



Memo on postponement of ICAR-Interbull 2020

From: LOC ICAR2020
To: ICAR Board; Interbull SC
Date: 18 March 2020

The worldwide COVID-19 outbreak has led to a dramatic decrease in movement of people and a downturn in business across the globe. Events are canceled and it is not sure at what stage activities will return to normal.

ICAR-Interbull 2020 was scheduled for June 8-12, 2020 in Leeuwarden. All events in NL 'til mid-April are cancelled. It is very likely that this period will be extended. As a consequence, it is unsure whether ICAR-Interbull 2020 can be held in June.

The LOC ICAR2020 has decided to postpone ICAR-Interbull 2020. Main reasons for doing so, are:

1. It will provide clarity to the ICAR and Interbull community on short term.
2. It is likely the LOC2020 would be forced to cancel the event if the virus rolls on for another month.
3. Even if it is not forced to cancel the delegates will be very reluctant to register for the conference. It is very likely that in case the congress will be held in June; number of participants will be much less than expected resulting in a non-successful event.

There has been a discussion to which dates the conference should be postponed. There were 3 options where the WTC in Leeuwarden is available:

1. Move conference to September 5-11 2020.
2. Move conference to November 14-20 2020.
3. Move conference to June 7-11, 2021.

The pro's and con's with each option are summarized in the table below:

Period	Pro's	Con's
September 5-11, 2020	• Swift extension of the work done till now. • Limited costs with contracted parties for this postponement	• Still existing travel restrictions with potential participants → less successful conference, lower attractiveness for sponsors/exhibitors • Week after EAAP • September may be a busy month, because lots of activities are postponed • World Dairy Expo in China • IDF World Dairy Summit in South Africa
November 14-20, 2020	• Swift extension of the work done till now. • Limited costs with contracted parties for this postponement	• Still existing travel restrictions with potential participants → less successful conference, lower attractiveness for sponsors/exhibitors

		• People may be 'conference tired' because of multiple (postponed) conferences in the autumn of 2020 • November is a busy month for recording/ breeding organisations, as also for the genetic evaluations units and Interbull. • Rather close to next ICAR Conference in Spain
June 7-11, 2021	• High probability on good participation • People are eager to visit ICAR/ Interbull	• Higher costs, but part of it will be reimbursed by insurance (CRV is insured for cancellation the event) and better attendance • Interbull is usually connected to ADSA or EAAP in odd years and we have to modify this • ICAR2021 in Spain must be moved to 2022 • 2020 budget in companies may be worse by Covid 19 outbreak. Thus, move expenses to 2021 might help

The LOC ICAR 2020 has decided to go for June 7-11, 2021. It is very unlikely that September 2020 everything is back to normal. November is a worse option.

Some actions need to be done before this postponement is final:

1. ICAR talk to the organisers in Spain for ICAR 2021 and Canada for ICAR 2022 re impact to them
2. ICAR Board and Interbull SC to review and decide should we go together with ICAR – Interbull in 2021 in Leeuwarden, rather than Interbull – EAAP in Davos (Switzerland) in August 2021. This can be seen as an opportunity for closer ties with ICAR and Interbull – could this be an annual ICAR-Interbull conference as we go forward?
3. Approval by Board ICAR and by Interbull SC.

Plan is to do by the end of next week a communication to ICAR/ Interbull community that ICAR2020 will be postponed. In case there is no final outcome yet on Interbull's position for 2021 we have to communicate that later.