

## Report of Developing Countries Working Group

The Task Force for Developing Countries (TF-DC) was launched in March 2008. Its overall objective is to assist developing countries in planning and implementing sound and sustainable animal Identification and Recording systems.

The task force is composed of 8 members from (Namibia, South Africa, Argentina, Uruguay, India, Hungary and France) and is chaired by Badi Besbes (FAO). Only one member (Alexander Toto, Namibia) is from an organization which is not an ICAR member. The composition of the TF has changed over time. Gyula Meszaros (LPT, Hungary) did not contribute at all and was replaced by Mr Ben Jamaa (OEP, Tunisia). On his request, Mr Jean Noel Bonnet (IE, France) was replaced by his colleague Beatrice Balvay.

The task force combined e-mail discussions and physical meetings. Two meetings were organized in Budapest (Hungary, 2008) and in Porec (Croatia, 2009). The TF conducted a survey to assess the current status of animal identification and recording (AI&R) systems in 33 developing countries. Some of the results will be presented in Riga. A background paper was also prepared and will be submitted to ANG (previously AGRI). Outlines of decision-support guidelines for animal identification and recording in low and medium input production systems were discussed and drafted.

Despite these achievements, the chairman would like to express his concerns about the future of the TF. Despite all the efforts, the group suffers from a lack of motivation of some members. The attempt to attract new ones has not been successful so far. However, the major concern is the lack of financial resources. Most of the members would not have come to the meetings without financial support. Unfortunately, FAO will not be able to continue such a support.

The chairman of the TF-DC presents his apologies for not being able to participate to the board meeting and kindly seeks advice from the members of the board on how to sustain the activities of this TF.