

The development of breeding schemes for improving European speciality animal fibres

Timetable

Wednesday 6th October 1999

PM. Arrive Lisbon. Transfer bus leaves airport at 18.00 for Castelo Branco.

Thursday 7th October 1999

09:30 Opening address, President of the Polytechnic university of Castelo Branco; Secretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture, The President of Castelo Branco City Council Castelo Branco

09.45 Introduction to the objectives of the European Fine Fibre Network. Jerry Laker.

10.00 The development of the speciality fibre sector in Portugal. Luis Pinto de Andrade.

10.15 Recent developments in European Fine Fibre production and breeding. Daniel Allain.

10.45 Coffee

Tour of facilities at the Politechnic University of Castelo Branco

13.00 Lunch

14:30 Bus leaves ESACB to the city of Covilhã to visit the Wool Museum at the University of Beira Interior.

17:00 visit Laneira Factory (Scouring/carding factory)

Friday 8th October 1999

Programme

09.00 Introduction John Milne

Review of progress in development of breeding programmes:

09.15 Cashmere. Margaret Merchant.

09.30 Mohair. Daniel Allain.

09.45 Angora rabbit. Liisa Nurminen

10.00 Fine wool. Angus Russel.

10.15 Coffee

10.45 Collaboration in the Danish and French mohair breeding programmes. André Billant.

11.15 The breeding scheme for wool traits in the Finnsheep in collaboration with Swedish and Danish breeders. Marja-Leena Puntila.

11.45 Recent progress in Norwegian cashmere breeding. Lars Olav Eik.

12.15 Preliminary results of the Italian fine fibre breeding programmes. Raffaele Celi

12.45 Discussion

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Discussion groups

Future developemnts in European speciality fibres and their research needs and opportunities:

Group 1 Angora rabbit/ Angora goat

Group 2 Cashmere

Group 3 Fine wool

15.30 Tea

16.00 General discussion -Reporting back from groups

17.00 Summing-up. John Milne

Saturday 9th October 1999

Bus leaves hotel, 10.30. Travel to see local farming systems and other sites of interest en route to Lisbon. Stay overnight in Lisbon.

Sunday 10th October

Depart.

Accommodation addresses:

Hotel Meliá Confort Colina do Castelo

Rua da Piscina
6000 Castelo Branco
Portugal

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Hotel Alif

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Workshop IV
Castelo Branco,
Portugal,

7-9 October 1999

Introduction to the workshop

This workshop is the last in the current series of workshops of the European Fine Fibre Network. The Network was set up in early 1997 to establish and common protocols for measuring fibre traits and data recording in breeding programmes for different fibre types, e.g. fine wool, cashmere, mohair and angora.

Since then, three workshops have so far been held, which have established a framework for collaboration between researchers and breeding groups in eight EU countries and Norway.

The OFDA fibre measurement technology has been demonstrated to perform well for affordable and accurate fibre diameter measurements in a form appropriate for objective selection of breeding animals.

Comprehensive sets of performance indicators for cashmere and mohair goats, fine wool sheep and Angora rabbits have been established, and common formats for parameter recording have been agreed.

Demonstrations will be made of the operation of the databases for all the species involved in the project.

This final workshop will be an opportunity to demonstrate how harmonisation of the genetic improvement schemes will be used in the future to enhance the quality and competitiveness of European speciality fibres. Plans will be developed for the implementation of the methodologies and for the dissemination of superior genetic material.

In addition to these technical objectives, plans will be discussed for the use of standardised objective fleece measurements in the improvement of marketing structures for European luxury fibres.

The outcome of the meeting will be a set of key tasks required to advance the establishment of luxury fibre production as a viable and competitive alternative to traditional agricultural systems within the European Union.



Photo: Maria-Leena Puntilla

Assessing fleece structure in the Finnsheep

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