing - Cesare Mosconi

In keeping with the terms of my contract in which all ICAR staff appointments must be approved by the ICAR Board I made a case for Cesare Mosconi to be employed by Service-ICAR.

The Service-ICAR Board agreed, subject to approval by Board members not present (at the meeting on January 20th), to approve the employment of Cesare Mosconi on a 50% of full time basis for Service-ICAR work.

It is recommended that this decision of the Service-ICAR Board be endorsed by the ICAR Board.

4.2 Budget for 2015 and 2016

After discussion at its meeting on January 20th, the Board of Service-ICAR agreed that:

- the revised budget for 2015 should be adopted as the budget for 2015,
- the figures for 2016 should be described as estimates,

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- the revised budget for 2015 and the estimates for 2016 be recommended to the ICAR Board for approval, and
- these decisions are subject to approval by email by the Service-ICAR Board members not in attendance.

4.3 Communications

After discussion at its meeting on January 20th, the Board of Service-ICAR agreed to proceed with option 1 (include a section in the ICAR newsletter to cover items relevant to Service-ICAR) subject to approval by email of Service-ICAR Board members not in attendance.

5 Financial

5.1 2014 Actuals

The out-turn for the year ended 31st December 2014 is expected to be available for the next Board meeting – Tuesday, February 24th.

5.2 2015 and 2016 Budget

The revised budgets for 2015 and 2016 are attached as appendix 1.

The changes proposed to the Service-ICAR 2015 budget, relative to that approved in June 2014 are summarised in the following table (table 1):

Table 1. Summary of changes proposed to 2015 budget for Service-ICAR.

Notes - Service-ICAR Budget Changes	Change in Budget (new minus previous) in €	Notes – reason for change
REVENUE		
Membership fees	0	
Other contributions (SLU and ICBF)	0	
Paid activities	51,000	Conservative estimate based on anticipated growth in ID device testing.
Special projects (EU+Sponsor South Africa)	50,000	Anticipated income from sponsors for ID Symposia.
Total Income	101,000	
Interest and Investment Income	0	
Bank interest income	0	
Investment income (loss)	0	
Total Interest and Investment Income (loss)	0	
TOTAL INCOME	101,000	
EXPENSES		
Travel and meetings expenses	0	
Office costs (incl. Publications and supplies)	20,000	Rent of new office, full cost is covered by Service-ICAR.
Staff salaries (incl. Benefits and IRAP taxes)	22,000	Cesare 50% of full-time to Service-ICAR.

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Notes - Service-ICAR Budget Changes	Change in Budget (new minus previous) in €	Notes – reason for change
Professional services (accounting, legal and technical consultants)	15,000	10K for Agathemis (legal advisors), plus 5K for insurance.
Special project expenses (EU+South Africa)	45,000	Cost of ID symposia.
Cost for CE	70,000	Half of anticipated full year cost.
Cost for Future ICAR (technical activities and professional support)	30,000	Genoex PSE 20K plus 10K for IT developments from strategic priorities.
Other costs	0	
Expenses for paid activities	30,000	Due to extra volume of ID device testing.
Total Operating Expenses	232,000	
Bank charges and investment expenses	0	
Depreciation	0	
Extraordinary charges	0	
Total Non-Operating Expenses	0	
TOTAL EXPENSES	232,000	
Taxes on S.I. (40% on surplus)	-31,740	
NET INCOME (LOSS)	-99,260	

The changes proposed to the ICAR 2015 budget, relative to that approved in June 2014 are summarised in the following table (table 2):

Table 2. Summary of changes proposed to 2015 budget for ICAR.

Notes - ICAR Budget Changes	Change in Budget (new minus previous) in €	Notes
Revenue		
Membership fees	5,820	For new members joining in 2014.
Other contributions (SLU and ICBF)	-1,270	Loss of contribution from EAAP.
Paid activities	0	
Special projects (EU+Sponsor South Africa)	31,750	FAO contract with ICAR for ID Symposia in South Africa - \$US41,750.
Total Income	36,300	
Interest and Investment Income	0	
Bank interest income	0	
Investment income (loss)	0	
Total Interest and Investment Income (loss)	0	
TOTAL INCOME	36,300	
EXPENSES		
Travel and meetings expenses	-5,000	Less travel by President and Secretary General.

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Notes - ICAR Budget Changes	Change in Budget (new minus previous) in €	Notes
Office costs (incl. Publications and supplies)	-3,000	More costs covered by Service-ICAR.
Staff salaries (incl. Benefits and IRAP taxes)	0	
Professional services (accounting, legal and technical consultants)	0	
Special project expenses (EU+South Africa)	40,000	ICAR contribution to ID Conference in South Africa - FAO contribution plus 10K.
Cost for CE	86,100	Half of estimated full year cost plus VAT.
Cost for Future ICAR (technical activities and professional support)	-100,000	10K for IT and rest covered by CE cost above.
Other costs	0	
Expenses for paid activities	0	
Total Operating Expenses	18,100	
Bank charges and investment expenses	0	
Depreciation	0	
Extraordinary charges	0	
Total Non-Operating Expenses	0	
TOTAL EXPENSES	18,100	
Taxes on S.I. (40% on surplus)	0	
NET INCOME (LOSS)	18,200	

It is recommended that the changes proposed to the Service-ICAR budget and approved by the Service-ICAR Board now be approved by the ICAR Board.

It is recommended the ICAR budget for 2015 remain unchanged as the net difference is relatively small and the process of making a change requires consultation and approval by the General Assembly.

5.3 Investments

A verbal update will be provided to the meeting.

6 Legal

6.1 Report from Agathemis

We have received a quotation from Agathemis and have authorised their work to be completed. This work is being funded by Service-ICAR and the outcome will be reported to the ICAR Board in due course.

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6.2 Risks and Insurance

Proposals have been received from AON and were considered by the Service-ICAR Board at its meeting on 20th January and are the subject of further consultations and clarifications. A report with recommendations is planned for the next meeting of the Service-ICAR Board.

7 Statutes and Byelaws

Further to the decision by the Board at its meeting on September 30th, 2014 in relation to proposed amendments to the ICAR Statutes:

“The Board agreed with the direction proposed in the document and invited the Secretariat to proceed. It is scheduled to have a new draft for the November meeting and a final document for circulation among the Members by end of March 2015.”

A revised draft is attached as appendix 2.

It is recommended that this draft form the basis of the final document for circulation among the members by the end of March 2015.

8 Groups Report

8.1 Milk Analysis SC

Discussions in relation to the appointment of a new chairperson are on-going. I expect to have a recommendation for the February 2015 Board meeting.

8.2 Recording Devices SC

Consideration will need to be given to appointing a new chairperson for the Recording Devices Sub-Committee.

8.3 Animal Welfare Recording WG

Discussions in relation to the appointment of a new chairperson (Dr Lindsay Mathews) have not been successful. The funding support requested from New Zealand and Australia has been declined. Further consideration is being given to other candidates.

8.4 Animal Data Exchange WG

The ADE-WG have provided a report on their work which is attached as appendix 3.

8.5 Interbeef WG

The Interbeef WG held a very successful workshop hosted by ICBF in Dublin in November 2014. A full report including copies of all presentations is available on the ICAR website. The key outcome were:

- a) Continue to expand its international evaluation service to include more traits and breeds. Particular focus should be given to traits where there is significant interest in sharing internationally, e.g., feed intake. Services must be scientifically critiqued and meet the needs of members.

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- b) Host an “international genotyped animal list” for potential sharing of genotypes amongst members.
- c) Host a repository of genotypes (GenoEx) and standard exchange formats for potential sharing of genotypes amongst members.
- d) Offer an imputation service for both parentage verification and genomic evaluations for its members.
- e) Offer an international genomic breeding value service for members (based on shared genotypes and phenotypes).
- f) Offer a range of services for members, depending on their particular needs and requirements (as per points 1-5 above).
- g) Develop a service fee structure that covers the cost of providing the various services outlined above (as per points 1-5 above).
- h) Revisit the original terms of reference of the “beef working group” as a means of re-engaging with all ICAR members interested in beef data recording and genetic/genomic evaluation.
- i) Provide an increased lobbying role regarding the importance of collaboration in the context of international genetic/genomic evaluations. This is especially relevant for potential funding bodies, e.g., EU and national governments and for future changes in relevant legislations affecting members.
- j) Continue to organise networking events such as conferences/workshops as these facilitate greater collaboration in the areas of data, genotypes, software and knowledge.
- k) Provide a forum for discussion on the application and implication of genomics on future breeding programs and breeding goals.
- l) Ensure slides, notes and questionnaires are posted on the ICAR/Interbeef website as soon as possible.

9 Membership

9.1 Estonia

We have received notification from Estonia:

Hereby we notify you that Joudluskontrolli Keskus (Estonian Animal Recording Centre), a state agency (70000036) that operates within the area of government of the Ministry of Agriculture, will be reorganised as of 31 December 2014 (Directive No. 153 of the Minister of Agriculture of 31 October 2014 about the dissolution of Joudluskontrolli Keskus). The activities and contracts of Joudluskontrolli Keskus will be transferred to Eesti Pollumajandusloomade Joudluskontrolli AS (12760791).

All current contact details such as addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and the home page at www.jkkeskus.ee will remain the same.

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We kindly ask you to send invoices for services and goods to Eesti Pollumajandusloomade Joudluskontrolli AS from 1 January 2015: Eesti Pollumajandusloomade Joudluskontrolli AS Kreutzwaldi 48A Tartu 50094, Estonia

If you have any questions about the amendment to your contract, please contact Eneken Ulmas: tel. 738 7743; e-mail eneken.ulmas@jkkeskus.ee. If you have any questions about invoices, please contact Kadri Hermits: tel. 738 7769; e-mail kadri.hermits@jkkeskus.ee.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the transfer of full membership of ICAR from Joudluskontrolli Keskus (Estonian Animal Recording Centre), a state agency (70000036) to Eesti Pollumajandusloomade Joudluskontrolli AS (12760791).

9.2 China

An application for full membership of ICAR has been received from the Dairy Association of China.

“Dairy Association of China (DAC), as an independent social corporate body, is a non-profit organization consists of memberships from enterprises, agencies, organizations or institutions involved in dairy cattle breeding, dairy processing industry and relevant fields. Our business activities include technical communication, international cooperation, business training, books and periodicals, advisory services, publicity and promotion, conference and exhibition , etc.

As our country paying more attention to dairy industry, the dairy cattle breeding industry of China is becoming standardized gradually. Until now, the number of dairy cattle that registered for the varieties is close to 1 million. We hope that after joining in ICAR, through the international communication and cooperation, we can improve the overall level of China’s dairy cow variety registration and DHI work.”

It is recommended that the Dairy Association of China (DAC) be granted full membership.

10 Future Meetings

10.1 FAO/ICAR Identification Workshop – 13th to 15th April in South Africa

Planning is proceeding albeit later than is ideal.

10.2 Technical Meeting - Krakow, May 2015

Planning is proceeding according to the agreed timetable.

10.3 2017 and 2018

No proposals have been received yet. An approach has been made to the United Kingdom for 2017 and India for 2018.

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11 Future ICAR Board Meetings

11.1 Meeting Schedule

The following table is the updated schedule of meetings for the ICAR Board and the Council of Service ICAR. Please note the amended times for February and March 2015 meetings. Meetings in Krakow

Proposal for ICAR Board:

- 1) Monday 8th June
 - a) 9:00 – 12:00 ICAR Board closed meeting
 - b) 13:00 – 17:00 Strategy Development with full ICAR Board and Chairpersons of ICAR Groups
- 2) Wednesday June 10th, 10:00 to 10:30 – Post AGM Board meeting.

Table 3. Future Meetings.

Org'n	Meeting	Date	Start-finish (CET)	Venue	Notes
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 24/02/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Telephone Conference	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio.
Service ICAR	Board	Tuesday 24/03/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Telephone Conference	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio.
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 31/03/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Telephone Conference	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio.
FAO & ICAR	ID Workshop	13/4 - 15/4, 2015	8.00-18.00	Pretoria	ICAR Board not meeting unless the need arises.
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 28/04/2015	7.30-8.30	Telephone Conference	
Service ICAR	Board	Tuesday 19/05/2015	16:00 - 17:00	Telephone Conference	
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 26/05/2015	7.30-8.30	Telephone Conference	
ICAR	Board	Monday 8/06/2015	8:00-12:00	Krakow	
ICAR	Board and Group Chairs	Monday 8/6/2015	13:00 - 17:00	Krakow	Strategic planning discussion.
ICAR	Board	Wednesday 10/06/2015	10:00-10:30	Krakow	Post AGM/EGM Meeting

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Brian Wickham
Acting Secretary General

Date 21st January 2015.

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12 Appendix 1 – Budget Revisions

13 Appendix 2 – Proposed Amendments to Statutes

14 Appendix 3 – Report from Animal Data Exchange Working Group