

WORLD RABBIT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE 2016 GENERAL ORDINARY ASSEMBLY

Qingdao, Wyndham Grand Hotel, Frankfurt Hall, 17th June, 2016

The World Rabbit Science Association (WRSA) is an international federation of branches.

The present WRSA board (from 1-01-2013 till 31-12-2016) is:

President: G. Xiccato (Italy) - Vice-presidents: Zs. Matics (Hungary), J. Garcia (Spain), A. Daader (Egypt) - Treasurer: L. Maertens (Belgium) - General Secretary: T. Gidenne (France), Secretary for developing countries: S. Lukefahr (USA)

Report writer: Thierry GIDENNE

Attending council delegates of each branches

According to the fees given to the treasurer (see financial report), **21** delegates attended the General Assembly in person, with voting branches from: **Africa** (Sub-Saharan A., 1 vote, Dr S. Oseni), **America** (1 vote, Prof G. Gonzalez-Mariscal), **Belgium** (1 vote, Dr L. Maertens), **Brazil** (1 vote, Dr L. Machado), **China** (3 votes, Prof. Y. Qin, L. Wu, F. Li), Egypt (1 vote, Prof A. Daader), **France** (2 votes, Dr T. Gidenne, Mrs C. Davoust), **Germany** (2 votes, Prof S. Hoy, Dr C. Lang), **Hungary** (2 votes, Dr Zs. Matics, Dr C. Eiben), **Indonesia** (2 votes, Dr Y. Raharjo, Dr ??), **Italy** (2 votes, Prof G. Xiccato, Prof A. Camarda), **Netherlands** (1 vote, Dr Arts), **Spain** (2 votes, Prof J.J. Pascual, Dr I. Badiola).

Two additional branches applied for WRSA membership (see further the approval) of the assembly: **Côte Ivoire** (1 vote, Dr M. Kimsé) and **Nepal** (Mr. U. Chapagain)

Therefore a total of 23 delegates had a valid vote (23 votes).

All members of the present board were present, except Dr J. Garcia.

Opening of the General Assembly

Gerolamo Xiccato the chairman of the WRSA opened the meeting at 17:20 and welcomed the attendees at the General Assembly. He first presented the agenda of the meeting (in Annex 1)

Annual report by G. Xiccato (chairman)

Gerolamo Xiccato provided a look back at past four years of WRSA activities, using a PowerPoint presentation, and the main points were:

- o Management of financial resources of WRSA (presented by T. Gidenne and L. Maertens)
- o Management and updating of WRSA website (F. Lebas)
- o To support the creation or reorganization of WRSA branches (presented by T. Gidenne)
- o To support the diffusion of the official scientific journal of the WRSA: World Rabbit Science (presented by J.J. Pascual)
- o To favour the diffusion of rabbit production in developing countries (presented by S. Lukefahr)
- Funding the project õHimalayan Rabbit Farmö after the earthquake in Nepal (presented by S. Lukefahr)

WORLD RABBIT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION – Report of the general ordinary assembly (17th June, 2016)

- o To participate in the scientific organization of national and international congresses on rabbit science
- o To give grants for young scientist to attend the 11th World Rabbit Congress (WRC).

The presentation is available in the Annex 2

New membership and new delegates: Côte Ivoire branch presentation

Côte d'Ivoire application, by Dr M. Kimsé

Dr M. Kimsé presented the situation of the rabbit farming in the country, through a PowerPoint presentation (see Annex 3) and recalled the list of members of the new association "IRSA" Ivorian Rabbit Sciences Association. IRSA was agreed as a new branch of the WRSA, after a favourable vote at unanimity.

Nepal application, by M. U. Chapagain

M. Chapagain presented the situation of the rabbit farming in the country, and recalled the name of the new association "Rabbit Entrepreneurs Association Nepal (REAN)". It was recalled by the WRSA president that each branch should have technical and scientific activities (not only commercial or production activities). Mr Chapagain was committed to improve this point. REAN was accepted as a new branch of the WRSA, after a favourable unanimous vote.

Financial report by L. Maertens (Treasurer)

Luc Maertens provided a look back at past four years of WRSA financial input and output, using an excel sheet (see Annex 4). Due to activities (9 full or partial grants for WRC, Nepal project) the final balance of the WRSA showed a deficit of 2800 Euros, on a total budget of 20100 Euros. Now the total financial possibilities of WRSA accounted for 18641 Euros.

Recall: no fees or financial support was given to any member of the board for their activities.

A discussion also took place regarding the "sleepy" branches (no known activities and no fees to WRSA).

The actual and the new board will be in charge of this question, and particularly about the status of these branches in the WRSA website.

Report on the World Rabbit Science journal by J.J. Pascual (WRS Editor-in-chief)

Juan José Pascual provided a summary of the activity of WRS edition, through a poster (see Annex 5). Our Journal has a good audience and belongs to the second quartile of the journal in its field (Animal and veterinary science). WRS is ranked 26/57 in the Agricultural, Dairy and Animal Science list and has an impact factor of 0.82.

Thus WRS is **our best tool** to ensure and to promote the dissemination of quality rabbit science because: it is **rigorous** (peer-review with 61% of rejection), **well-ranked** (Q2 currently, with potential for growth), **completely free** (no fees for authors and readers), **high visible** (e.g. try typing rabbit+your name in Google), **and committed** with developing research groups.

WRSA WEB site: activity report, by the webmaster F. Lebas.

Visits of the website: A clear progression was observed between 2013 and 2014 (+20%), and frequentation is stable since that time with about 2100 visits /month (from 1750 to 2400/month).

Geographic origin of visitors. (Identification through the address of the connexion). A geolocalisation is not possible for visitors with an address in .com, .net, or connecting through a cybercafe or equivalent (only a numeric IP address).

For those with a possible identification, the **top ten of the countries** during the last 12 month is 1 - Ukraine, 2 - Brazil; 3 - Germany; 4 - Spain; 5 - Hungary; 6 - Italy; 7 - Mexico; 8 - China; 9 - Czech Republic; 10 - France.

Additionally a special mention should be made for connexions from Russia, Vietnam, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire or South Africa.

Main downloaded files

The most downloaded file is clearly the "*Manual Prático de Cunicultura*" from Ferreria et al., edited by Machado L.C. in 2012=> 6117 download during the last 12 month.

It is followed by the Cost848 final document " *Recent advances in rabbit sciences*", edited by L. Maertens & P. Coudert in 2006 => 2785 download during the last 12 month.

The other downloaded files are mainly the *communications presented during the previous W.R. Congresses*, mainly those presented in Verona (2008), Puebla (2004) and Sharm El Sheik (2012).

Communications presented during the 5th American Congress (Mexico 2014) and files corresponding to the formulation program WUFFDA are also frequently included in the monthly top ten of downloaded files.

Report on activities for Less Developped Countries by S. Lukefahr (secretary for LDCs)

Steven Lukefahr provided a summary of his activities as secretary for LDCs, partially published in WRS, through a PowerPoint presentation (see Annex 6), as listed below:

- Assisted/Responded to numerous requests from scientists and(or) supported activities from WRSA branches from LDCs
- o Guided Chinese organizers in preparing proposal to host 11th WRC
- o Participated in Sub-Saharan Africa branch E-Conference in 2013
- Collaborated with Drs. Francois Lebas and Saidu Oseni in scanning and posting IFS Rabbit Workshop 1978 Proceedings to WRSA website
- o Co-authored paper in WRS on the status of rabbit projects in Africa
- o Served as temporary webmaster for AB-WRSA (2014)
- o Delivered invited paper on strategies for developing projects for LDCs at 5th Rabbit Congress of the Americas (Toluca, Mexico, 2014)
- Met with Chinese delegates in organizing and planning 11th WRC in business meeting (Toluca, Mexico, 2014)
- o Assisted in the planning and financial support of Nepal rabbit project in 2015 to present
- o Commission Chair of awarding travel grants to LDC scientists to participate at 11th WRC.

<u>Organization of the 12th World Rabbit Congress in 2020: Presentation of the propositions of candidate WRSA Branches.</u>

Only one application was received by the WRSA office, from French branch. S. Combes presented in 20 minutes the proposition from the French WRSA branch (ASFC). It was proposed that the next congress be held in Nantes (West France). Provisional budget and organizing committee were proposed. After a short discussion and some questions, **the proposal was adopted unanimously by the delegates.**

Election of the new WRSA Executive Committee Officers for 2017-2020.

Recall: the WRSA board of officers is composed of: the President, 3 Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, the General Secretary and the Secretary for lesser developed countries "LDC Secretary".

Candidates are expected for all offices. <u>Only delegates proposed by their own branch</u> (thus having a vote right) can be nominated for an office position.

- G. Xiccato, the actual president recalls the duties of the officers, and particularly their role in the scientific organisation of the next congress:
- Selection of main papers and invited speakers, selection of persons responsible for scientific sessions and coordination of the refereeing process of papers
- o Definition of the scientific program (timetable and chairpersons), definition of round tables titles and coordinators
- Evaluation of applications for WRSA grants (and partial funding), granting of awards to young researchers for the best oral papers.

After these recalls, G. Xiccato first suggested that the next president could be T. Gidenne (INRA, France), since he was very implicated in the 11th WRC and will be also implicated in the 12th WRC in France. G. Xiccato also suggested that J.J Pascual (UPV, Spain) assume the position of the General Secretary. On these first two positions, a short discussion was engaged. The suggestion of G. Xiccato was unanimously accepted.

G Xiccato then suggested that Luc Maertens (ILVO Belgium) remain the treasurer of the WRSA. On this position, a discussion was engaged and the suggestion of G. Xiccato was unanimously accepted. H. Arts (Netherlands) offered his help to L. Maertens in this task.

Then the position of the secretary for LDC was discussed, and two persons were proposed to cover it: Y. Raharjo (Indonesia) and S. Oseni (Nigeria). After several exchanges and discussion, finally S. Oseni accepted this position. Steven Lukefahr also agreed to still help S. Oseni in this task.

Then, a discussion was engaged for the three remaining Vice President positions. G. Xiccato suggested that Y. Qin (China branch) should be one of the vice president. Three branches proposed also candidates: Zs. Matics (Hungary branch), G. Gonzalez Mariscal (America branch), and G. Xiccato (Italy branch). Therefore a vote (secret ballot) was arranged for the 3 vice president positions. Qin, Gonzalez Mariscal and Xiccato obtained the highest score of votes (resp. 21, 20 and 16 on 23), and will be the next vice presidents of the WRSA.

In conclusion, the future board of the WRSA (from 1-01-2017 to 31-12-2020) will be:

- o President: T. Gidenne (France)
- o Vice-presidents: Y. Qin (China), G. Gonzalez Mariscal (Mexican, American branch), G. Xiccato (Italy)
- o *Treasurer*: L. Maertens (Belgium)
- o General Secretary: J.J. Pascual (Spain)
- o Secretary for LDC: S. Oseni (Nigeria)

Gerolamo Xiccato the chairman of the WRSA Assembly closed the general meeting at 19:50 and thanked all the attendees of this 11th General Assembly.

ANNEX 1

Agenda of the regular meeting of the WRSA Council

- Welcome address by the WRSA President and Report on the WRSA activities during the last 4 years (G. Xiccato *President*)
- o New membership and new delegates: Côte d'Ivoire and Nepal branch presentation
- Determination of the vote rights during this Council Meeting according to the number of members of each Branch and of the real payment of subscriptions fees during the last 4 years (article 9 of constitution and section 8 of by-laws)
- o Financial report (L. Maertens *Treasurer*)
- o Report on the World Rabbit Science journal (J.J. Pascual WRS Editor-in-chief)
- o WRSA WEB site: activity report (F. Lebas).
- o Report on activities for developing countries (S. Lukefahr)
- Presentation of the propositions of candidate WRSA Branches for the organization of the 12th World Rabbit Congress in 2020. Ten minutes of presentation for each proposition. Discussion and adoption of the location of the 12th WRC after vote.
- Election of the new WRSA Executive Committee Officers for 2017-2020 (President, 3 Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, General Secretary and Secretary for developing countries). Candidates are expected for all offices ó Only delegates proposed by their own branch (thus having a vote right) can be nominated for office.

ANNEX 2

Presentation of the WRSA activity report by the President (G. Xiccato)

WRSA activities from WRC2012 to WRC2016

- " Management of financial resources of WRSA (presented by T. Gidenne and L. Maertens)
- " Management and updating of WRSA website (F. Lebas)
- To support the creation or reorganization of WRSA branches (presented by T. Gidenne)
- To support the diffusion of WRS journal (presented by J.J. Pascual)
- To favour the diffusion of rabbit production in developing countries (presented by S. Lukefahr)
- " Funding the project õHimalayan Rabbit Farmö after the earthquake in Nepal (presented by S. Lukefahr)
- To participate to the scientific organization of national and international congresses on rabbit science.

Financial resources of WRSA

- Every year WRSA national branches (NB) must transfer to WRSA bank account 5 b per member of the branch;
- " the payment must be done every year before end June;
- in June 2016, the account has about 14,400 EUR
- "the actual treasurer (L. Maertens) will manage the WRSA bank account until Dec. 31, 2016 or he will continue in case of re-election.

Support to the creation or reorganization of WRSA branches

- " WRSA is the World association of National associations (WRSA-NB);
- " at the beginning of 2016, the Ivory Coast and Nepal branches will be officially created during the Assembly
- " some branches are not active (17 NB are active and 5 inactive)
- " during 2009-2012 period, 3 NB (Moldavia, Ukraine and Vietnam) were admitted to WRSA (are they still active?)
- " all branches must be stimulated to elect their officers and to be active continuously, avoiding an occasional presence only during WRC
- " it is advisable the construction and updating of NB websites (in local language and English).

Support to the diffusion of WRS and management of grouped subscriptions

- " WRS is the official journal of WRSA
- " It is the only peer-reviewed journal specialised in rabbit science;
- " WRS journal is edited by the University of Valencia
- " Under the guidance of its editor in chief, J.J. Pascual, the journal first entered in the ISI list and since 2005 has IF evaluation (2014: 0.821)
- WRSA supports WRS edition and management with the activity of voluntary Associate Editors (members of WRSA) and peer-reviewers
- " Since 2013, WRS is an OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL (no subscription).

Stimulate the diffusion of rabbit production in developing countries

- " This is one of the main aims of WRSA
- The diffusion of rabbit production in these countries will contrast the decrease of rabbit meat production and consumption in the traditional countries
- " It will stimulate scientists from these countries to investigate and publish in the this field, by using the best and updated methodologies in their studies

- This will induce governments and private industries to fund research in rabbit science therefore contrasting the decrease of funding in the traditionally rabbit producing countries
- " Steven Lukefahr will present further information on the topic.

The project õReconstruction of the Himalayan Rabbit Farm õafter the earthquake in Nepal

- Five year after Haiti disaster, on April 25, 2015 a terrible earthquake hit NEPAL, provoking the death of more than 8,000 persons and causing mass destruction of homes and vital infrastructures
- " As for Haiti, WRSA promoted a collection of funds to give a symbolic support to the Nepal population by sponsoring the Reconstruction of Himalayan Rabbit Farm, managed by Ujjwal Chapagain
- WRSA offered 3000 b from the WRSA budget and additional donations came from some national Branches (France, i ...)
- " Steven Lukefahr will present further information on the project.

Support to the scientific organization of national and international congresses on rabbit science

This is another of the main aims of WRSA

At the moment, several WRSA branches organize yearly, every 2 or 4 years national or international congresses

- " AB-WRSA (Rabbit Congress of the Americas)
- " Egypt (Rabbit Production in hot climates)
- " France (Journées de la Recherche cunicole)
- " Germany (International Symposium, Celle)
- " Hungary (Hungarian Conference on Rabbit Production)
- " Italy (Giornate di Coniglicoltura ASIC)
- " Spain/Portugal (Symposium de ASESCU)

It is advisable a larger international participation and the publication of proceeding and oral presentation in English.

Scientific organization of World Rabbit Congress

The World Rabbit Congress is, every 4-year, the main task of WRSA

Since 2013, WRSA board has helped Qin Yinghe and the Chinese WRSA branch to project and organize WRC2016

The scientific organization consisted of:

- Selection of main papers and invited speakers (mainly on 2015)
- " Selection of responsible of scientific sessions (session referees, 2015) and coordination of the refereeing process of papers (2016)
- Definition of the scientific program (timetable and chairpersons, 2016)
- Definition of round tables titles and coordinators (2015 and 2016)
- " Evaluation of applications for WRSA grants (and partial funding)
- " Attribution of awards to young researchers for the best oral papers
 - The 7 members of WRSA board constituted the Scientific Committee together with 2 members of Chinese Organizing Committee (coordinated by T. Gidenne).

ANNEX 3 Presentation of the Côte Ivoire branch "IRSA





ANNEX 4: presentation of the wrsa financial report by the treasurer

		IN	OUT	Balance	
Opening Balance, 1 Sept., 2012 (Sharm)		18 297,36			
Memberships Cash in Egypt Membership Spain (2009-2012) Membership + WRS journal Italy Charges Dr. Licois (Congress Egypt) Charges Bank Interest		650,00 600,00 1 015,0	Egypt/Brasil/ Mole (50) 594,0 3,0	davia/Sud Sahara	
Total		20 696,65	597,0		
Balance 1 january 2013 On WRSA Int. account: On WRSA Saving account:				20 099,65 4 682,12 15 417,53	
	cash Qingdao cash Qingdao cash Qingdao cash Qingdao cash Qingdao	2 050,00 200,00 200,00 215,00 50,00	(Egypt 2013-2016) (Sud Sahara 2013-2 (Indonesia 2015- 16) (Brasil 2016)	2016)	250 dollars
Total	cash Qingdao cash Qingdao		(Nepal 2016) (Ivory Coast 2016) 6594,70		100 dollars
Website management (Congres Egypt + 2012) Website 2013/2014/2015 Charges Secretary Charges President Charges Treasurer			1 150,0 450,0 0,0 0,0 0,0		
Support NEPAL			3 000,0		
Grants for WRSA Congress 2016			5 015,7		(0040)
Bank Charges	Interest/port	2,30			(2013) 0,99
Interest		241,85			31,87
Yearly Bank Charges			42,00		12,00
Tota I		6 838,85	9 657,7		
Actual Balance, 15 June, 2016			-2 818,9	17 280,8	
On WRSA Int. account: 8/06/2016 On WRSA Saving account: 8/06/2016 Cash at Qingdao				1 769,51 12 659,38 2 851,88	
Total on bank accounts + cash				17 280,8	
In execution Total financial possibilities				1 360,0 18 640,8	

ANNEX 5 Presentation of the activity of World Rabbit Science Journal



WORLD RABBIT SCIENCE

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE WORLD RABBIT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION



J.J. PASCUAL (EDITOR IN CHIEF) AND C. LARIO (EDITORIAL SECRETARY)

WORLD RABBIT SCIENCE TARGET

WORLD RABBIT SCIENCE helps to fulfil one of the main objectives of World Rabbit Science Association, to encourage communication and collaboration among individuals and organizations associated with rabbit production and rabbit science.

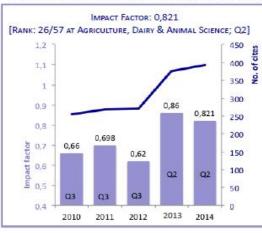
WORLD RABBIT SCIENCE is the only international peer-reviewed journal included at the Journal Citation Reports devoted to publishing original research in the field of rabbit science.

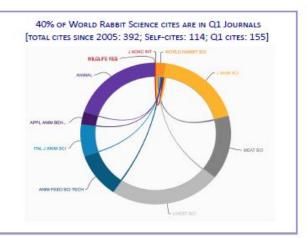
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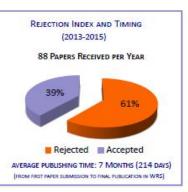


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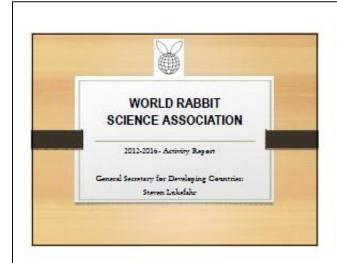
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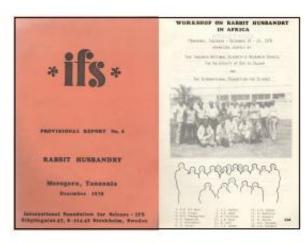
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$\frac{ANNEX~6}{Presentation~of~the~WRSA~for~lesser~developed~countries}$









Co-authored paper in WRS on the status of rabbit projects in Africa

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Objective: To implement appropriate strategies for establishing small-scale rabbit production enterprises with the aim of providing an opportunity for poor families to abandon poverty and/or) for resettled victims to recover from the earthquake disaster in Nepal.



