
Chief Executive Report to ICAR Board

November 20, 2015



ICAR Chief Executive Report for ICAR Board Meeting 09:00 – 18:00 CET, Friday November 20th 2015.

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Table of Contents

1	PRIORITIES.....	2
2.	BOARD GOLDEN RULES / LEGAL/ STAFF	3
3.	INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC ALLIANCES UPDATE	4
4.	FINANCIALS 2015 YTD AND DRAFT 2016 BUDGET	7
5.	ICAR WEB VERSION 1.0.....	7
6.	MEMBERSHIP / GLOBAL REACH / CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY	8
7.	ICAR ISO 17065 ACCREDITATION / 'ACCREDIA'	9
8.	GROUPS REPORT.....	10
9.	ICAR BRAND UPDATE	12
10.	ICAR 2018 & 2019 HOST SELECTIONS/OPTIONS	13
11.	FUTURE ICAR / S. ICAR BOARD MEETINGS.....	14

Chief Executive Report to ICAR Board

November 20, 2015

1 Priorities

1.1 CE and ICAR Team New priorities as set Jun 2015 are:

- GenoEx – New Business Focussed Task Force & Interbull relations/links
- The ICAR “Brand” Project
- 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	Status
6	1	Improving the ICAR website	Version 1 Web Release Dec 2015. Version 2.0 in 2016
5	3	Improving communications and <i>collaboration</i> between ICAR groups	Ongoing; MB/BW calls, newsletter, chairs meetings reviewing common ToRs
7	8	Improving the structure of the ICAR guidelines	Version 2 Web – Brand input, access to guidelines 2016
2	5	Reviewing its Groups	Ongoing; MB/BW - reviewing overlaps Care, Genomics
8	6	Enhancing Links to International bodies/partners	Ongoing; CE working list of Orgs by priority
9	7	Growing its reputation in Africa (and globally)	April 2015 Workshop, Global Reach 2016
3	9	Establishing Group on Climate Change	Feed & Gas Group established Oct '15 , EU project links
4	2	Providing ICAR members with greater visibility	Brand Project, Web 1 and 2, Newsletter
1	4	Extend scope to cover developments	New Service development, MA PT Ring Test, Global Reach, GenoEx, - next ADE
10	10	Improving its services to customers	CoQ, PT, ID ICAR, Brand Project

November 20, 2015

2 Board Matters / Legal / Staff

2.1 Board ‘Golden Rules’ – Recap and reaffirm the following agreed tenets;

- 1. We are focused on maximising the value of ICAR for our members.**
- 2. An open mind is needed for good communication and cooperation.**
- 3. We respect every person and are professional in our behaviour.**
- 4. We act according to our responsibility.**
- 5. We give honest feedback.**
- 6. We enjoy working for ICAR.**

- ✓ Agree
- ✓ Open professional discussion
- ✓ Review at the end of each meeting
- ✓ Take forward the alignment and decision
- ✓ Regularly repeat after face-to-face meeting

2.2 Investment - Deutsche Bank

Finally the investment has been sold and we received the statement from the bank, the money is now in our current bank account at DBI. The amount credited in our account is 245,535 Euro (248,000 Euro was the original investment); this will not have an impact on our balance in 2015 because the value registered in 2014 was similar (245,198 Euro). After taking advice from our lawyer we will now proceed to begin moving monies from this account by electronic transfer (as opposed to cheques) to our BNL account.

2.3 Staff update

On May 31st 2015 Jussi Maki-Hokkonen will finish up his time with ICAR. On behalf of all the ICAR team I want to thank Jussi for his dedicated service over the years and in particular for staying on in the last few years when his knowledge and experience helped steer the ICAR ship to calmer waters. I know Jussi had planned to go earlier but his sense of duty and professionalism wouldn't let him - I and the rest of ICAR's staff thank him sincerely for that.

Chief Executive Report to ICAR Board

November 20, 2015

Jussi writes.... *“The past 13 years have been most rewarding for me from the point of professional achievements and job satisfaction. Equally rewarding it has been to be part of a capable and passionate team in the Secretariat and collaborate with the ICAR Board and numerous group representatives who have not counted hours in doing what was beneficiary for the ICAR membership. I am deeply thankful to everyone for this wonderful experience”.*

We understand fully how Jussi would now like to spend some well-deserved time with his family. I accept reluctantly his resignation and wish him all the best in what will be a very happy retirement.

3 International Strategic Alliances

3.1 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. 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: 20th Nov</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. Jussi and Ken to organise both an SC meeting and an ISO “Comms” Call in QTR 4.

Chief Executive Report to ICAR Board

November 20, 2015

		Silvia to tease out with Harrie van Bijgaart potential role for ICAR as certification for MIR analysers.
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 39th ICAR Biennial Session with ICAR also attending Namur 2015 The IDF (International Dairy Federation) and ICAR set up an international reference 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.	In May 2015 CE had conf call with IDF. June 10th, CE & Groups coordinator met with IDF SCAHW in Krakow. Agreed will not duplicate and have two groups but rather combine forces. CE met in Brussels on Jul 16th with Delanie Kellon IDF and agreed to collaborate on Animal Welfare & Care. MB/BW had Conf call with Christa and her Funct Traits WG on 21/09/15 to discuss her WG adopting the Care aspects – ongoing.
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 in Q3/Q4. Badi not in position to co-organise African workshop in 2016 – we will review doing it ourselves under ICAR under Global Reach.
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	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 met with Michel Dantin of DG SANTE in Brussels on July 16th and reinforced message that ICAR's major role and guidelines reference in upcoming Zootechnical EU legislation.

Chief Executive Report to ICAR Board

November 20, 2015

	body in the development of zootechnical legislation in its areas of competence.	MB met with Cled Thomas UK who did a lot of Project work with EAAP . ICAR will make contact with ; a) Animal Task Force (Dr. Martin Scholten Wageningen) http://www.animaltaskforce.eu/ ...and particularly their Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) EU-PLF is an FP7 project - see http://www.eu-plf.eu/ - - currently EAAP in there – our space? b) EIP-AGRI – European Innovation Partnership (EIP) part of EU research & innovation Horizon 2020 programme – see SCD2 in particular http://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en eg See Focus Group 18: Reducing emissions from cattle farming. Note:ICAR is small team and won't get distracted from Core activities. Email sent on 06/10 by CE to Jan Venneman who's is on board of ATF requesting ICAR recognition. CE rec'd Invite for ATF Seminar in Brussels 17/11.
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 met with Jan Venneman EFFAB CE in Brussels on July 16th – agreed we would refer our members to the EFFAB Patent service. Received page from EFFAB – Cesare will include link on release of new Web V 1.0 in December.

Chief Executive Report to ICAR Board

November 20, 2015

ASAS – American Society of Animal Science	Mutual participation at annual meetings and exchange of invited speakers. Use of ASAS meetings to promote ICAR	CE met with Dave Barbano in Krakow – introductory email to incoming ASDA President – will follow up after summer.
ADSA - The American Dairy Science Association	Use of scientific results for improvement of ICAR programs.	BW has send on ASDA contact Al Kertz and we will follow up with both – 2 nd level priority. No activity to report here
Others; ISAG, OIE, EAAP, NAAB..others??		ISAG – CE and Groups Coordinator have agreed to be on Org Cttee for upcoming ISAG 2017 Conf in Ireland. LOC met Oct 09 th and Dec 11 th next meeting.

4 Financial 2016

4.1 ICAR

Appendix 1: ICAR Income Statement YTD September 30th and forecast 2015

Appendix 2: ICAR Balance YTD September 30th and forecast 2015

Appendix 3: Explanatory Notes to ICAR Financial statements YTD September 30th

Appendix 4: ICAR Budget 2016 (Draft 1.0)

4.2 Service ICAR – see Section 8.4 and Appendix 8 ID Activity & Testing Trends 2011 - 2015

5 Web / IT Upgrade

Web New look – Version 1.0 will be presented at the meeting by Cesare.

- Board to Review New ICAR home page (Version 1.0) as presented here.
- ICAR secretariat to adopt and incorporate any changes suggested by Board
- ICAR release Version 1.0 in December 2015.
- Version 2.0 will be post ICAR Brand work - for 2016.

November 20, 2015

6 Membership

6.1 Membership update

No New members since Uruguay on Oct 20th. Working on leads in Ukraine, Thailand, Mongolia.

Latest position is we have 83 Full members and 30 Associate members.

Full/Associate Members

	Number
Full Members	83
Associate Members	30
Donor	1
World Breed Federations	3
Total	117

6.2 Global Reach

Replaces the existing “Developing Countries” group. The scope/boundaries of this group will be to extend our guidelines and support those territories which have smaller/different farm input systems than our current members. In doing so part of their remit will be help and support these potential new members with relevant guidelines and practices. MB/BW/CH agreed that it should first be discussed with existing members of old Developing Countries WG to further advance MB/BW. **ICAR is budgeting to run at least one “Global Reach” workshop in either Africa or South America in 2016.**

Goal for 2016 will be to reach 90+ Full members and 30+ Associate Members

6.3 Certificate of Quality

There were two members who were ‘visit’ audited in October 2015.

Appendix 5: United Dairy Farmers of Northern Ireland.

Appendix 6: Quality Milk Management Services (QMMS), UK

The ICAR C of Q team recommend both to be granted Certificate of Quality (for Board approval).

New **Consultative Review (CR)** - Charl’s WG Focus groups have been working on revising the Certificate of Quality service we offer our members. The new C of Q procedure is up on <https://wiki.icar.org/doku.php>, with the main changes around;

November 20, 2015

- ✓ Simplifying and making the fee structure appropriate to activities (inc Auditor fees)
- ✓ Moving from 3 yr to a 5 yr cycle BUT providing a mid-term CR (in yr 2-3) with each member – support, dissemination for member

The CoQ audit team have scheduled 5 pilot “**Consultative Reviews**” and for this Board meeting we should have two of these pilot CR’s completed, namely, NMR (UK) and ProAgria (Finland). The feedback from these two pilots will be presented by Charl at this Board meeting.

Goal for 2016 is to execute schedule with new policy giving better value for members with + €20k margin for S-ICAR

7 ICAR Accreditation to ISO 17065

As per our priorities identified in June 2105, ICAR / S-ICAR as a Certification Body (CB) should look at getting independent international accreditation. The international ISO/IEC 17065:2012 standard establishes the principles and requirements for the competence and impartiality of product, service and process certification and for bodies like S-ICAR offering these services.

How this works is the IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and its sister body ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) have as their primary function to develop a single worldwide program of conformity assessment which reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring them that accredited certificates may be relied upon. Accreditation assures users of the competence and impartiality of the body accredited. IAF have in each country a national accreditation body which through their Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) ensure mutual recognition of accredited certification between signatories to the MLA, and subsequently acceptance of accredited certification in many markets based on one accreditation.

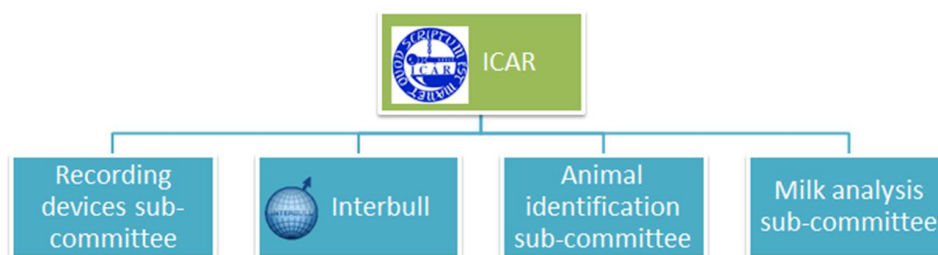
As ICAR / SI-ICAR is registered in Rome “our” national accreditation body is “ACCREDIA”. In Oct we (Martin & Silvia) made contact with their director and he outlined the initial process and documentation required.

We have started an ICAR wiki (<https://wiki.icar.org/doku.php>) on our server in Rome to host our documentation and we will in 2016 build up the process documentation as we go along. At this stage we won’t budget for application in 2016 but plan is to budget for and apply in 2017.

November 20, 2015

8 Groups Reports

Reports from ICAR's 4 Permanent Sub Committees;



8.1 Groups Communications

As part of our ongoing group communications MB + BW are scheduling calls to each of the SC\WGroups between now and December. These calls serve to ensure:

- 1) Functioning and Activity level of the group is progressing in the right direction and without duplicating efforts
- 2) ICAR office is aware of the groups needs and can share tools + learning and continue to support the groups centrally.
- 3) Also each group will get an opportunity to discuss the ACCURACY Task Force Report for relevance to their activities.)

So far SC/WGs completed / scheduled so far include ;

- ✓ Parentage Recording WG – completed 08/09
- ✓ AI Technical WG – completed 09/09
- ✓ Functional Traits – 21/09
- ✓ Dairy Cattle MR WG – 25/09
- ✓ Recording Devices SC – initial call with Chair 17/08, whole group TBD
- ✓ Genetic Analysis WG – completed 13/10
- ✓ ID SC – completed 16/10
- ✓ MASC – completed 04/11
- ✓ Conformation WG – completed 09/11
- ✓ Animal Fibre WG – completed 10/11
- ✓ Sheep/Goat PR WGs (combined call) – scheduled 25/11
- ✓ ADE, Breed Assoc, to be scheduled.

November 20, 2015

8.2 Milk Analysis SC

Martin & Silvia have Philippe Trossat (Actilait) coming to Rome for a day meeting in January 2016 to work out how the ICAR PT and International PT become one under S-ICAR. Also Philippe has agreed to send us on all the current and historical PT Results/Data to pt@icar.org

ICARs role as envisaged to provide standardisation and certification services to members for Milk Analysers, MIR spectral calibration etc. Harrie van Bijgaart is presenting to ISO our draft proposal for an agreement between ICAR and ISO's ISO/TC 34/SC 5 (Milk and Milk products) – Harrie van Bijgaart is Chair of this ISO TC. Awaiting feedback - discussions are in initial stages.

8.3 Recording & Sampling Devices SC

Steven continues to build his team and wants Board to endorse the Danish member's (Seges) nomination of **Snorri Sigurdsson** as new member of the SC. Both CE and Groups Coordinator recommend to endorse this new addition to Steven's SC. (For Board record Snorri's applications is attached as **Appendix 7**)

8.4 ID Devices SC

S-ICAR has seen a below than expected take up of it Re-Certification of RFID devices in 2015. (see **Appendix 8** Trends in RFID testing 2011 - 2015). From speaking to key manufacturers it appears that a lot of their older ISO Registered products have been replaced by newer products which are already certified. We expect this trend to sustain with more emphasis on using their existing products and try and gain new markets. We also notice an increase in Visual tags testing. While ICAR will continue honour its ISO RA responsibilities the CE and secretariat approach for 2016 will be to promote our own ICAR Test and Certification of Visual tags which we believe adds best value for our members. For discussion and input from the ICAR Board

8.5 InterBull

Martin and Toine will hold regular (monthly) Operational conference calls to be sure communication is maintained both ways between Uppsala and S-ICAR to ensure administrative cooperation.

CE and SLU director had conference call 06/11. Next one is scheduled 14/12. In the meantime progress as follows;

GenoEx team members invited and all so far on board – inaugural meeting being scheduled asap by Toine with first point of business being make up of **Expert Group**.

November 20, 2015

ICAR/InterBull Task Force – after this board meeting first conf call will be organized for December with Hans, Martin, Marco, Reinhard and Toine. In the first instance to discuss Terms of Reference and priorities.

8.6 Other Working Groups updates;

8.6.1 Animal Data Exchange

Erik's ADE group have released Version 1 of proposed service model for Certification of Data Exchange Software. (See **Appendix 9**) – key to get implementation phase off the ground early in 2016 – suggest he needs some business type support. For Board discussion.

8.6.2 Conformation WG - Guidelines for Member Approval:

Parentage Recording Guidelines changes – have been tidied up re overlap between Parentage Recording and Genetic Analysis – This message has been sent to the members “Following an internal preparation of the Working Group, the Parentage Recording WG proposes the following amendments to Section 4.2 and 4.3 of the Recording Guidelines. The file is available for consultation / comments at: http://www.icar.org/Documents/Rules%20and%20regulations/Guidelines/Krakow_2015/Parentage_Recording.pdf. ICAR Members are invited to send comments by Monday 9 November after which we will present for Board approval in Nov 20th Board meeting.

9 ICAR Brand

ICAR Brand Project Milestone (MS) 3 “Understand phase” is completed. In October and early November seventeen stakeholder interviews were completed on 11th November with input from persons sampled from;

ICAR Staff, ICAR Board, Chairs of SC/WGs, Full Members (inc some New), Associate Members and some International partners.

The output of these Stakeholder Interviews are being collated and distilled into the MS 3 Powerpoint and will be presented at this Board meeting and proposed next steps as per following agenda;

ICAR Brand – Board Agenda Nov 20th;

- a. Findings; ICAR brand through the eyes of different stakeholders (40min)
- b. Strategic challenges for ICAR (20mins)
- c. The ICAR brand story: the components (30mins)
- d. Preview quick wins for the ICAR brand (30mins)
- e. Next phase: ‘Plan for Action’ and ‘ICAR brand story’ (30mins)

November 20, 2015

10 ICAR 2018 and 2019 Conference – Host Selections / Options

The host/location for ICAR 2018 has not yet been decided. It was originally suggested to book-end one side of the World Genetics Congress in New Zealand in February 2018. We feel in the secretariat that this is not ideal - having three annual conferences within sixteen months is too closely bunched. (The timespan between ICAR 2016 in Oct with Edinburgh in June 2017 and ICAR 2018 in Feb is too close).

Our thinking now is to have it in North America – USA or Canada – by then it will have been ten years since Niagara 2008...

Likewise we are closing in on 2019 with initial discussion about South Africa as possible host – but again approach needs to be agreed and formalised

Perhaps a few of Board members with ICAR secretariat could form a small selection team (TF) to identify 2018 and 2019 hosts?? For Board Discussion.

ICAR wkshops:

2002 Switzerland
2004 Tunisia
2006 Finland
2007 Verona
2008 USA/Can
2009 Croatia
2010 Latvia
2011 France
2012 Ireland
2013 Denmark
2014 Germany
2015 Poland
2016 Chile (Oct)
2017 UK
2018 Nth America?
2019 RSA??

Chief Executive Report to ICAR Board

November 20, 2015

11 Future ICAR Board Meetings

11.1 Meeting Schedule

The following table is a first draft proposed schedule of meetings for the ICAR Board and the Council of Service ICAR for Jan – June 2016. Please note 2000hrs for all meetings (other than those face to face).

Table 4. Future Meetings: Proposed January – June 2016.

Org'n	Meeting	Date	Start-finish (CET)	Venue	Notes
Service ICAR	Board	Tue 19/01/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Rome	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio
ICAR	Board	Tue 26/01/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Rome	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio
ICAR	Board	Tue 23/02/2016	20:00 - 21:00	Rome	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio
Service ICAR	Board	Tue 22/03/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Rome	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio
ICAR	Board	Tue 29/03/2016	20:00 - 21:00	Rome	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio
ICAR	Board	Tue 26/04/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Rome	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio
Service ICAR	Board	Tue 24/05/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Rome	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio
ICAR	Board	Tue 31/05/2016	20:00 - 21:00	Rome	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio
ICAR	Board	Tue 28/06/2015	20:00 - 21:00	Rome	8:00 in NZ and 15:00 in Columbus, Ohio

Martin Burke, Chief Executive

Date 12th Nov 2015.