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Summary

The first RCM was held from 12 to 16 September 2005 and a Training Workshop from 26 September to 7 October 2005 at the Institute of Animal Science and Nutrition, ETH-Zentrum Zürich. The purpose of the Research Coordination Meeting was to review the work done and plan the future work.

This CRP was initiated with nine Research Contract Holders (RCHs), however for the present meeting eight RCHs were invited. One RCH from Turkey was not invited due to unsatisfactory performance. The meeting was also attended by four Research Agreement Holders and one Consultant.

Main achievements for the period May 2004–September 2005

- All RCHs demonstrated proficiency in DNA extraction from rumen samples, purification of extracted DNA and efficient PCR amplification of DNA. Quantitative RT-PCR data from *in-vitro* experiments were produced by all RCHs except the one from Thailand, due to limitations on access to RT-PCR machine;
- All RCHs demonstrated a capacity to measure methane from *in-vitro* fermentations; and
- A reliable robust screening method for anti-methanogenic activity was set in the laboratories of the participating groups, and each RCH has identified 2–3 plants or natural inhibitors for *in vivo* evaluation

During the meeting, detailed work plans for the individual RCHs for the next phase till November 2006 have been developed. The project is making good progress and is moving forward towards the evaluation *in vivo* of novel approaches to decrease methane production, support for the project must continue.

The participants of the meeting also presented papers at the International Conference on ‘Greenhouse gases and animal agriculture’ held at ETH following the RCM.