

During the Greenhouse Gas Animal Agricultural Conference in Melbourne, Australia, a joint network meeting was held on February 16th, 2016. 50 people participated in the meeting.

We started with scientific presentations from the different networks within the Livestock Research Group of the Global Research Alliance on agricultural greenhouse gases:

1. Rumen Microbial Genomics
2. Animal Selection, Genetics, Genomics
3. Feed and Nutrition
4. Manure Management
5. Animal Health

After that we discussed in break-out sessions (4 groups of ~11 people each) about:

- What does one need from networks to be actively involved?
- Where are possible synergies and collaborations?
- Ideas for joint proposals to ERA-NET calls (SusAn and ERA-GAS)

Group 1

- Important to work on visibility
 - o Some people didn't know certain networks existed.
 - o How do networks fit together?
 - o Need for good coordinators of network – sharing information, bridging between people
- Have concrete actions (user groups, writing review, exchange of early stage researchers, ...) help to collaborate
 - o Get to know each other, build on trust, share ideas/data
 - o Smart ways for communication -> overcome practicalities with travelling
- No clear suggestion for idea for project proposal right now

Group 2

- Collate open research questions within networks, join them up, make an overview, and this might result in a joint identification of the knowledge gaps to be written up in a review.
- This document can also serve for ideas for proposal when calls come out; e.g. 'how can we understand from genetics and nutrition how microbes work and manure is produced?'
- Networks might be fragile – depend a lot on future of Livestock Research Group

Group 3

- Without joint project, there are no networks
- It is important to get information on call texts to the right people, as early as possible. This way joint collaborations/consortia can be formed early on

- The animal task force is doing this well
- Joint meeting on *-omics across networks => have a research agenda for when call text is sent out. It is expected that *-omics tools are the binding tools across networks.

Group 4

- There is a need for holistic, integrated approaches
- The role of a network is to coordinate all proposals, and avoid overlap as much as possible. This could potentially be done on a forum
- Whole picture on farm on what is possible with all solutions.
 - Urea/nitrogen is other possibility, next to methane

Summary by Martin Scholten

At the end of the meeting, Martin summarized where he sees the needs and where the LRG could contribute/initiate:

- 1) White paper / Review paper on knowledge gaps (~50)
- 2) Early anticipation on calls => research agenda
- 3) Integrated, holistic approach -> this fits well in new GRA-research group on Integrated Approaches
- 4) Visibility on website => networks must be clearly described and explained. There is also a task for the networks themselves here to have clear goals
- 5) Smart communication for connectedness

For the White Paper, it is agreed that each network coordinator will contact their network to collect open research questions (within and across disciplines). Several people in the room already indicated they are willing to contribute actively to this inventory and to the White Paper:

Peter Moate, David Yanez, Veerle Fievez, Nico Peiren, Olga Lucia Mayorga, Jan Lassen, Soren Petersen, Andre Bannink, Claudia Arndt, Alex Berndt, Karl Richards, Gary Lanigan, Dave Chadwick, Marta Alfaro, Jonathan Levin, Mark Powell, E.L.K. Osafo, James Newbold, Yvette de Haas, Alex Hristov

Closure

The general impression was that there is a big need for these joint meetings, in order to keep up with other disciplines, and to get to know each other. It has not been decided yet when and where there will be another joint network meeting, but we will keep an eye for opportunities.

List of attendees

Name	Country
Yvette de Haas	NL
Alex Hristov	US
Dorothy Robinson	AUS
Mark Powell	US
Peter Moate	AUS
Diego Morgavi	FR
Eugene Maguy	FR
Surinder Saggar	NZ
Mi zhou	CAN
James Newbold	UK
Dave Chadwick	UK
Frederic Dehareng	BE
Cecile Martin	FR
Jonathan Levin	FR
Min Wang	China
Dominique Francois	FR
Olga Lucia Mayorga	Colombia
Nico Peiren	BE
Sam de Campeneere	BE
Veerle Fievez	BE
Arjan Jonker	NZ
Marta Alfaro	Chile
Soren Petersen	DK
Jan Lassen	NL
Pekka Huhtanen	SE
Enyew Negussie	FIN
Cecile de Klein	NZ
Adibe Abdalla	Brazil
Alexandre Berndt	Brazil
Gilles Renand	FR
Tom Davison	AUS
E.L.K. Osafo	Ghana
Elsa Antunes Fernandes	NL
Jan Dijkstra	NL
Andre Bannink	NL
Irene Breider	UK
Michael Kreuzer	Switzerland
Angela Schwarm	Switzerland
Florian Grandl	Switzerland
Claudia Arndt	US
Ibrahim Khalil	IRL
Andy Cole	US
Francois Soussana	FR
Brian Dalrymple	AUS
Hutton Oddy	AUS
Karl Richards	IRL
Gary Lanigan	IRL
Ashraf Biswas	South Korea
Dinuccio Elio	IT
Martin Scholten	NL