

Report of the meeting to encounter the Russian stakeholders for the Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Technology Platform

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The meeting to encounter the Russian stakeholders for the Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Technology Platform was held in Moscow on February 20th, 2008. The venue was the Faculty of Agriculture.

Representatives of dairy and beef cattle breeding, pig industry, research institutions, governmental offices, farmers associations, animal industry, milk recording and AI service. There were 32 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 purpose of the presentation was to detail the objectives of the platform and the activities so far. Finally it has been described the first draft of the Strategic Research Agenda. The people attending the meeting were invited to express their views on the FABRE technology platform in general and more specifically the comments about the first draft of the Strategic Research Agenda and the specificities of Russia.

During the meeting, the mirror group role was explained to the audience.

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. Because of the problem, especially in Europe, of availability of animal feed, the selection should also aim at improving feeding efficiency of animals. This will also be more important if the animal feeding will be in competition with the making bio-energy, i.e. gas for automobiles from maize or similar natural sources
2. More research should be focused on genetic determination of milk molecular composition to select animals able to produce milk with higher percentage of protein
3. The Strategic Research Agenda should also contain items relative to non-food production. The importance of non-food production breeding objectives will increase in the next decades
4. The transgenic animal must be studied. The European expertise, regardless the use of transgenic animals in our continent or not, must be maintained and expanded
5. Many more efforts should be given to disseminate the results and the methods of selection activities to train technicians and farmers
6. The audience stressed the importance of mechanization and engineer technologies to improve the efficiency for collecting information of animal production
7. The participants to the meeting expressed the view to strengthen the importance of health traits for the large impact they have on economic efficiency
8. The audience also expressed the importance of improving research for performance recording activities. The technology must be improved to perform proper genetic evaluation and then selection process
9. More research on sperm sexing is certainly welcome
10. One of the most important aspect of diminishing the economic efficiency of dairy cattle breeding is the low fertility of cows. More studies aimed at increasing the fertility level will be certainly appreciated
11. Proper, economic, efficient and simple technique of pig identification is suggested

12. The audience was also requiring to make more studies about metabolic and phisyologic problems
13. Very important is the utilization of the data collected of production and of pedigree collected from farms. More investigations are necessary to increase the efficiency of the schemes and methods of data collection. The importance is not only for genetic improvement, but also to properly collect information for herd management, especially for the large amount of large dairy cattle herds that are currently present and for those that will be, quite probably, established in the future
14. It is important to improve the feed utlization of animals by genetic selection. Mainly for pig and poultry feeding, it is a very important economic factor for animal farmers. It must also be considered to increase research to take in account the competition that some animal feed has with human utilization.
15. The horse industry should be more represented in the Strategic Research Agenda of the Technology Platform. In Russia horse industry has a very important role
16. More research is necessary for research on animal nutrition havign particular emphasys in the field of biology of rumen micro-organisms
17. The audience also express the need to improve the efficiency of beef cattle selection by investigating cheaper and easier recording methods for beef cattle production