



Minute of the first meeting of the “Ad hoc action” on “ Network on Merino and Merino derived breed in Europe”

8th of July 2010 on zoom platform starting at 11.00 a.m CET

Fabio Pilla, University of Molise – Italy and coordinator of the action, start presenting the participants:

Vincenzo Landi, University of Bari – Italy;

Elena Ciani, University of Bari – Italy;

Juan Vicente Delgado, University of Cordoba – Spain acting also as representative of EAGROUP cooperative in Spain

Nuno Carolino, Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária – Portugal

Coralie Danchin, Institut de l’Elevage (IDELE) and secretariat of ERFP - France

Sebastian Winkel, Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (BLE) – Germany

Andres Domingo, Junta de Extremadura – Spain

Claire Jouannaux, Maison Régionale de l’Elevage – France

Grazyna Polak National Research Institute of Animal Production Krakowska – Poland

Antonio Granero – Merino National Breeder Association – Spain

Fabio Pilla start with a short presentation about the goals and the activity planned (see attached documents) He also remarks that the planned activities can be modified according to the Covid situation and to the suggestions of participants.

Coralie Danchin remarks that the network start and act within the FAO umbrella

All participants_: all the participants give a brief presentation of their current occupation and the interest in participating in the network.

Juan Vicente Delgado start talking about the opportunity to include in the final meeting and in the future activities, commercial reality like producers cooperative or similar organisms.

Sebastian Winkel going forward the previous advice say that also for this reason it is important in his opinion make a consolidate work plan also taking in count that COVID19 have complicated the physical presence for many people at the meeting in Bon. This point should be considerate: 1) list of speakers; 2) possibility to open to a wide type of stakeholder

Coralie Danchin suggest fixing another video meeting to fix the agenda and make a list of participants (university, research centers, stakeholder etc.)



Elena suggest ENEA from Italy

Antonio Granero point out the need to differentiate the definition of pure merino and derived merino clearly. He continues suggesting that for example a future study on molecular variation should included exclusively animals proceeding from the 130.000 inscribed in the official Merino studbook in Spain.

Juan Vicente Delgado remark that he do not agree with the previous affirmation of Antonio Granero. He reported that out of the official studbook of Merino breed in Spain exist more than 2 million of head and that most of them can be genetically considerate Merino and this affirmation can be supported by several studies performed in his lab that can be further discussed with anybody is interested. Besides, he says that also in the studbook can exist several animals that can be genetically “contaminated”, for these reason a more inclusive sampling is needed.

Antonio Granero do not agree with the above affirmation and reiterate the need to clearly differentiate, without any doubt, the Merino breed from the rest of derived breeds. .Only animals that are registered in the different Official Genealogical Books of the Merino Breed of the different countries can be called Merino. For the Asociación Nacional de Criadores de Ganado Merino this point is not negotiable

Sebastian Winkel take the floor saying that in his opinion the term and the type of breed recognized as Merino and Merino derived is well established in Europe but that anyway a mail interchange about these issue can be the best option due the current meeting is not the right place for these discussion because it will take a lot of time

Fabio Pilla agreed with Sebastian Winkel, in Italy for example three Merino derived breed are reared and each of them has its specific name and is a well-recognized racial entity. He continues saying that the an important purpose of the network is to set up a strategy for the wool valorization

Elena Ciani add that we should focus on the value chain around the merino (and derived) breed in Europe

Sebastian Winkel talk about the need to talk about and found the correct strategy to improve the wool market in Europe and to discuss about a strategy to diversify the European from to the extra European wool



Fabio Pilla add that anyway is a discussion on the strategy for the exploitation of merino wool that can be discuss better in the future meeting. Then he ask all the participant to add more comment if needed

Juan Vicente Delgado adds a comment on the need for clarification on the previous issue. He needs to know if animals not the herd book in Spain can be included in the project otherwise, he would not be able to participate

Coralie Danchin say that the discussion is going out the main objective of the group that should be focused on stakeholder and on the value chain. Furthermore she suggest to include all the merino type animals since the breed's definition varies greatly between countries and even within a country. Since the action is about genetic resources it is important to have a wide definition . The question about the sampling strategy for a future study should be treated in parallel.

Fabio Pilla point out that since the ERFP is dealing with genetic resources the important thing is to considerate the genetic point of view. It is possible to have animals not recorded in the herd book having all the genetic features of the breed. A genetic study can be useful to clarify the genetic relationship among animals recorded in the herd book and the ones that there are not.