

## **Report of the meeting to encounter the Lithuanian stakeholders for the Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Technology Platform**

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The meeting to encounter the Lithuanian stakeholders for the Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Technology Platform was held in Vilnius on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The meeting was held in the Ministry of Agriculture in Warsaw.

Representatives of the major animal industries and breeders organizations, of all the Animal Science Institutes of the Lithuanian universities and Research Institutes, and representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture were invited to attend the meeting. There were 30 people attending the meeting.

After a short presentation to explain the role and the functioning of the technology platforms in the EU policy, it was fully presented the FABRE TP. The presentation was directed to explain the reason of the creation of the platform and then the activities so far. Finally it has been described the draft of the Strategic Research Agenda. The people attending the meeting were then stimulated to express their view on the FABRE technology platform in general and more specifically the comments, advises and criticisms about the first draft of the Strategic Research Agenda.

During the meeting, the importance of the mirror group role was also explained.

After collecting the comments, the list was sent back to those who attended the meeting for possible corrections and additions. The final list is then detailed:

1. The people attending the meeting express their concern base on the fact that most of the people responsible of writing the strategic research agenda represents and/or work for research institute and only a small percentage they are involved with industries. This fact might cause lack of industry support for the future application of the agenda
2. The audience recommend to have close links with the other Technology Platforms dealing with issues of animal industry
3. A generic support to dairy cattle industry was suggested for the importance that this sector has for Lithuanian animal production
4. The strategic research agenda should be integrated and influenced by the decisions of CAP, especially for the policies of dairy and beef cattle industries
5. It was requested to support and to enhance research supporting sheep industry for meat production
6. It was recommended to update the strategic research agenda on animal welfare for the welfare definitions are updated continuously. Therefore the research agenda dealing with this subject should be planned to be, since the beginning, flexible
7. Lithuanian research policy for animal industry must consider the size of the country. Small countries should not consider the opportunity to do research on a wide spectrum. It is more important to focus on few subjects very important and specific for the country necessity. For what about the other subjects, the Lithuanian animal industry should utilize the research done in other larger countries
8. The Lithuanians recommend to consider the importance of research aiming to improve niche and local products
9. Improve the efficiency of beef cattle selection by discovering cheaper and easier recording methods for beef cattle production

10. A non specific support to beef cattle industry was also suggested for the importance of this sector in Lithuania
11. It was requested to support dairy cattle production, especially considering the problems of fertility and longevity
12. The problems of pig breeding should be considered especially for the genetic transmitted disease and for the selection plans to be implemented
13. The audience also requested to consider, among the activities of research, the great importance of extension service so that farmers will be able to fully consider, appreciate and apply the research activities
14. Research on oestrus detection for dairy cattle is considered to be very important
15. It was debated the influence of genetic improvement for increasing the production quantity and quality and at the same time the average inbreeding level causing, therefore, reduction in fitness and reproductive traits
16. The audience expresses the need to do research for improving the research activities keeping in consideration the correlation of animal traits and food quality and healthy food
17. It has been noted that the training activities was also not properly considered in the SRA. The attendance thought that training activities is essential to achieve the objectives of maintaining the world leadership of European expertise in animal breeding and reproduction technology