

Report of the meeting with the German stakeholders for the Sustainable Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Technology Platform (FABRE TP)

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The meeting with the German stakeholders of the Sustainable Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Technology Platform was held in Hohenheim on 25 September 2007. The meeting was organized by Kirsten Sanders of the German Society for Animal Production (www.dgfz-bonn.de). Representatives of a wide range of German animal breeding and production organizations, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Research Council, and from Danish Universities and research institutes were invited to attend the meeting. A total of 20 people participated.

Kirsten Sanders welcomed the participants and introduced Andrea Rosati and Ann-Marie Neeteson who were present on behalf of FABRE TP. Andrea Rosati outlined what Technology Platforms are, and why they are important. He introduced FABRE TP, explained the process of Vision paper, Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) and Action Plan development. The presentation was then used to describe why and how FABRE TP has been established and its activities so far. The SRA is being discussed throughout Europe. The German country discussion is the 22nd of 31 planned country discussions.

The audience was invited to comment on the SRA and indicate specific German emphasis, and consider the set up of a national platform or a national contact point.

- The German priorities include, with emphasis:
 - Phenomics
 - The link with companies is of utmost importance
 - Industrial impact should be more visible throughout SRA – it is now still too much research based
 - Research should be mainly emphasized to the application field. Too much basic research is supported when compared to the investigation about application
 - Data recording and data management
 - The importance of correctly phenotyping should be investigated. This is not only for production traits, but also for functional traits
 - Public perception, especially where it concerns
 - Sustainability (should be prominent throughout SRA)
 - Food safety (e.g. genetic traceability of animals throughout the food chain)
 - Infectious diseases
 - transparency and where breeding can contribute
 - research and implementation on breeding and infectious diseases
 - Environmental impact
 - Environmental footprint should get more prominent role in SRA

- Research on e.g. reduction of methane and nitrogen excretion (role breeding + interdisciplinary)
- Competition feed and use of land for bio-energy
 - Consequences for breeding
 - Consequences for food (production/prices)
 - Inter-linkage
- Interactive and broad character of animal breeding
 - Genotype – environment interaction
 - The research encompasses a wide range of disciplines: it is the role and importance of breeding to interlink this, esp on the international level
 - Linkages of what is happening in human and plant research
 - Linkages with veterinary science
 - Linkage with other disciplines and platforms (the communication with other platforms is important – it is there, but can be structured and communicated better e.g. on the web site)
 - Linkages with animal nutrition
 - Food for life
 - Animal health
 - Plants for the Future (e.g. feed)
 - The need for an overall animal platform, where also feed and physiology and also animal nutrition find their place (or as subplatforms/linkages of FABRE TP)
- The research priorities should be updated regularly
 - There is a proposal to have an annual side meeting at EAAP
- Next to large scale species, for Germany important
 - Horses – the horse group will utilize the FABRE TP page to make links to other web sites, and emphasize typical issues of importance
 - Honeybees - not only important for honey production, but even more for pollination of agricultural crops and native floral species.
 - Pig breeding – emphasis is shifting from herd books to international genetics
 - Poultry breeding – mainly international genetics (coming from German company)
- German Platform
 - The German Society for Animal Production is considered to be the ideal contact platform, also because they will naturally closely link to Fugato, ADT, ADR, ZDS and the German poultry breeder Lohmann Tierzucht
 - It is decided that Kirsten Sanders of DGfZ will act as the central contact/communication point to FABRE TP
 - All are invited to utilize the FABRE TP work to improve and assist the communication on breeding and reproduction in Germany at e.g. national and other funding levels, regarding communication to society and stakeholders

- This does not have to prevent anyone to undertake initiatives, or become active. However, it will be appreciated to inform then both the European FABRE TP and the German contact point.