



**Report of the Ad Hoc workshop on Small Ruminant Semen Cryopreservation,
Uppsala, Sweden, June 2025**

1. Objectives (Summary)

Many people who are trying to cryopreserve semen from small ruminants are working in isolation. The objective of this workshop was to bring together people with practical experience of the subject to exchange techniques and ideas. In addition, we wanted to build a network of researchers with similar interests.

2. Attendees (country representatives and members)

From ERFP

Nikica Prvanovic Babic
Rosa Linoneto
Catalina Cabrera (digitally)
Federica Turri
Alice Fatet
Robert Potyka
Jaana Pieppo
Ragnhilde Bleken Rud
Carolina Tamargo
Heiko Henning
Jenny Lejonberg
Jane Morrell

Observers

Pedro Barbas
Filipp Savvulidi
Szabi Nagy

3. The program for the meeting is attached (Appendix 1).

Further discussions arising from the presentations included the following:

Fertility models: do they work?

Other means of predicting fertility e.g. heterologous zona binding,
sperm binding to perivitelline membrane

Sanitary aspects

Overnight equilibration of semen is not detrimental

Latex collection tube for ram semen?

Oxaloacetic acid and catalase in extender - needed? Potentially harmful?

Harmonisation of protocols would be helpful

Different media used

What to dilute samples in for CASA

Different CASA instruments give different values; OK but must specify what instrument you use when stating post-thaw motilities.

Phantom for rams works quite well, especially for some rams that do not like people in their proximity.

4. The main result was a good exchange of information between the participants on various topics. In particular, participants could exchange practical tips and discuss problems that they had encountered. Everybody agreed that this was a good forum for information exchange. It is intended to prepare a manuscript for publication in *Genetic Resources* so that other people can also benefit from the expertise presented.
5. Plan
The participants expressed a wish to have more workshops. They expressed a preference for a "in person" workshop rather than digitally, but they all agreed that some form of communication is better than none at all. It would be desirable to have a contact list of experts available e.g. via the ERFP website, for further consultation.
6. I do not have details of the budget since it was managed by ERFP themselves



European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources

Regional platform for the support of management, conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources,

together with The Research School, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, offers:

Ad hoc workshop on small ruminant semen cryopreservation

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

10th June

9.00 Welcome and participant presentation

9:45 Coffee break

10.00 presentation: **Filipp Savvullidi (ex ERFP)** Reproductive Biotechnologies in Indigenous Sheep: the Czech Experience

10.45 presentation **Alice Fatet** Practical aspects of buck and ram semen cryopreservation in France (photoperiodic treatment, training for AV collection, semen processing

11.15-12.00 Discussion in small groups

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00 presentation **Nikica Babic** Croatian experience of autochthonous sheep breeds

13.30 presentation **Linde Rombaut, Filipa Ferreira, João Pedro Barbas and Rosa Lino Neto Pereira** Cryopreservation of semen and embryos of Portuguese sheep breeds

14.00 presentation **Catalina Cabrera**: Cyprus experience

14.30 – 14.45 Coffee break

14.45-15.45 Group work

15.45 Summary of group discussion

11th June

9.00-9.30 presentation **Jaana Peippo** Cryoconservation of genetic resources of the native sheep and goat breeds in Finland

9.30-10.00 presentation **Carolina Tamargo** Creation of a regional bank of Northern Spain breeds, *Bermeya* goat and *Xalda* sheep: practical aspects

10.00-10.15 coffee break

10.30-11.00 presentation **Frederica Turri** Field-based semen collection and cryopreservation in small ruminants : protocols and practices of the Cryobank of Animal Germplasm - National Research Council of Italy"

11.00-11.30 presentation **Szaby Nagy (ex ERFP)**

experiences with reindeer semen collection

11.30-12.00 group discussion

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00 .13.30 presentation **Heikko Henning, Patrick Aldag** Optimising freezing for gamete banking

13.30-14.00 presentation **Linde Rombaut** Impact of Egg Yolk- and Commercial Liposome-Based Extenders on Fresh and Frozen-Thawed Ram Sperm

14.00-14.15 coffee break

14.15-14.45 presentation **Jane Morrell** Swedish experience with ram and buck semen

14:45 .15:15 group discussion

15.15-15.45 summary of group work

15.45.-16.00 closing remarks.