Animal scientists are getting their news from different sources like the Internet, magazines, journals, friends and colleagues, etc. We in EAAP believe that there are many facets of news that makes it important, but we know that one, often over-looked facet, is that news makes people feel connected. We wish to facilitate the creation of a strong community of animal scientists all over Europe even with the small contribution of this Newsletter. And for this reason, we are always trying to improve the EAAP Newsletter.

EAAP hardly needs any introduction, we claim to be well-known in the animal science world and believe we are considered a source of interesting and informative news for animal scientists and livestock technicians. To complete the service, we are introducing a new section dedicated to EU news. We wish to inform you with the latest news about EU policy, about science and specifically to the science related to animal farming and the livestock industry. Through the EAAP Newsletter, readers will have the opportunity to be updated on all the latest news about H2020 calls, the next Framework Program, EU decisions about animal farming, etc. You will find this new section of the EAAP Newsletter starting from the current issue.
EAAP is looking for a motivated person to interact with industries

EAAP is constantly strengthening the cooperation with industries on several levels. Therefore, we are looking for motivated persons to broaden the staff dedicated to interacting with industries for:

1. Increasing the cooperation between industries and EAAP and animal scientists;
2. Supporting the inclusion of industries in EU supported projects;
3. Organizing Academy Workshops (organized jointly by EAAP and a dedicated industry);
4. Sponsoring activities and much more.

The endeavours are paid accordingly with the obtained results. If you are interested please send an email to eaap@eaap.org, more details will be given. If you are not directly interested but you know someone who could be, please show him/her this offer.

Lutz Bunger receives prestigious EAAP Leroy livestock science award

Lutz Bunger, Emeritus Professor at SRUC, has been awarded the European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP) prestigious Leroy Award 2017 for his outstanding contribution to livestock science. Lutz – who was Leader of Growth genetics, Animal and Veterinary Sciences at SRUC – received the award at the recent 68th EAAP annual meeting in Tallinn, Estonia.

The Leroy Award is made to candidates, who in the view of the Council and Scientific Committee of EAAP, have made an outstanding contribution to animal production over a sustained period on internationally recognised work.

Lutz was inaugurated by Erling Strandberg, President of the Genetics Commission of EAAP, who highlighted his long-term involvement, drive and enthusiasm in Phenomics and Genomics especially developing wide-scale use and uptake of Computer Tomography (CT) in industry in UK and across Europe for genetic pig and sheep improvement.

The award citation also focused on his personal commitment to develop networks helping to disseminate the sharing of this expertise (through the Farm Animal Imaging, FAIM, EU COST action of which Lutz was the chair) at an international level which has very much moved science forward and more importantly, ensured the findings are applied at an international industry level.

The most recent science utilising CT for sheep meat production Lutz has pioneered, includes new aspects of meat quality and spinal attributes for inclusion into UK sheep breeding programmes.

The citation said: “Whilst other scientists have contributed significantly to the development of this technology, Lutz’s involvement very much stands out over the last decade. Many young scientists have, and will continue to benefit and take up the responsibility of developing the use of this technology further in livestock breeding programmes. As evidence of this, Lutz has been main supervisor for many post- and under-graduate students and has always been very generous with his time for students and other colleagues.”

Lutz said: “To receive this prestigious award in front of about 800 people in the Nordea Concert Hall in Tallinn was a huge honour and made my legs kind of wobbly when I was asked to come on stage.

“This was certainly a highlight in my career in Animal Genetics and I thanked all the teams I had the pleasure to work with over the last 40 years. Without their help and the support from my family I certainly would have not been there.”

After receiving the award Lutz gave his award talk which was entitled: “How (some) technologies have influenced Phenomics and Animal Breeding across
species and across my life.”

Pictured: Lutz Bunger receiving the Leroy Award 2017 from the President of EAAP Matthias Gauly

Successful EAAP Insect Seminar Highlights, Tallinn, Estonia

Highlights from Teun Veldkamp, President of the Insect Study Commission of the EAAP

A one-day Insect seminar was held on 31st August 2017 during the EAAP (European Federation of Animal Science) Annual Meeting in Tallinn, Estonia. The seminar was organised by the Insect Study Commission for the first time during the EAAP Annual Meeting. The Insect Study Commission addresses all questions in the area of biomass as substrate for insect rearing, nutritional requirements of insects, insect production, ethical aspects, processing methods of insect products, feeding value of insects (products) in animal feed, functional properties of insect products in animal feed, market applications, regulatory issues, consumer acceptance, and environmental and socio-economic sustainability.

The formula to include insects as a new sector into the European Federation of Animal Science is successful. The one-day insect seminar existed of a morning session on safely, regulatory, environmental issues and consumer acceptance of insects and an afternoon session on insects in a circular economy. In total, 19 oral presentations and 6 poster presentations were included in the seminar and the oral presentations were attended by 125 enthusiastic delegates. Also the poster sessions were well attended. In between the morning and afternoon session a commission meeting was organised and in this meeting also the themes for next years’ EAAP meeting were set. The 69th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP) will be held in the Valamar Resort in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 27th to 31st August 2018. Save the dates in your agenda. A call for abstracts will be launched in January 2018 on four themes:

1. High quality insects for sustainable feed - diversity in biomass substrates affecting insect body composition

2. Cost effective insect production - Upscaling, automation, production methods

3. Effects of insect-containing feeds on animal health, welfare and performance

4. Feed safety and regulatory issues in insect production

The Insect Study Commission is looking forward to meeting you in Dubrovnik next year!

Public Bid for the selection of a company to publish EAAP Book of Abstracts

The European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP) organises the annual meeting of the European animal science network. The annual meeting (http://www.eaap.org/annual-meetings/) covers approximately 60 scientific sessions to which around 1000 abstracts are submitted. EAAP produces the Book of Abstracts, the Program Booklet and other publications, either in an electronic format or as hard copies (www.eaap.org). Previous years’ publications can be viewed as reference. More information can be seen or requested from EAAP office (eleonora@eaap.org). EAAP has cooperated with Wageningen Academic Publishers (WAP) for these services for many years. The contract with Wageningen (WAP) will expire at the end of 2018, but EAAP must renew that contract or sign a contract with a new partner before December 31st, 2017. For this reason, EAAP is seeking publishing companies that are interested to submit
bids for the years 2019-2021 (three years contract).

The deadline for submission is December 10th. The contract we are looking for will last three years with a possibility for review after 1 year.

For more details please see the announcement.

**EAAP Annual Meeting 2016 - Challenge session:**
“New legal landscape guiding access and benefit-sharing of animal genetic resources”

Elzbieta Martyniuk and the EAAP Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources

Elzbieta Martyniuk, SGGW/IZ-PIB
Alicja Kozłowska, European Commission
Michele Tixier-Boichard, INRA
Jan Venneman, EFFAB
Irene Hoffmann, Roswitha Baumung, FAO
Bert Vischer, Sipke Joost Hiemstra, CGN

During the EAAP meeting in Dublin, 2016, the EAAP Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources organized the session “New legal landscape guiding access and benefit sharing of animal genetic resources” (session no. 7). The new legal environment for animal breeding and research resulted from the adoption of access and benefit sharing (ABS) international treaty, the Nagoya Protocol, and implementing legislation at national levels.

The Nagoya Protocol, negotiated under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, came into force 12th October, 2014. The Protocol has one objective, the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. This instrument is to ensure that benefits arising from utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge are shared with provider countries. The Parties to this instrument have developed or are developing national legislation to implement Nagoya Protocol. The EU adopted the ABS Regulation No 511/2014 on compliance measures for users from the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the Union, which came fully into force 12th October 2015.

The aim of this challenge session was to discuss the impact of the Nagoya Protocol and the EU ABS legislation on the animal breeding and research sector. The session included a number of invited speakers, first two presenting the key elements both of the Nagoya Protocol and the EU ABS legislation. The following presentations analysed potential impacts on the ABS legal framework on the exchange of animal genetic resources in research projects, and on commercial genetic improvement programmes,
taking into account current needs, practices and operations of the livestock breeding industry.

The session also included the contribution of the FAO on activities of the Commission on Genetic Resources on Food and Agriculture that are supporting the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol within the agriculture sector. The final presentation, based on case studies, analyzed activities taking place within the animal breeding sector in the context of obligations arising from the EU ABS regulation. The round table discussion summed up the session addressing three key questions:

- What activities in the breeding sector can be considered as utilization as defined by the Nagoya Protocol?

- What is and potentially might be the impacts of the new law on the exchange of biological material for research purposes?

- What is, and potentially might be, the impacts of new laws on the trade of live animals and their reproductive material?

It was concluded that while the ABS legislation is relevant for the animal breeding and research sector, short term impacts are likely to be limited in the EU where use of exotic genetic resources in commercial breeding programmes is negligible. However, the demand for animal genetic resources from developing countries may change in future being driven by technology development and by climate change. The impact of the new legal landscape is already observed in research in the implementation of multi-partner international projects.

For more information read the full article.
papers were very well cited. Mogens was ‘forced’ out of the Commission on Physiology (due to the implementation of terms of duty that he very much agrees upon), but he still felt for the work and duties in a scientific commission, so he was elected for the Commission on Cattle (2015-2016), which he had to leave after being elected to Council. Mogens is also active in relation to the journals, EAAP is part of. Thus, he serves as Section Editor (2014-) for ANIMAL, and has been in the editorial team as Deputy Section Editor from the start of the journal (2006-2014). Furthermore, Mogens acts as editorial board contact member of EAAP for Animal Frontiers (2013-).

His international network is large both in Europe and North America, and he has been organizer/co-organizer of many scientific congresses/meetings/symposia (e.g., ‘International Congress on Farm Animal Endocrinology’, ‘Triennial Growth and Development Symposium’ (American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) and ‘INNOVATE’ (American Society of Nutrition and ASAS), and he has led several sessions and chairs of session at US and non-EAAP European scientific meetings. He strongly participates in keeping up the good relations, both scientifically and socially, with his good friends in the American fellow societies (ASAS, ADSA, and CSAS). His own research focuses on nutrition, health, endocrinology and growth physiology of cattle (newborn calves, weaned calves, prepubertal heifers, veal calves, young bulls, steers, and cows). This includes: rumen wall characteristics and liver abscesses; quantification of hormones in blood and tissues; muscle physiology; adipose tissue metabolism; tissue accretion rates; as well as slaughter-, carcass- and meat quality. He is currently working on a project entitled: ‘How to safely transit bull calves from milk feeding to high density diets by optimizing dry feed intake before weaning and vitamin E status during and after transition’.

Behind the active EAAP man, there is a private Mogens. He is married with Birgitte (for 15 years) and together they have raised their 3 + 3 kids since 2001. The youngest just turned 25 and the oldest is 32, and they all left the house years back. So, Birgitte and Mogens have hospitality, space, and room enough for guests and visitors and often international scientists have stayed in their house. The house is located 10 km west of Aarhus (east coast of Jutland) at the border between the suburbs and the countryside with direct access to the woods from the garden and so they can still hear the Angus cattle calling 200 m away.

Mogens enjoys being a granddad (so far 5 grandchildren: 3 in USA and 2 in Denmark), and in his spare time, he enjoys collecting and listening to vinyl records (both 12" and 7"), working as a self-made ‘carpenter’, and counting his 1:32 scale cows of which he has a large collection. Exercise is found in the ‘old men gymnastics club’ once a week and in running around the lake (9 km) close to the house.
FROM SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

CIHEAM-IAMZ Advanced Course “Greenhouse gas assessment and mitigation in agriculture: concepts, methods and simulations tools”

12nd - 16th March 2018, Zaragoza, Spain

Each academic year IAMZ organizes a number of Advanced courses in its life-long learning programme. These courses represent a significant part of IAMZ activity that covers an important training need in the Mediterranean region for updating professionals’ knowledge and capacities. Some courses are organised in partnership with prestigious international and national organizations.

The advanced course “Greenhouse gas assessment and mitigation in agriculture: concepts, methods and simulations tools” is jointly organized by the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), through the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ), the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), and the Red REMEDIA (Scientific network for greenhouse gas mitigation in the agroforestry sector).

This course will provide knowledge on the processes underlying GHG emissions and soil C sinks, measuring methodologies and modelling tools in cropping systems. Methods for national GHG inventories and mitigation options analysis, including socio-economic assessment, will be presented. Practical work based on real case studies in Mediterranean conditions will also be organized.

Details:

Location: Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza

Date: 12nd - 16th March 2018 (morning and afternoon sessions)

N. max participants: 25 professionals with a university degree
Registration Fees: 500 € (only tuition fees covered)

Candidates from CIHEAM member countries (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey) and from ICARDA MENA partners may apply for scholarships covering registration fees, and for scholarships covering the cost of travel and full board accommodation in the Hall of Residence on the Aula Dei Campus. Candidates from other countries who require financial support should apply directly to other national or international institutions.

The deadline for the submission of applications is 8 January 2018.

For further information and registration please see the attachment.

Global Future Farming Summit

12nd December 2017, Wageningen, The Netherlands

The Wageningen University & Research and Proagrica are organizing a Future Farming Summit to be held on Tuesday 12nd December 2017 at Wageningen Campus.

The urgency for agricultural production systems to change is at an all-time high, but for the first time in decades, current technological innovations may allow the systems to take a leap in their performance output. This Future Farming summit will inspire you with new ideas for business opportunities. You will be gathering with international thought leaders, business innovators, key buyers, investors and policy and decision makers in food and farming from all over the world.

This programme is designed for (senior) management in the AgriFood industry. This includes CEO’s, directors, managers and business developers. The summit will host a maximum of 200 persons. The programme is held in English and participants are expected to have full English proficiency.

For the detailed programme, rates and registration
Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems has now been launched!

On October 16, 2017, on World Food Day, Frontiers announced the launch of Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems which publishes rigorously peer-reviewed research to address one of the biggest challenges of our time: to sustainably achieve global food security.

Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems aims to overcome the traditional disciplinary silos by publishing key insights across the entire spectrum of the food system — from production to consumption. Led by an outstanding board of over 300 international experts, the journal’s vision is to work closely with various disciplines along the food supply chain and integrate its socio-economic and agroecosystems framework for sustainably providing safe, nutritious and accessible food to the growing global population.

In view of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems provides an Open Access platform to engage all stakeholders and address the key question: “How can our food systems be healthy and sustainable? Big thinking is required.” – Prof. Andrew Challinor

The first Specialty Sections launched as part of Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems are: Climate-Smart Food Systems, Water-Smart Food Production, Waste Management in Agroecosystems, Sustainable Food Processing and Agroecosystems, Sustainable Food Processing and Agroecosystems. Other sections in our pipeline will cover a range of topics that include Agro Development and Environment, Biodiversity, Land and Livelihoods, Food Access and Governance, Food Value Chains, Modelling Food Sustainability, Tech Innovations, Urban Agriculture, New Foods and Consumer Behavior.

We welcome you to join us in this new adventure and as Prof. Challinor puts it “Be a part of the conversation!”. Read more on the website.

32nd Annual Conference Hellenic Society of Animal Production (HSAP)

The Hellenic Society of Animal Production (HSAP) held its 32nd Annual Conference in the city of Larisa, in the region of Thessaly, Central Greece. More than 200 hundred participants and 70 final year students of Animal Science and Aquaculture Dept. of the Agricultural University of Greece attended the Conference.

The plenary session was dedicated to invited talks on highly significant topics, such as the application of amino acids for dairy cows in today’s context and the promising technologies and techniques for Precision Livestock Production. During the same
session the president of the Greek National Dairy Committee gave a talk highlighting the threats arising for the Greek FETA cheese, a PDO product of Greece of high economic importance, after the latest agreements between European Union and S Africa and Canada.

During the next two days there were specific sessions on Nutrition, Livestock Production Systems, Genetics, Physiology and Aquaculture.

Apart from the scientific program, a social program gave the opportunity to participants to get to know each other and share a nice time together. It involved a guided tour in the City Museum, whose exhibits range from the Neolithic to Byzantine times and an afternoon excursion to the village of ‘Ampelakia’, the place which gave birth to the first cooperative organization in the world back in the 18th century. The colourful threads made of cotton, and especially those in deep red colour, were amongst the reasons why Ampelakia village became famous all over Europe. All participants were left with a very positive impression of the conference waiting to attend next year’s conference.

The pursuit of a low-emissions cow

Researchers are on the hunt for a cow that produces less methane, one of the major contributors to climate change. If and when those green genes can be easily isolated, they could be spread throughout global cattle populations.

The livestock sector accounts for an estimated 14.5 percent of human-related greenhouse gas emissions globally, with about 44 percent of those emissions in the form of methane, according to the U.N.’s Food and Agriculture Organization. Methane is a byproduct of livestock digestion and manure emissions, among other sources. Cattle account for the majority of the sector’s contributions, adding to about 65 percent of emissions. Read the full article on Devex.

FROM EU (POLICIES AND PROJECTS)

New ERCCoG call is now open! €550 million available for some 280 grants.

Are you a scientist who wants to consolidate your independence by establishing a research team and continuing to develop a success career in Europe? The ERC Consolidator Grant could be for you. You can also apply if you have recently created an independent, excellent research team and want to strengthen it.
Researchers of any nationality with 7-12 years of experience since completion of PhD, a scientific track record showing great promise and an excellent research proposal. Applications can be made in any field of research. Consolidator Grants may be awarded up to €2 million for a period of 5 years. (pro rata for projects of shorter duration). However, an additional €0.75 million can be made available to cover eligible “start-up” costs for researchers moving from a third country to the EU or an associated country and/or the purchase of major equipment and/or access to large facilities. An ERC grant can cover up to 100% of the total eligible direct costs of the research plus a contribution of 25% of the total eligible costs towards indirect costs.

ERC grant applications can only be submitted in response to a Call for Proposals. Deadline: 15 Feb 2018.

For more information please visit the ERC website.

Work Programme H2020 2018-2020

1. H2020 investing €1 billion to support Europe’s Circular Economy and €2.7 billion in innovative start-ups & fostering market-creating innovations. Read more here.

2. €30 billion in H2020 funding including: Food, Agriculture, Blue Growth, Bioeconomy. Check out all CALLS here.

Commission approves new promotion programmes for EU agri-food sector

Fifty-two new programmes aimed at promoting EU agri-food products in Europe and across the world have been approved by the European Commission. Covering a wide range of foods from dairy products and olive oil to fruit and vegetables and meat products, these programmes are supported by grants from the EU’s common agricultural policy budget.

The programmes are designed to help producers in the EU agri-food sector communicate about the quality of their products, with a view to opening new markets and building on their existing market share. They focus on a number of priorities such as highlighting the quality of European food, on specific market sectors, or on specific countries and/or regions.

Out of the 52 approved programmes, 32 target non-EU countries, while 10 are focused specifically on the EU’s quality schemes, which include geographical indications such as protected designated origins (PDOs) or protected geographical indications (PGIs), as well as organic certification.
These so-called “simple” programmes were initially submitted by organisations working at individual member state level, responding to a call for proposals launched by the European Commission. They were then evaluated and ranked by the EU’s Consumers, health, agriculture and food executive agency (CHAFEA), with the help of external experts. A total of €88 million was granted by the EU to these programmes.

A further 10 so-called “multi” programmes are proposed by organisations working at the EU or multinational level, with the same goal of promoting EU agricultural products across a variety of different countries and/or regions. The approval of these programmes, for which a further €45 million is available, is expected later in the year.

For more information please the website.

Animal Welfare: European Commission organising event about rearing pigs with intact tails

28th – 30th November 2017, Ireland

The European Commission is organising a three day meeting from 28 to 30 November 2017, sharing valuable insights from top EU experts on how to rear pigs with intact tails and thus improve their welfare.

The meeting, which will take place at the Commission’s Health and Food audit and analysis Directorate in Ireland, will be available via web streaming.

The topics presented are especially of interest for industry stakeholders, authorities in EU Member States, researchers, and NGOs interested in the welfare of pigs, as they focus on the practicalities of rearing pigs with intact tails and how to assess and manage the risk factors relating to tail-biting.

The group of expert speakers include pig farmers and industry representative organisations, EU Member State competent authorities, research bodies, NGOs and EU institutions. Case studies will facilitate the exchange of good practice and discussions will focus on better solutions for the future. The work of the EU GroupHouseNet research project will also be presented at this meeting.

For more information please visit the website.

GenTORE: Call for Stakeholders!

GenTORE is a new H2020 project that will develop innovative genome-enabled selection and management tools to optimize the balance
between cattle resilience and efficiency in a range of different and changing environments. Read more about how you can get involved here.

**ISAGE project: “Innovation for Sustainable Sheep and Goat production in Europe”**

The ISAGE project, which started in March 2016, is funded under EU H2020 and will last for 4 years.

**Aims**

The ISAGE project aims to develop new socio-economic, animal welfare and sustainability assessments for the whole supply chain. These assessments will be used to

- understand the potential future barriers that may limit the innovative capacity and development of the sector
- define future opportunities that may provide a niche market to compete with other type of animal products.

**The partners**

ISAGE is coordinated by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. It has a strong and multi-lateral consortium consisting of 34 partners from 6 EU countries and Turkey. Eighteen industry partners represent approximately 16,000 sheep and goat farmers with approximately 5.5 million sheep and goats.

**The Programme**

The work is divided into 6 activities

*Holistic sustainability assessment* assesses the sustainability of different types of sheep and goat farming systems in seven European countries.

*Socio-economic, demographic and consumer trends* identifies geographic, demographic and other socio-economic variables and understand their impact of on farmers and the whole supply chain including consumers.
Climate change assessment evaluates the impact of climate change specifically on the sheep and goat farming sector both on the pasture and animal level in various European countries.

Holistic production systems identifies innovations that can be used to re-design sheep and goat production systems in Europe in order to address sustainably current and future challenges.

Innovative system solutions develops innovative genetic resource management and breeding solutions for sheep and goat populations that will help the relevant European industry sectors to cope with and thrive in the face of future challenges.

Multi-actor internal and external communication, which is led by EAAP, ensures that iSAGE’s work is relevant to the needs of the industry and that the project’s outputs are disseminated so it is easily implemented and exploited by the industry. A multi-actor approach with research and industry working in partnership is used to prioritise research and disseminate and exploit project outputs to meet industry needs.

EAAP activities

EAAP, through Prof. Cledwyn Thomas and Andrea Pompozzi, leads this area of communication. EAAP has organised a series of workshops between research and the industry stakeholder partners to decide the dissemination plan, data organisation and the selection of innovations to investigated on case study farms. To create links with other projects, iSAGE has joined with SheepNet, an EU network on sheep productivity and will agree on potential joint activities.

A project website was created (60,000+ hits in 2017), a start-up brochure and a poster were produced together with a project newsletter.

iSAGE has supported sessions at the 12th International Conference on Goats held in Antalya, Turkey, in September 2016 and a joint session was held with Sheepnet at the EAAP Annual Meeting in Tallinn on 29th August 2017 on “Networking to Improve Efficiency in Sheep and Goats”. iSAGE recently supported a meeting of the FAO-CIHEAM Network on Sheep and Goats, Vitoria-Gasteiz 3rd -5th October 2017. For information see: http://networks.iamz.ciheam.org/sgvitoria2017/en/

Expected Outcomes

iSAGE will provide solutions to re-design sheep and goat systems that will result in

- Increased efficiency and profitability of animal agriculture.
- Improved overall sustainability and innovative capacity of the sector.
- Enhanced consumer acceptance
- Increased societal acceptance.
- New efficiency traits to be incorporated into breeding schemes enabling selection of animals more adapted to environmental changes.
- Increased level of animal welfare.
- Improved social well-being and rural development.

You can see the up-to-date outputs from the project on the website.

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 679302.
Launch of the European Research Project AGRICYGEN

On 13th - 15th September 2017, the successful first consortium meeting of the European Project AGRICYGEN (Cypriot AGRIcultural Genomics CENtre) took place at the Agricultural Research Institute, Lefkosia, Cyprus.

The project is funded under the Teaming (Phase 1) call of the Horizon 2020 framework programme. The project is coordinated by Dr. Georgia Hadjipavlou, an EAAP Council Member and researcher at the Agricultural Research Institute, a department of the Cyprus Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment. AGRICYGEN encompasses a pioneering research collaboration between the Agricultural Research Institute, the Cyprus Institute, the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, the Cyprus-based Development Organisation, RTD TALOS LTD, alongside leading research institutions in Europe. Specifically, the Consortium’s Advanced Partners are all experts in various fields in Agrigenomics: the University of Edinburgh (UK), the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) (France), and the Institute for Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) (Germany). The advances partners will provide the necessary background and know-how to establish the Centre of Excellence in Cyprus.

The AGRICYGEN project aims to establish a Centre of Excellence in Cyprus in Animal and Plant Production, which will take advantage of cutting-edge technologies and expertise in order to facilitate:

a) Increased milk production from local sheep and goat breeds

b) Increased production of local ruminant feed

c) The ecological enrichment of Cyprus soils

The project outcomes will have direct impact on the Cyprus economy and society, and will

Final meeting for Methagene EU COST Action

There was recently an important three days meeting in Caserta (Italy) about how to reduce methane emission by genetic improvement of domestic animals. The meeting was organized within the EU supported COST Action Methagene. The COST Action deals in fact with large-scale methane measurements on individual ruminants for genetic evaluations.

Animal scientists know that methane is a greenhouse gas (GHG) contributing to climate change. The livestock sector, particularly ruminants, is estimated to contribute up to 18% of total global anthropogenic GHG emissions. It is known, by preliminary data, that it is possible to reduce methane by genetic selection. However, successful breeding programs require large datasets of individual animals. The plan is finally to combine smaller datasets of methane measurements, generated by individual countries across the EU, in one large data set. Problems arise about how best to harmonise the data. Discussing harmonisation and protocols for future collection of such data has been the focus of the Methagene network. Methagene discussed on protocols to harmonise large-scale methane measurements using different techniques and how to record, inexpensively, methane emissions to be used for genetic evaluations. Finally the goal is also about how to incorporate methane emissions into national breeding strategies. To have more info about the Methagene COST Action activities and mainly about the last meeting of this COST Action held in Caserta on October 11th – 13th, please visit the website.
Commission Work Programme 2018: An agenda for a more united, stronger and more democratic Europe

Following on from the announcements made in President Juncker’s 2017 State of the Union Address, the European Commission is today presenting its plans for completing the work on President Juncker’s ten political priorities before the end of its mandate, as well as a series of forward-looking initiatives for the future of Europe.

President Jean-Claude Juncker said: “Europe is regaining its strength, and we must take advantage of this renewed momentum. We have already put on the table 80% of the proposals we promised when this Commission took office. The priority must now be on turning proposals into law, and law into practice. The sooner the European Parliament and the Council complete their work, the sooner we will see the benefits of our joint efforts.”

First Vice-President Frans Timmermans said: “The Commission Work Programme adopted today will ensure that Europe’s focus remains firmly on the things where European action has most added value. The European Union will be judged not on the number of directives and regulations we adopt, but on the tangible results our policies deliver to our citizens and businesses.”

The focus of the 26 new initiatives in this year’s Work Programme is two-fold. Read the full article on EC Press release.

MEPs demand glyphosate phase-out, with full ban by end 2022

Parliament opposes the European Commission’s proposal to renew the controversial herbicide licence for 10 years. Instead, MEPs say the EU should draw up plans to phase out the substance, starting with a complete ban on household use and a ban in use for farming when biological alternatives (i.e. “integrated pest management systems”) work well for weed control.

Glyphosate should be completely banned in the EU by 15 December 2022, with the necessary intermediate steps, MEPs say. Read the news here.

The AGRICYGEN project receives funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 763700

Contact Information
Institution: Agricultural Research Institute
Contact: Dr. Georgia Hadjipavlou
Email: georgia.hadjipavlou@ari.gov.cy
Telephone: +357 22403122

The AGRICYGEN project significantly contributes to sustainable development of agriculture and animal production on the island. The initial focus of the project will be on employing research approaches for fulfilling the halloumi cheese PDO requirements in small ruminant milk and feed production, within the harsh and fluctuating environmental and climatic conditions of Cyprus. AGRICYGEN will also aim at further advancing research and innovation activities in various domains connected with the primary production sector.

AGRICYGEN ranked fifth out of 208 submitted proposals from 13 countries. Overall, 30 projects received funding under the current Teaming Phase 1 call. During Phase 1, the European Commission will grant 400,000 euros for a period of 12 months, so that the project consortium can demonstrate the potential of the future Centre of Excellence by developing a thorough Business Plan, through an effective collaboration and the sharing of expertise. During Phase 2, the successful proposals will receive up to 1.5 million euros from the European Commission, and a matching fund from the respective national government, for a period of 5-7 years, in order to launch the Centre of Excellence.

Contact Information
Institution: Agricultural Research Institute
Contact: Dr. Georgia Hadjipavlou
Email: georgia.hadjipavlou@ari.gov.cy
Telephone: +357 22403122

The AGRICYGEN project receives funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 763700

Commission Work Programme 2018: An agenda for a more united, stronger and more democratic Europe

Following on from the announcements made in President Juncker’s 2017 State of the Union Address, the European Commission is today presenting its plans for completing the work on President Juncker’s ten political priorities before the end of its mandate, as well as a series of forward-looking initiatives for the future of Europe.

President Jean-Claude Juncker said: “Europe is regaining its strength, and we must take advantage of this renewed momentum. We have already put on the table 80% of the proposals we promised when this Commission took office. The priority must now be on turning proposals into law, and law into practice. The sooner the European Parliament and the Council complete their work, the sooner we will see the benefits of our joint efforts.”

First Vice-President Frans Timmermans said: “The Commission Work Programme adopted today will ensure that Europe’s focus remains firmly on the things where European action has most added value. The European Union will be judged not on the number of directives and regulations we adopt, but on the tangible results our policies deliver to our citizens and businesses.”

The focus of the 26 new initiatives in this year’s Work Programme is two-fold. Read the full article on EC Press release.

MEPs demand glyphosate phase-out, with full ban by end 2022

Parliament opposes the European Commission’s proposal to renew the controversial herbicide licence for 10 years. Instead, MEPs say the EU should draw up plans to phase out the substance, starting with a complete ban on household use and a ban in use for farming when biological alternatives (i.e. “integrated pest management systems”) work well for weed control.

Glyphosate should be completely banned in the EU by 15 December 2022, with the necessary intermediate steps, MEPs say. Read the news here.

The AGRICYGEN project receives funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 763700

Contact Information
Institution: Agricultural Research Institute
Contact: Dr. Georgia Hadjipavlou
Email: georgia.hadjipavlou@ari.gov.cy
Telephone: +357 22403122

The AGRICYGEN project receives funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 763700
With GMO Struggle In Mind, Food Industry Vying For Public Trust With CRISPR Discussion

There’s a genetic technology that scientists are eager to apply to food, touting its possibilities for things like mushrooms that don’t brown and pigs that are resistant to deadly diseases. And food industry groups, still reeling from widespread protests against genetically engineered corn and soybeans (aka GMOs) that have made it difficult to get genetically engineered food to grocery store shelves, are looking to influence public opinion. The technology is called Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, or CRISPR. It’s a technique that Alison Van Eenennaam, an animal genetics professor at University of California, Davis, says can de-activate a gene. Read the full article on Kcur.

Interview: Dairy Global asked to Kevin Bellamy, Head of the Diary Department at Rabobank, what the future holds for the dairy market.

Volatility remains a risk, but the long-term perspectives for dairy are positive, according to Kevin Bellamy from Rabobank.
In the next 5 years, the dairy market remains positive, but not positive in terms of: produce whatever you can and go back to sleep. Dairy farmers should, just like dairy industry experts like himself, take into account a higher volatility than before. So says Kevin Bellamy, former chief dairy analyst and now head of the dairy department at Rabobank in the Netherlands. Dairy Global asked him what the future holds for the dairy market. Read the complete interview on Dairy Global.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**BIOECONOMY INNOVATION. CommBeBiz Magazine 2017-2018**

**FOOD 2030 - Transforming our food systems through Science.** (free download);

*Edward Eldar Publishing*

*Heat, Greed and Human Need: Climate Change, Capitalism and Sustainable Wellbeing,* (available for purchase);

**JOB OFFERS**

*Junior expert precision farming and drone applications, at ILVO, Merelbeke (Belgium)*

ILVO is looking for a Junior expert precision farming and drone application.

Main tasks:

- To assist in planning, organizing and performing drone flights
- To process and analyze data from different types of sensors (RGB, multi- and hyperspectral camera, thermal camera)
- To translate the data to specific location and specific actions in the field
- To support researchers in projects for precision agriculture
- To publish or report on progress and results

Requirements:

- To have a bachelor or master's degree in a relevant direction
- To have experience in data and image acquisition and processing and scientific reporting
- To be enthusiastic and dynamic
- To be able to work both in team and independently
- To be motivated and instructive
- To pay attention to order, cleanliness and safety
- To be fascinated by technology and innovation

If you are interested please send your cv with a motivation letter to jurgen.vangeyte@ilvo.vlaanderen.be or elsy.deschamphelaere@ilvo.vlaanderen.be.

For more information please contact jurgen.vangeyte@ilvo.vlaanderen.be or visit the vacancy announcement.
SUISAG, a pig breeding company in Switzerland is looking for a young quantitative geneticist. For further information please contact Dr. Andreas Hoher (aho@suisag.ch) or read the job announcement (available only in German).

**CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS**

- **November 15th - 16th, 2017, in London, UK**
  
  **Future of Biogas Europe 2017 Summit**

  The “Future of Biogas Europe 2017 Summit”, organized by Active Communications International, will bring together senior executives and experts from the full value chain to provide a forum for all parties active in the field of anaerobic degradation of organic matter and renewable energy production in the form of biogas. Power producers, technology providers, agricultural sector, food and beverage industry, waste industry and leading technology and solution providers are all impacted by the development of biogas. The conference will provide a forum to discuss the latest challenges and developments making an impact on the industry. For further information and tickets, please visit the conference website.

- **November 16th – 17th, 2017 in Liège, Belgium**

  **Conference: Insects in feed or food?**

  The meeting will be held at the University of Liège, and will address questions such as:
  
  - Should we eat insects or feed our animals?
  - Could insects be useful in (veterinary) medicine?

  **XXVI Conference International Plant & Animal Genome**

  The Plant and Animal Genome XXVI Conference (PAG) will be held in San Diego, CA, USA in January 13-17, 2018. It is designed to provide a forum on recent developments and future plans for plant and animal genome projects. Consisting of technical presentations, poster sessions, exhibits and workshops, the conference is an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and applications on this internationally important project. An International Goat Genome Consortium workshop will take place at PAG in San Diego on Monday, January 15 2018. The main topics to be targeted at the workshop include genetic diversity, genetic diseases, comparative genomics, genome assembly, and functional genomics. If you plan on attending PAG this year and you expect to have results that could be presented during this workshop, please send your abstract (250 words maximum), with a title, list of authors and a corresponding author e-mail to Gwenola Tosser-Klopp (gwenola.tosser@inra.fr) before October the 10th. Final decision on the list of speakers will be made on October the 17th during an IGGC phone Conference. For more information please visit the conference website.
May 15th – 20th, 2018, in Wuhan, China

2nd International Conference “Insects to Feed the World” (IFW 2018)

The 2nd International Conference “Insects to Feed the World” aims to address all aspects related to insects as food and feed and will bring together research scientists, government officials and private sector representatives from the food and feed sector from both developing and developed countries. The overall objective of the conference is to further explore the potential of edible insects for food and feed security.

For more information, please get in contact with Dr. Longyu Zheng (Huazhong Agricultural University, China. Email: ly.zheng@mail.hzau.edu.cn), Dr. Arnold van Huis (Wageningen University, the Netherlands. Email: arnold.vanhuis@wur.nl), and Dr. Jeffery K. Tomberlin (Texas A&M University, USA. Email: jktomberlin@tamu.edu).

June 24th-27th, 2018, in Knoxville, TN, USA

ADSA Annual Conference and Tradeshow

Mark your calendars now for the 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA), the most comprehensive dairy science meeting...
in the world. As a global forum for professionals, educators, and students, the meeting will attract more than 1,500 dairy foods and production specialists with common but diverse interests in the future of dairy science. For further information and registrations, please visit ADSA website.

**August 27th - 31st, 2018 in Dubrovnik, Croatia**

**69th EAAP Annual Meeting (EAAP 2018)**

The Organising and the Scientific Committees are delighted to announce that Croatia has been chosen as the venue for the 69th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science. The meeting will take place from 27th to 31st August 2018 in Dubrovnik, one of the most prominent tourist destinations in the Mediterranean. The venue for the meeting will be the Valamar Resort. EAAP 2018 builds on the success of previous EAAP meetings, and it will provide an excellent opportunity for scientists working with a wide range of animal species and in related disciplines to meet and discuss the latest developments in animal sciences. For registration and other information about the European animal science annual meeting, please visit [EAAP 2018 website](#).

**September 5th-7th, 2018, in Utrecht, The Netherlands**

**6th European Veterinary Immunology Workshop**

The European Veterinary Immunology Group (EVIG) and the local organizing committee are organising the 6th EVIW, EVIW2018 in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Plenary and concurrent session topics will include: 1. Innate immunity; 2. Adaptive immunity; 3. Infection and immunity; 4. Vaccination; 5. Clinical immunology; 6. Allergy; 7. Mucosal immunology; 8. The microbiome in relation to immune responses. Further information on registration, abstract submission and deadlines will be available soon at [https://www.eviw2018.com/](https://www.eviw2018.com/)

---

**October 25th – 27th, 2018, in Osijek, Croatia**

**International Scientific-Expert Conference on the Preservation of Animal Genetic Resources**

The conference is organized by the Croatian Agricultural Agency, the University of Zagreb, the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek and the University of Zadar. It provides the possibility for verbal presentation, presentation via posters and the presentation of your institution/company or as a participant. For further information, please read the [first notification of the conference](#) and visit the [conference website](#).

**September 3rd– 6th, 2019 in Leipzig, Germany**

**International Symposium on Ruminant Physiology**

The Symposium about Ruminant Physiology will be held in Germany in 2019 at the Kongresshalle am Zoo of Leipzig. The Symposium is the major international conference on ruminant physiology. It provides an overview of current, important scientific findings and areas of research in the physiology of ruminants of all kinds. For more information, please visit the [symposium website](#).
“Laughter is a sunbeam of the soul.”

(Thomas Mann)