

Resolutions

**adopted by the International Committee of the OIE
during its 64th General Session**

May 1996

RESOLUTION No. XV

Biotechnology and animal production: advantages and problems

CONSIDERING THAT

Livestock species exhibit considerable genetic variation for resistance/susceptibility to a wide spectrum of pathogens; however, this resistance is currently often poorly defined and quantified

An understanding of such genetic disease resistance might become an essential tool for disease control

Livestock genomics is an emerging and very powerful strategy which could – if properly applied – be ideally suited to dissect the molecular basis of disease resistance

The application of genomics to disease resistance in livestock might result in information which will need to be integrated into existing breeding schemes

The successful implementation of such programmes requires highly-skilled scientists

The intellectual property rights on information resulting from genomics remains an unresolved issue

The implementation of these projects requires full support from decision-makers and the public, who demand to be properly informed of the nature and use of these projects

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Regional Commissions encourage and assist research efforts aimed at identifying and quantifying genetic disease resistance which might exist in the livestock breeds encountered in their respective areas. This information would be centralised in appropriate databases in the Central Bureau in coordination with the FAO.
2. Regional Commissions encourage and assist efforts aimed at collecting biological material from informative pedigrees, in which objective evidence for the segregation of a highly heritable resistance for an economically important disease has been demonstrated. This information would be centralised in appropriate databases in the Central Bureau in coordination with the FAO.
3. Regional Commissions encourage and assist efforts aimed at establishing laboratories with competence in livestock genomics in their respective areas.
4. Regional Commissions encourage and assist research efforts aimed at developing breeding schemes which would integrate resulting molecular information and conventional selection strategies.
5. Given the sophistication of genomics, the OIE provide educational support for these projects by encouraging publications and conferences on the topic, by experts in the area, and by encouraging collaboration between institutions with complementary expertise including exchange of scientists (especially between developed and developing countries).

Appendix I

6. The OIE establish an ad hoc group to establish guidelines for the regulation of intellectual property of the results which will be generated by these projects.
 7. The OIE encourage and assist efforts aimed at informing the public and decision-makers of the nature and utility of these efforts to achieve food and nutrition security in a sustainable way.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 1996)

PARIS, May 1996