Co-ordinated Research Project on “Integrated Approach for Improving Small Scale Market Oriented Dairy Systems”
(D3.10.23)

REPORT ON
FIRST RESEARCH CO-ORDINATION MEETING

8-12 April 2002
Vienna International Centre
Austria
1. Introduction

The Co-ordinated Research Project (CRP) on “Integrated Approach for Improving Small Scale Market Oriented Dairy Systems” (D3.10.23) was initiated in October 2001, with the award of ten Research Contracts (RCs), four Research Agreements (RAs) and one Technical Contract (TC).

2. Research Co-ordination Meeting

The first RCM was held at IAEA, Vienna from 8 to 12 April 2002. It was attended by all 15 awardees and two IAEA staff members (Dr. Oswin Perera, Project Officer, and Dr. Harinder Makkar, Technical Officer).

The specific objectives of the meeting were to:

- Present, discuss and finalize the detailed work plans of each participant, including the protocols for field and laboratory studies;
- Provide guidelines and instructions on procedures for conducting a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and on the use of a computer spreadsheet for an Economic Opportunity Survey (EOS);
- Discuss future plans for a Diagnostic and Surveillance Study (DSS); and
- Demonstrate a test version of the computer database Livestock Information Management Application (LIMA).

The meeting was formally opened by Dr Martyn Jeggo, Head of the Animal Production and Health Section, who outlined the Sub-programme’s mandate, previous activities and the future plans which constitute a major shift towards gene-based technologies. He pointed out that this new CRP is a culmination of over 20 years of support to animal production and health projects based on immunoassay and related technologies. Dr Oswin Perera, the Scientific Secretary of the meeting, outlined the background to the CRP, its objectives and planned activities, and the expected outputs from the RCM.

Each participant made a presentation of 30 minutes, followed by a discussion period of 15 minutes. For RC holders the presentation was structured as follows:

- **Introduction**: a description of the farming system, previous studies on production levels and constraints, why this system was selected and rationale for present study.
- **Methods**: what has been done so far and what will be done during the next two years (including methodology for the PRA, sampling frame, EOS, DSS, analysis of results, etc.).
- **Available resources**: study team, collaborators and partners, local contributions, other donors, and requirements from IAEA.
- **Long-term goals**: expected outcome, economic impact and strategy for dissemination and wider application of findings.

In the case of RA holders and the TC holder the presentations were based on the specific expertise for which they were recruited to the project, and were aimed at providing RC holders the necessary information and guidelines for activities planned during the first two years of the project. This was followed by further presentations and discussions to
provide instructions on the PRA and EOS, and a computer workshop during which demonstrations were done on the EOS worksheet developed under Microsoft Excel and a beta version of the LIMA database developed under Microsoft Access. The hands-on practice by RC holders which had been planned had to be curtailed due to the limitations posed by the restricted version of Microsoft Windows 2000 installed on the computers in the training room.

Each RC holder worked with the RA and TC holders to further develop and refine their individual work plans, including the protocols for the two field surveys (PRA and EOS). In order to foster close interaction and continued assistance on technical and scientific matters in the future, each RA and TC holder was assigned two RC holders.

The project work plan and schedule of activities as envisaged in the project document were reviewed and updated in accordance with individual work plans and related practical considerations. Finally, conclusions and recommendations were drafted, presented and adopted.

The programme of the meeting is given in Annex 1 and the list of participants in Annex 2.

3. Conclusions:

3.1. The participants endorsed the objectives of the CRP on an “Integrated Approach for Improving Small Scale Market Oriented Dairy Systems” and agreed that the activities and expected outputs described in the project document were satisfactory. The schedule of activities was fine tuned for the needs of individual countries.

3.2. The RCM reviewed the preparatory activities conducted by each participant as outlined in the proposal and confirmed that suitable Contract and Agreement Holders have been selected.

3.3. The RCM was able to achieve the development of work plans in accordance with each country’s requirements and the minimum resources and research capacity available. However, some teams still need to incorporate specialists in socio-economics.

3.4. The inter-regional composition of the RCM enabled participants to appreciate the diversity and importance of dairy farming systems in the different parts of the world, and to establish contacts that will be valuable for the future CRP activities.

4. Recommendations:

4.1. The CRP must be conducted for a full five year period to achieve its objectives.

4.2. All teams need to identify research projects which will address specific issues of importance to the CRP for potential funding by other donors.

4.3. The first phase (PRA, EOS and DSS) should be completed by December 2003.

4.4. The Contract Holders and Agreement Holders should maintain regular contact with the IAEA Project Officer and with each other during the implementation of the project.

4.5. The second RCM should be held in the last week of July 2003. Paraguay and USA are alternative sites. By this time the PRA and initial EOS will have been completed and the DSS initiated. The use of LIMA and partial budget analyses will be included in the RCM.
4.7. The third RCM will be held in 2005.
4.8. The final RCM will be held in 2006. The final results of the CRP will be presented and prepared for publication at this RCM.