



SEFABAR newsletter

31 October 2002

Year 2 Issue 5



Welcome to the fifth SEFABAR newsletter of 2002!

The second year of SEFABAR is approaching the end very fast, but we still have two major “happenings” coming on. The next SEFABAR workshop will take place in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in 21 and 22 November 2002, and you can read more about the workshop and its programme in this newsletter. We also are now beginning to reach the stage when the network will have to start preparing the second annual report both to EC and to the general public.

The SEFABAR network is currently busy at work in the above two exercises, and you can get a brief glimpse in the latest news in this newsletter. Meanwhile, we would like also to remind you that there are others working on sustainability issues of farm animal production as well; you can find some recent examples in the “[Outside the network](#)” section of this newsletter. More is to come in following newsletters – if you know of any good examples please let me know.

The next SEFABAR newsletter will come out in [20 December 2002](#), and the deadline for submitting material there will be in [13 December 2002](#). Also, if you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see in the next SEFABAR newsletters, please feel free to drop me a note (you can find the contact details in the end of this newsletter).

Best regards,
Anna-Elisa



Short news from the network

■ The species working groups – Ruminants, Pigs, Poultry and Aquaculture – are currently working on [developing sustainable future breeding scenarios for each species](#). These scenarios will be included in the SEFABAR second annual report to EC and general public, and used as the basis for discussions both over species and with the socio-economic partners in the third year of the project. The groups should have their draft scenarios available by the SEFABAR Amsterdam workshop in 21 and 22 November 2002, where they will have further time to discuss and finalise the details in the scenarios. After the meeting, the scenarios should be finished during December 2002 so that they can be published in the report to EC in January 2003.

■ The socio-economic partners are likewise active in their respective studies. Some recent and upcoming activities include:

- Economics partner will arrange a workshop in Reading, UK in 5 December 2002 for an invited group of 10 – 15 breeding industry managers to discuss the economic consequences of the breeding scenarios developed by the species groups in the SEFABAR project
- Cultural differences partner has recently been travelling both in Norway and Italy doing interviews for their SEFABAR study with both people working in animal breeding industry and sociological sciences. France will follow next.

The socio-economic studies will continue to the third year of SEFABAR, i.e., 2003, but the partners will outline the progress of the studies and some of their results already in the SEFABAR second annual report to EC in January 2003, as well as the report for general public that will come out around March 2003.

■ The next SEFABAR workshop where [all network members and partners](#) are expected to be present will be arranged in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in 21 and 22 November 2002 (see later this newsletter for further details).

■ The SEFABAR website is still undergoing technical reconstruction, but **hopefully** it will be finished quite soon.

Outside the network

Sustainable animal production – visions for the 21st century

A consortium of scientists from four German research institutions realised in 1999 and 2000 a series of multidisciplinary virtual conference and real workshops aimed to develop a global vision for the future of production of food of animal origin. The project focused on the future supply and quality of food for humans and animals, animal welfare and health, the effects of animal production on the environment, the influences of new technologies, future animal production sites and global trade.

Although the project itself is finished, the discussion is still ongoing in an open forum at the project website where all visitors can leave their comments. The goal is to develop a vision of animal production that is truly sustainable, i.e., not only economically viable, but also adequate to the needs of animal health and welfare, responsive to consumer demands and needs, and environmentally responsible.

You can access the site at the address:

<http://agriculture.de/acms1/conf6/index.htm>

EU on sustainable development of European aquaculture

European Commission has published recently a Communication to the Council and the European Parliament titled “A strategy for the sustainable development of European Aquaculture”. This document outlines very nicely the current situation in aquaculture in Europe, and discusses the challenges it faces with regard of making the sector more sustainable in the future.

According to the Communication, the main objectives for European aquaculture in the future should be:

1. Creating long term secure employment, in particular in fisheries dependent areas
2. Assuring the availability to consumers of products that are healthy, safe and of good quality, as well as promoting high animal health and welfare standards
3. Ensuring an environmentally sound industry.

The Communication also outlines the actions proposed to achieve these goals, in such areas

as increasing production, competition for space, marketing and information, training, governance, safety of aquaculture products, public and animal health issues, animal welfare, environmental aspects and research priorities. The proposed actions comprise the whole aquaculture production chain, including also genetics and breeding related issues.

You can download the full 26-page Commission Communication as a pdf-file from the address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/doc_et_publ/factsheets/legal_texts/docscom/en/com_02_511_en.pdf

Further to the Communication, the Fisheries Committee in the European Parliament arranged recently a public hearing where scientists, industry representatives and the environmentally concerned made their views known on the state of European aquaculture. The hearing will contribute to an own-initiative report being drawn up by French MEP Hugues Martin on aquaculture.

Industry representatives outlined the need for new regulation, since aquaculture is currently governed by 359 separate legislative texts, and requested public funding as a means of introducing “cleaner” technologies.

Opinion was divided over the environmental impact of aquaculture. Some felt that its “fundamental flaws” justified a shift away from the farming of fish, while others argued that sustainability was merely a matter of efficient regulation backed by political will. However, all agreed on the need for further research.

There was also consensus on the social and economic importance of the industry, which in many areas has become the only alternative employment for those left jobless by the decline of the fishing industry.

(from Cordis Focus no. 207, 21.10.2002)
<http://www.cordis.lu/focus/en/home.html>

Finally, if you want to get a very easy overview on how much and what aquaculture species are farmed in the EU countries, go and download this document at the address

http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/doc_et_publ/liste_publi/aqua2002_en.pdf

This document shows the top five aquaculture species and their economic values in all EC countries in English, Dutch, Italian and Greek,

and also in photos for those who just want to see what a “meerval” looks like!

SEFABAR workshop

Time: 21 and 22 November 2002

Place: Hotel Mercure Amsterdam Airport, Amsterdam

Address: Oude Haagseweg 20, 1066 BW Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Tel.: +31 20 617 90 05

Fax: +31 20 615 90 27

WWW: www.mercure.com (hotel code 1315)

Aim: The aim of this SEFABAR workshop is to present and discuss the progress of the socio-economic studies; to allow for discussion and finalisation of sustainable breeding scenarios for the individual farm animal species, and to start integration of network results over species.

Participants: All SEFABAR members and socio-economic partners should send [at least one representative/group](#) to the workshop. [Farm Animal Industrial Platform](#) members and other [invited](#) persons are also welcome to the workshop.

Costs: The workshop costs for the participants 145 € (incl. two lunches and coffee breaks; dinner and cruise in Amsterdam centre). Payment should be done at the place of the workshop.

Accommodation: Rooms are available for the workshop participants from the hotel Mercure Amsterdam Airport at a special price of 149 € / night (single) or 169 € / night (double), incl. breakfast and city tax. If you wish to reserve a room from the hotel, please use the registration form.

Registration: The registration deadline for the meeting is on

Friday 1 November 2002.

Reminder to members and partners: [if you still have not registered at the workshop, please send in your registration NOW!](#)

Draft programme:

Thursday 21 November 2002

11:00 Welcome (J. Merks)
Short overview of programme (A.E. Liinamo)

Socio-economic studies:
30 min presentation and 30 min discussion

11:15 Cultural differences (J. Schakel)

12:15 Public opinion (A. Ouedraogo)

13:15 *Lunch*

14:30 Ethics (P. Sandøe, C. Gamborg)

15:30 Animal welfare (R. Kolar)

16:30 *Coffee and small Dutch snack*

17:00 Economics (J. McInerney, R. Bennett)

17:30 Inventory of questions, discussion points and remarks for partners

Breeding scenarios: species discussions

17:45 Species group meetings

19:00 End of meeting

Social event:

19:15 Buses leave hotel for dinner

20:00 Joint dinner and cruise in Amsterdam

Friday 22 November 2002

Breeding scenarios: 15 min presentation per species

09:00 Aquaculture

09:15 Poultry

09:30 Pigs

09:45 Ruminants

Socio-economic studies:

10:00 Group discussions on points and remarks raised on Thursday

Socio-economic studies:

plenary discussion

11:30 Cultural differences

11:45 Public opinion

12:00 Ethics

12:15 Animal welfare

12:30 Economics

12:45 *Lunch*

14:00 Plan of 2003 for SEFABAR (A.E. Liinamo)
How to integrate

15:00 End of meeting

15:00 - 17:00 SEFABAR management group meeting

Upcoming meetings

SEFABAR general meetings:

SEFABAR workshop

Date: 4.9.2003

Place: Rome, Italy (Satellite meeting to 54th Annual meeting of European Association for Animal Production EAAP)

Who should be there: **all SEFABAR members, socio-economic partners, and general audience**

Why: to present the final results of SEFABAR: integration of breeding/reproduction with socio-economic studies

Other interesting meetings:

European research 2002: The European research area and the Framework Programme

Date: 11. – 13. 11. 2002

Place: Brussels, Belgium

Theme: Launch of EU's Sixth Framework Programme for research

Website: <http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2002/>

Fourth Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe)

Date: 20. – 22. March, 2003

Place: Toulouse, France

Theme: Does ethics still contribute to the design of the European agricultural and food model?

Website: <http://www.eursafe.org/conferences>

54th Annual Meeting of the European Association for Animal Production (EAAP)

Date: 31.8. – 3.9.2003

Place: Rome, Italy

Interesting links

■ [Fish farming – a pictorial adventure in the blue pasture](#) is beautiful site related to a picture book by the same name giving a visual insight into the Norwegian aquaculture. The author behind the book is Vidar Vassvik, who is a professional photographer specialising in aquaculture and fisheries photos.

The website contains over 30 slideshows covering both with photographs and informative text the life of a farmed salmon beginning from egg stripping, through fertilisation, hatching and different growing periods, all the way to breeding selection and slaughter. In addition, the site includes information on other Norwegian aquaculture species, like rainbow trout, shellfish (blue mussels, scallops and oysters), halibut, cod, turbot, codfish, wolfish and Arctic char. The photographs are simply stunning and the site is a wealth of information for those who wish to see with their own eyes what aquaculture in Norway is about.

You can access this site at the address

<http://www.aquamedia.no/>

■ [Federation of Veterinarians of Europe](#) has published several position papers on various issues related to animal health and welfare, and food safety. Some of the more interesting papers include topics such as [Genetic modifications in animals](#), and [Breeding and animal welfare](#). You can find these papers, and much more in the FVE website at the address

<http://www.fve.org/>

■ [EU-Agrinet](#) is the EU-funded agricultural research portal in the Internet. The site aims to give a comprehensive overview of the EU-funded research activities, and how they benefit policy makers, consumers, industry and farmers. Available information at the site includes overviews on agricultural research objectives, EU and international programmes, main research themes, other support measures such as mobility grants and SME projects, past research activities in the third and second framework programmes, news and events, and project showcases. EU-Agrinet can be accessed at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/agriculture/index_en.html

SEFABAR website

The SEFABAR website has been undergoing technical modification for quite some time now, and consequently it has been either offline or not just updated regularly much of this autumn. We would like to offer our sincere apologies for the continued inconvenience, but sometimes the technical things just don't go as smoothly as they should! However, now there finally begins to be some light in the horizon, and we hope to get the renovated SEFABAR site online in very near future. Until that happens, the old SEFABAR site will remain online and the [public pages](#) will be updated when necessary.



Note: if you would like to subscribe to the SEFABAR newsletter, [please send email to the network manager Anna-Elisa Liinamo at](#)

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Colophon

SEFABAR: Sustainable European Farm Animal Breeding And Reproduction

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