From milk analysis to advisory tools
Final OptiMIR scientific and expert meeting
Palais des Congrès, Namur, Belgium, 16-17 April 2015
Held in conjunction with the 2015 ISO/IDF Analytical Week

Framework

Sustainability and competitiveness of dairy production are presently the main concerns of all the stakeholders in the dairy sector, from milk producers to milk processors. To achieve these goals, the dairy sector could rely on advisory tools dedicated to the reduction of production costs, the increase of milk value and quality, the reduction of the impact of dairy farming on the environment and the improvement of animal welfare.

Recent advances in rapid analytical methods to qualify milk composition and quality, in the automation of data recording, in the development of systems for data interpretation and integration, offer the potential for marked progress in providing advisory tools for the dairy sector. Towards this objective, the OptiMIR project aims to develop innovative farm management web applications that use the spectral analysis from milk recording samples to enable sustainable and profitable management of milk production.

The objective of the conference is to provide an overview of the recent advances in both analytical and zootechnical aspects of the development of advisory tools for the dairy sector. Results obtained through OptiMIR will be disseminated during this conference. The sessions will combine both invited contributions by experts in the field and free contributions. Also, a poster session will be held on 16th April. Finally, two satellite sessions will gather together experts from the field to further explore the practical implications and the on-field utilisation of the findings presented during the meeting.

Program

Tuesday 16th April

- Overview presentation of the OptiMIR project: New tools for a more sustainable dairy sector
- Session 1 – Advances in infrared analysis of milk (Organiser: Pierre Dardenne, Walloon Agricultural Research Center, Belgium)
- Session 2 – Rapid analytical methods as phenotyping tools (Organiser: Mike Coffey, Scotland's Rural College, United Kingdom)
- Session 3 – Advances in spectral data interpretation and integration in management indicators (Organiser: Donagh Berry, Teagasc Moorepark, Ireland)
- Session 4 – Management indicator traits: benchmarking and contribution to animal breeding (Organiser: Sophie Mattalia, French Livestock Institute, France)
- Satellite session 1 – From the lab to the farm: how to integrate technology on-farm?
- Satellite session 2 – From the researcher to the farmers: how to present the information to have useful, profitable and user-friendly tools?
- Poster session

Friday 17th April

- Session 5 – Prospects and future challenges in analytical procedures to qualify fine milk composition (Organiser: Vincent Baeten, Walloon Agricultural Research Center, Belgium)
- Session 6 – Future challenges: genomics contributing to advisory tools? (Organiser: Nicolas Gengler, University of Liège – Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech, Belgium)
- Technical tour

OptiMIR project
OptiMIR – A European Milk Recording in the Age of Precision Livestock Farming

Through OptiMIR the MIR spectral data from the milk recording are used in mathematical models to provide decision making tools. Dairy farmers access to predictions for every recorded cow such as fertility status, metabolic diseases, environmental impact, energy balance, etc.

The project is a transnational cooperation between 5 research institutions, 11 milk recording organizations and 1 lab from Belgium, Germany, France, Ireland, Luxembourg and United Kingdom. It is cofounded by INTERREG IVB NWE, Wallonia and Luxembourg.

Contact

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