
Chief Executive Report to ICAR Board

July 21, 2015



ICAR Chief Executive Report for ICAR Board Meeting 20:00 – 21:00 CET, Tuesday 21st July 2015.

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Table of Contents

1 PRIORITIES.....	2
1.1 OUR PRIORITIES AS REVIEWED BY BOARD/CHAIRS JUNE 08TH 2015.....	2
1.2 CE AND STAFF GOAL SETTING & APPRAISAL PROCESS.....	3
2. FINANCIAL	3
3 LEGAL.....	3
3.1 INVESTMENTS.....	3
4 MEMBERSHIP / MEMBERSHIP PROCESS OVERHAUL	3
4.1 NEW MEMBERS.....	3
4.2 SUB SAHARAN AFRICA.....	4
4.3 MEMBERSHIP PROCESS REVIEW.....	4
5 INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC ALLIANCES UPDATE.....	5
5.1 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS.....	5
5.2 BALTIC DATA EXCHANGE NEWTORK - BOARDING PROJECT.....	7
6 ICAR WEB	8
7 ICAR BRAND UPDATE	8
8 GROUPS REPORT.....	9
8.1 SC/WG CHAIRS MEETING	9
8.2 ID DEVICES SC	9
8.3 MILK ANALYSIS SC.....	9
8.4 RECORDING DEVICES SC.....	10
8.5 INTERBULL.....	10
8.6 OTHER GROUPS ROUND UP.....	10
9 PUBLICATIONS/GUIDELINES APPROVAL.....	11
9.1 GUIDELINES UPDATES.....	11
9.2 ICAR NEWSLETTER JULY 2015.....	12
10 FUTURE ICAR BOARD MEETINGS	12

Chief Executive Report to ICAR Board

July 21, 2015

1 Priorities

1.1 CE and ICAR Team New priorities for Jun – Dec ‘15 are:

- GenoEx – New Business Focussed Task Force & Interbull relations/links
- The ICAR “Brand”
- Web/IT – upgrade
- Membership – Global reach/growth
- Building Bridges with Key Organisations – Foster strategic alliances /agreements; IDF; ISO; EFFAB, DG SANCO, ASAD etc
- Building ICAR’s QMS in line ISO 17065 – ICAR ISO accreditation for S-ICAR as a Certification Body (CB) review for 2016.

Priorities from June 2015 Board/Chairs meeting on June 08th 2015;

The following table contains the identified priorities from the Board/Chair meeting in Krakow;

Table 1. Grouping Priorities for Action;

Item No.	Survey Rank	Priority Item Description	Classification
6	1	Improving the ICAR website	Tool
5	3	Improving communications <i>and collaboration</i> between ICAR groups,..	Tool
7	8	Improving the structure of the ICAR guidelines	Tool
2	5	Reviewing its Groups	Governance
8	6	Enhancing Links to International bodies/partners	Governance
9	7	Growing its reputation in Africa (and globally)	Governance
3	9	Establishing Group on Climate Change	Governance
4	2	Providing ICAR members with greater visibility	Service
1	4	Extend scope to cover developments	Service
10	10	Improving its services to customers	Service

July 21, 2015

1.2. CE Plans & Goals – Performance Appraisal.

The ICAR Board Remunerations & Evaluation (R&E) Committee met with CE in Krakow June 11th 2015 and outlined Performance Appraisal and Plans & Goals process derived from our ICAR Strategy and Priorities documents. CE drafted an appraisal document on July 10th for R&E approval. Once sanctioned by the Board a review is planned in November 2015. For 2016 onward, reviews are to be regularised twice a year; for mid-year and year end. Also once this is agreed CE will begin working with the ICAR team for their Performance Appraisal and Feedback Process, so the Plans and Goals cascade down to our operational monthly/weekly/daily duties.

2 Financial

2.1 ICAR

The last Board update on ICAR Financials was given up to the end Apr 30th – on track. CE and team continue to review end of month position of Budget vs Actual each month. CE Comment end June 2015: Overall ICAR is on track for meeting 2015 Budgetary forecast. The CE will next present figures up to 30th September 2015.

3 Legal / Board Matters

3.1 Investments

All documents required are with the Deutsche bank instructing them to deal directly with ICAR and removing any authority from the broker. Once this has been acknowledged we will review moving the funds.

4 Membership / Membership Process Overhaul

4.1 New Member applications since last ICAR Board meeting Jun 08th 2015;

4.1.1 New Associate Member Applications;

- **BIXSCo - Canada**

The Beef InfoXchange System (BIXS), is a Canadian national, voluntary web based application. Originally a joint project of the Canadian Government and the Cattlemen's Association of Canada (CCA), it is now the asset of BIXSco Inc., a company jointly owned by the CCA and ViewTrak Technologies Inc. BISS enables the storage and exchange of data linked to an individual animal's RFID tag registered with the Canadian Cattlemen's Identification Agency (CCIA). Ultimately BIXS will enable every consumer to know the source of their beef products, every cow/calf producer to learn how well their

July 21, 2015

Breeding Programs are working at the feedlot, packer and retail levels and allow participants to build business relationships.

- **Intelligent Systems of Business Control Ltd (ISBC) - Russia**

ISBC is a leading distributor of RFID equipment for animal identification in the Russian Federation and CIS countries, importing, arranging electronic and laser personalisation in its production facility in Zelenograd Russia. ISBC represents such brands as Datamars, Gallagher and BioControl. Additionally ISBC works closely with systems integrators of software for animal identification and data management on farms. Also carries out education and training in Russia in relation with tagging and identification processes.

- **DigiDelta Portugal**

DigiDelta Portugal is an ICT company which specialises in printing of Animal Identification and Traceability systems with over 25 yrs experience working in this field.

4.1.2 Full Members – follow ups;

- **Australia NHIA and ADHIS** clarification. Up to now ADHIS as a Full member paid for not only Genetic Evaluation but also Registration and Performance recording in Dairy Cattle (Reg and Milk Recording is not carried out by ADHIS but rather by NHIA). What we proposed to both is that they BOTH should be Full members. For 2015 we will only charge NHIA for flat fee but for 2016 and they pay for the services they themselves offer.
- **AGBU – Australia** – positive intent demonstrated in Krakow – ICAR office following up with Rob Banks.

4.2 Sub Saharan AFRICA

Following up on our ID symposium in RSA last April, CE and ICAR team met with Badi Besbes and his Director Mr. Berhe Tekola of FAO in Rome on July 07th. We proposed we organise a follow up ICAR/FAO Workshop for Spring 2016 in East Africa (Ethiopia (Nairobi)) as a possibility. This would be a more Practical Implementation workshop and would be of great benefit to countries in the regions and also encourage membership and participation in ICAR. FAO agreed in principle and a proposal will be followed up with Badi as he relocates to Nairobi in August 2015.

4.3 Membership Process Review

ICAR team had two meetings on July 08th and July 15th, to review the whole Membership Process under the following headings;

Categories, Membership Database, New Membership Growth, Membership Support, Fees Structure/Transparency.

Chief Executive Report to ICAR Board

July 21, 2015

Upon completion of our review meetings at the end of summer the ICAR team will make proposal to Board

5 International Strategic Alliances

5.1 International Partners

ICAR has developed fruitful cooperation with a number of international organisations dealing with animal production or with fields relevant to the ICAR mandate. Programs and activities of a number of International Government Orgs (IGOs) and Non-Governmental Orgs (NGOs) are complementary to the ICAR's mission. Milan, Martin and Brian have a working document called "ICAR International Cooperation" which outlines which organisations we should forge links with and the objectives and protocols for agreement if required. The current document provides detail about the international partners we are working with and their relevance to ICAR. An executive summary of these activities so far in 2015 is in Table 2 below;

Table 2. ICAR relations with International Organisations.

<u>International Organisation</u>	<u>ICAR Relevance</u>	<u>CE Update/comment: 21st July</u>
ISO - International Standards Organisation	ICAR is ISO's Registration Authority (RA) for RFID devices & member of working group to develop ISO RFID Standards ISO TC23\SC19\WG3 ICAR refers to ISO standards in developing standards and guidelines for certification of ID and Recording devices ICAR requires ISO standards 17025 and 9001 for accreditation of laboratories for use of DNA (microsatellites and SNP) in parentage verification and recording ICAR as a Certification Body should work to ISO 17065 accreditation	Annual ICAR RA report sent to ISO March 2015 President and CE met with ISO WG3 Chair in May 2015 CE and Chair of ID SC met with ISO TC23\SC19\WG3 in Madrid in June 17th 2015. Main actions 1) Create Comms Task Force with reps from both ICAR SC ID and ISO WG3 and b) to increase Freq of comms to supplement the one Annual meeting with QTRLY conference calls.
IDF – International Dairy Federation	Milk Analysis plus Functional Traits are main fields of cooperation between the two organizations. The Analytical Week 2014 has been jointly organized with IDF within the 39 th ICAR Biennial Session with ICAR also attending Namur 2015 The IDF (International Dairy Federation) and ICAR set up an international reference	In May 2015 CE had conf call with IDF. CE invited to Lithuania IDF Conf Sept 2015. June 10th , CE & Groups coordinator met with IDF SCAHW in Krakow. Agreed will not duplicate and have

Chief Executive Report to ICAR Board

July 21, 2015

	system for somatic cell counting in raw milk. ICAR and IDF agreed to cooperate in the field of functional traits. The ICAR Functional Traits WG has been requested to carry out activities on the ICAR side.	two groups but rather combine forces. CE has arranged meeting in Brussels on Jul 16th in IDF with Delanie Kellon to discuss further.
FAO - Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN)	Technical and financial support of ICAR Working Group Developing Countries chaired by Badi Besbes, Senior Officer Joint organization of regional workshops – ID Workshop in Santiago de Chile 2011, ID Workshop in Moscow 2014 and the 2015 workshop in South Africa. FAO through its DAD-IS information system regularly transmits news and information from the ICAR web site.	ICAR Secretariat organised FAO/ICAR conference in RSA CE attended and signed up to Pretoria Declaration. CE team visited Badi and his FAO Director in Rome on July 07th. We proposed a follow up ICAR/FAO Workshop for Spring 2016 in East Africa (Ethiopia (Nairobi) as a possibility. Budgeted proposal to be worked on.
DG SANTE (EU Commission)	Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the zootechnical and genealogical conditions for trade in and imports into the Union of breeding animals ICAR referenced regarding identification methods, performance monitoring rules and genetic assessment of livestock. ICAR clearly designated as the reference body in the development of zootechnical legislation in its areas of competence.	CE called Dr Alf Fuessel May 2015 and reiterated our commitment to the EC Commission's work and glad to continue to provide ICAR support and be their main reference. Laurent Journaux and CE meeting with Michel Dantin of DG SANTE in Brussels on July 16th to review ICAR role wrt upcoming Zootechnical EU legislation
EFFAB – European Forum for Farm Animal Breeders.	Potential outsource of Patent Search & Update service	Brian and Martin conf call with Jan Venneman April 2015. ICAR surveyed its members in May re Patent search needs/demands – no extra demand and no value add/requirements from ICAR – recommend we refer all member patent requests to EFFAB (in fact members already do that). CE meeting with Jan Venneman EFFAB CE in Brussels on July 16th.

Chief Executive Report to ICAR Board

July 21, 2015

ASAS – American Society of Animal Science	Mutual participation at annual meetings and exchange of invited speakers. Use of ASAS meetings to promote ICAR Use of scientific results for improvement of ICAR programs.	CE met with Dave Barbano in Krakow – introductory email to incoming ASDA President – will follow up after summer.
ADSA - The American Dairy Science Association	Engagement of individual scientists and the use of their expertise in expanding ICAR mandate and programs.	BW has send on ASDA contact Al Kertz and will follow up with both
Others; ISAG, OIE, EAAP, NAAB..others??		ISAG – CE and Groups Coordinator have agreed to be on Org Cttee for upcoming ISAG Conf in Ireland

5.2 BOARDING Project – Baltic Research Project on Data Infrastructure Next Generation

ICAR has been asked to participate in this Baltic project which aims to build a network of smart farming research centres in the region to enhance digitilisation in agriculture and especially in the adoption of smart farming. Sharing best practices in utilising ICT and automation is a key goal. The BOARDNG network will establish a fluent data exchange between the infrastructures enabling agri innovators to access efficiently data originating from diverse environments. CE has sent an ICAR letter of support for the project and has asked Erik Rehben of ADE WG to engage on our behalf as that WG is looking for pilot projects to test their new data exchange protocols.

The duration of the Project is 3 years with a total budget of €4.5m. The following organisations are partners in the project;

- ICT-AGRI2 eranet
- The Association of Innovative Agricultural Engineering ALBATROSS (PL)
- The central union of Swedish-speaking agricultural producers in Finland (FI)
- Latvian Beekeepers association (LV)
- Agro Business Park (DK)
- SEGES (DK)
- Finnish Association of Automation in Agriculture (FI)

Ultimately there is an opportunity for ADE to develop a new Service for S- ICAR in the field of data exchange, setting up an independent system for central management of dictionary in data exchange. (See Appendix 1)

July 21, 2015

6 Web / IT Upgrade

Web upgrade will now be linked to the ICAR Brand Project. However while the Brand will inform the web design the CE and ICAR team will keep separate project control over Web development.

7 ICAR Brand

A Sub Section of the board and CE held a conference call on Jul 02nd to discuss kicking off the **ICAR Brand Project**. Participating in that call were Jay Mattison, Marco Winters, Bianca Lind, Niels Henning Nielsen, Neil Petreny and staff member Cesare Mosconi. (Apologies Japie van der Westhuizen).

We agreed the following;

- a) CE to produce a short "**Inputs**" document - on what ICAR wants re Brand, covering important points;

- Definition of Scope, Visual vs Content, Milestones with reviews vs deliverables to avoid creep on time/costs, maintain control over web

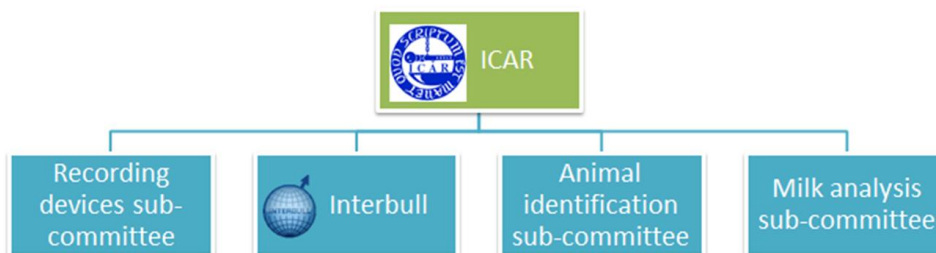
- b) Circulate this to the Selected Board members (who were on the call) for their input and refinement.
- c) Final "Inputs" document then to be used in face to face meeting in late August with Consultant (Joost Mogendorff (MB plus two/three members of Board) - we will send him a copy in advance.
- d) After that meeting we will ask Joost to define project milestones, deliverables, costs etc for CE and ultimately Board Approval

A further verbal update will be given by CE at the Board meeting

July 21, 2015

8 Groups Reports

Reports from ICAR's 4 Permanent Sub Committees;



8.1 SC / WG Chairs meeting Krakow

On June 08th we had a meeting of all chairs of ICAR SCs and WG's. Priorities were reviewed and reconfirmed for the year ahead. Minutes and survey were sent out. Brian Wickham and Martin Burke will review but while the format may be tweaked for next year but for sure will retain this meeting in the calendar.

8.2 Milk Analysis SC

In Krakow, Hans, Jay, Martin & Brian met with Gavin Scott, Harrie van den Bijgaart and Philippe Trossat with a view to a) Re-enforce Board support for MASC b) task the MASC team to regroup and take a fresh look and new approach to how ICAR can provide a Quality Assurance service to our members from within Service ICAR. Meeting was very positive and Gavin is convening a new team with refreshed priorities.

Also in July the following new members were nominated and accepted into MASC;

Amel Guellouz	- Tunisia
Dena Snidall	- UK
Elzbieta Rybicka	- Poland
Frederic Dehareng	- Belgium
Claudia Falch	- South Africa

One key goal is to ensure International Ring test comes back under S-ICAR in 2016. Currently Actalia provide this service contracted until the end of 2015. CE will contract Silvia Orlandini to represent S-ICAR at MASC

July 21, 2015

8.3 **Recording & Sampling Devices SC**

New Chair Steven Sievert is reviewing following;

8.3.1. New Terms of Reference (done to widen the scope to include sampling devices like tissue sampling which is not currently covered anywhere else in the ICAR guidelines).

8.3.2. Make-up of SC – will look to replenish

8.3.3. Review the German Test Centre with respect to continuing need or not.

8.3.4 Continuing Technical assistance to Next Generation Meter discussions.

8.4 **ID Devices SC**

Martin Burke and Ken Evers attended the ISO TC23\SC19\WG3 annual meeting in Madrid on June 17th. This ISO WG3 is responsible for maintaining the ISO 11784, ISO11785 & ISO 24631 standards against which ICAR (as ISO's Registration Authority (RA)) test and certify products. Summary of key meeting points from Service ICAR viewpoint;

ISO welcomed our attendance (as CE and Chair of ID SC)

MB/KE recommended that ISO meeting frequency of once per year was too slow for us and instead we (ICAR) recommended that a Quarterly Conference call be made from SC ID representatives to ISO WG3 representatives to catch up on mutual activities thereby enhancing communication between parties. This will cover (but not limited to);

- ICAR's Environmental Testing Developments
- 5 Yr Re-certification progress
- Code violations in the Field
- Other Registration Authority matters

8.5 **InterBull**

Hans, Jay and Martin met with Reinhard Reents in Krakow with view to agreeing way of working for ICAR and Interbull SC. All parties agreed better and more frequent communication is needed. The formation of the Business focused PSE Task Force will be the first really "joint" undertaking - as you know Tione Roozen has been employed by Uppsala University as Director of Interbull centre. Toine will officially start in September. I propose to visit Toine asap to get this working relationship and the Task force up and running.

JAM/Interbull Orlando July 2015 – verbal update from Board members Laurent, Marco, Reinhard and Jay who attended. From all reports GenoEx PSE well received and

July 21, 2015

a real desire to move on quickly including moving to additional services such as MS imputation and sharing genotypes.

8.6 Other Working Groups/Task Force Updates

8.6.1 Recommendations for **Certificate of Quality** since last ICAR Board;

- PSSR – Breeding Services of Slovak Republic were audited Jun 16 – 17th 2015 and audit report is attached. It's recommended to grant PSSR the Certificate of Quality. (Appendix 2)

8.6.2 **Genetic Analysis WG** – Wim van Haeringen, on behalf of the GA-WG, has penned a letter (See Appendix 3 attached) which is requesting that we make Laboratory accreditation part of Service ICAR. After discussion with BW and ICAR Team we are in agreement this is what we should do. In the process of bringing it into Service-ICAR we must address the question of fees, the link with CoQ and the link with GenoEx PSE participation. Likewise we need to refresh the T o R of the Parentage WG and BW is working with them to ensure they are aligned with work of GA-WG.

8.6.3 **Animal Care WG**- On June 10th, CE & Groups coordinator met with IDF SCAHW in Krakow. Agreed we will not duplicate and have two groups but rather combine forces. CE has arranged meeting in Brussels on Jul 16th in IDF with Delanie Kellon to discuss further. Aim is to enter and agreement with IDF and select two or three ICAR practitioners to take part in IDF SCAHW.

8.6.4 **ICAR Feed & Greenhouse Gas Working Group** (gDMI & Methane gases) Roel Verkamp appointed Chair of new WG. Currently Brian and Roel seeking nominations for Group members.

8.6.5 **WG AI** – Review activity levels and T o R.

9 Publications/ Guidelines – Board update & approval

9.1 Guidelines for Member Approval:

Post Krakow we have Two Guidelines Updates to be approved and sent to Members for approval from following Working Groups (WG's);

- a) WG Conformation Recording (Appendix 4)
- b) WG Functional Traits (Appendix 5)

The following text will be sent to the members;

“Please be advised that two amendments to the Recording Guidelines have been proposed by the Conformation Recording WG and by the Functional Traits WG (Atlas of Claw Health). The texts are available for consultation on the ICAR web site at: http://www.icar.org/pages/recording_guidelines.htm . You are kindly invited to provide your comments or objections by **Monday 14 September**. After that date and

Chief Executive Report to ICAR Board

July 21, 2015

without having received any comments, the amendments will be considered part of the Recording Guidelines”

9.2 Newsletter

ICAR team sent out the July 2015 Newsletter (see ICAR web). This Issue focussed on ;

- President’s Report
- Technical workshop in Krakow
- Claw Atlas
- Statutes & By Laws updates
- New SC Chairs
- Members awards, C of Q etc

10 Future ICAR Board Meetings

10.1 Meeting Schedule

The following table is the updated proposed schedule of meetings for the ICAR Board and the Council of Service ICAR. Please note 2000hrs for all meetings (other than those face to face).

Table 3. Future Meetings: July – Dec 2015.

Org'n	Meeting	Date	Start-finish (CET)	Venue	Notes
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 21/07/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Telephone Conference	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio.
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 18/08/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Telephone Conference	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio.
Service ICAR	Board	Tuesday 22/09/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Telephone Conference	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 29/09/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Telephone Conference	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio
ICAR	Board	Tuesday 20/10/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Telephone Conference	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio
Service ICAR	Board	Friday 20/11/2015	08:00 - 09:00	Rome	Face to Face.
ICAR	Board	Friday 20/11/2015	09:00 - 17:00	Rome	Face to Face.

Martin Burke, Chief Executive

Date 14th July 2015.