

Bureau de Coopération Technique Internationale

Compte rendu



Proposition to Cattle Breeder's Association of Amasya following our mission in Turkey from 25th to 28th May 2009



AB ve Türkiye arasındaki Sivil Toplum Diyalogunun
Geliştirilmesi Projesi
Promotion of Civil Society Dialogue between
EU and Turkey Project

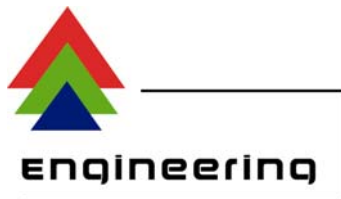
CNE

Confédération
Nationale
de l'Élevage



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L'expérience et le savoir-faire des organisations professionnelles d'élevage françaises au service de la coopération technique internationale

Les éleveurs français se sont dotés d'organisations par secteur professionnel, dont les fédérations nationales se coordonnent au niveau national au sein de la Confédération Nationale de l'Elevage (CNE).

L'expérience et le **savoir-faire** des organisations professionnelles d'élevage françaises et de leur institut technique national (Institut de l'Elevage) sont importants, en particulier dans les domaines :

- identification des animaux
- enregistrement en ferme des filiations et des performances
- systèmes informatiques de gestion et de valorisation
- évaluation des reproducteurs
- sélection des races
- élaboration des références, des outils et des méthodes de l'appui et du conseil technique
- formation et le transfert des résultats
- conduite des troupeaux (systèmes de production, alimentation, bâtiments, sanitaire, reproduction...)
- santé animale
- organisation de la production et de la mise en marché
- développement des signes officiels de qualité (marques et labels)
- qualité et la traçabilité des produits.

Pour répondre aux demandes d'**expertise**, d'**ingénierie**, de **conseil**, de **formation**, etc. dans le domaine de l'élevage des herbivores, les organisations professionnelles d'élevage françaises disposent, dans le cadre de l'Institut de l'Elevage, d'un **bureau commun de la coopération technique internationale** à même d'étudier et de répondre aux demandes, de jouer un **rôle d'ensemblier** des compétences des diverses organisations selon les projets.

Les programmes et actions peuvent être développés en concertation et complémentarité, d'une part avec le Ministère de l'Agriculture, les interprofessions (CNIEL, INTERBEV), l'Office de l'Élevage, les services de coopération des ambassades de France et les organismes d'appui au développement international : Adepta, Ubifrance.

CNE
CONFÉDÉRATION NATIONALE DE
L'ÉLEVAGE



June 2009
Jean-Noël BONNET & Mathilde FONTENEAU

**Proposition to Cattle Breeders' Association of Amasya
Following mission in Turkey of Jean-Noël Bonnet and Mathilde Fonteneau
From 25th to 28th May 2009**

Our mission to Amasya department allowed us to :

- visit Cattle Breeders' Association of Amasya and discover the different services provided;
- realize visits on the field: several kind of farms, milk collection centers, etc.
- meet and interact with the local actors: farmers members of Cattle Breeders' Association of Amasya, private veterinarians, AI technicians, bankers for agricultural credit, professors of university, sub-governor of the area, rural development organization, ministry of agriculture, etc.;
- act as a lecturer during the seminar/panel gathering 200 participants to present the French breeders' organization and the key factors of the success of livestock development in France ; and the functioning of cooperatives for common use of agricultural material (called CUMA);
- interact with 13 farmers Chairman or members of the boards of the Cattle Breeders associations of the production basin (Amasya, Corum, Samsun, Tokat, Kastamonu).

The goal of this note is to clarify the present projects of the Association and to advise the Association about the content of the projects, the scale of actions, and the technical assistance we could provide if needed. It should be a base for exchanges and to build a technical cooperation project for cattle development (mainly dairy cattle).

1 Actions that would be interesting to undertake at basin level (Amasya, Corum, Samsun, Tokat, Kastamonu)

It is logic and legitimate to exceed departmental association level to develop actions at an upper scale, when it is necessary to be stronger together for example. That is what French actors did themselves. Actions with the surrounding departments (Corum, Samsun, Tokat, Kastamonu) are interesting to develop because of the territorial logic and because of the apparent will of European Union to fund projects concerning basin of production more than single department.

Nevertheless, common actions should focus on a limited number of specific actions that the several Cattle Breeders' Associations could be able to realize together and obtain a success. All the actions should not be envisaged at basin level immediately, and some actions should remain at Amasya department level only. Indeed, we feel that Amasya association should firstly strengthen its own activities, determines its middle term development plan, and be used as a pilot zone before being able to lead a bigger dynamic.

Thus, it would be interesting to identify the actions that could already be lead at basin level.

1.1 Development of crossbreeding with Montbéliarde breed

1.1.1 Consensus on interest for Montbéliarde breed

Our visit allows us to confirm that Montbéliarde breed would be an appropriate breed to develop in the basin of Amasya and surrounding departments. Indeed, the qualities of this breed would be a good opportunity to compensate some of the Simmental defects that the breeders complain of : better milk production, good calving ease, better precocity of the females,...

Montbéliarde breed is itself a more specialized dairy branch of the Simmental population, and its use in absorption crossbreeding on Simmental crossbred cows seems to be a good technical choice for the breeders of the area looking for more milk, by maintaining hardiness and fertility.

According to our visit to M. EIMAYA, Director of Animal Husbandry, Department, TUGEM, Ministry of Agriculture, it could be possible to use Montbéliarde breed in crossbreeding and to get nevertheless the subvention on calf distributed by the Ministry. This could be possible in the framework of a formal crossbreeding programme authorizing the crossbreeding on Simmental crossbred cows for a delimited area (for example Amasya, Corum, Samsun, Tokat, Kastamonu departments) and during a fixed period (for example 5 years). Such a programme should be built in relation with the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture.

1.1.2 Common organization for semen supply

Concerning the supply of Montbéliarde breed semen, it would be interesting to manage it at basin level, with a common purchasing agency for semen. This organization would allow the associations to have a strong partnership with a French company involved in Montbéliarde breed and to share a cogitation about their genetic strategy (bull choices, recommendation of bull use, genetic strategy, etc.).

This organization would be in charge of the supply and of the selling to its members (the Cattle Breeders' Associations) and to other operators (private veterinarians,...).

1.1.3 Promotion of the breed

Once the semen is arrived, it would be very useful to organize a half day training/promoting session in each department to launch the use of Montbéliarde breed in the area.

These sessions would be aimed at AI technicians, private veterinarians, breeders members of the associations. A specialist of Montbéliarde breed would be involved to present : (1) the Montbéliarde breed and its specificities, (2) the appropriate use in crossbreeding on Simmental and Simmental crossbred cows, (3) the bulls available nearby the Cattle Breeders Associations.

Then, common promotion actions of Montbéliarde breed could be done to support the development of the breed.

1.2 Development of the inseminators skills

The development of the AI operators skills is very important to improve their operational know-how and to train them to be an adviser nearby the breeder in the fields of genetic and reproduction (bull choice, ...).

The action could be realized in the 5 departments, with a practical training aimed at technicians and veterinarians already performing AI. This will be an improvement session, not an initial training.

The training session will be based on the “*Reproguide*”, a comprehensive and effective technical document related by the French union of AI cooperatives, that could be translated in Turkish language. The training could be realized by a binomial formed by a French trainer (from the French school for AI learning) and M. Fatin Cedden, a Turkish professor of Ankara university specialized in reproduction.

1.3 Improvement of the milk quality

1.3.1 Strengthening of cold chain during milk collection

The improvement of the cold chain during milk collection is considered as a priority by some associations as it is an absolutely necessary element to improve the milk quality and obtain a better valorization at marketing time with the purchasing partners.

The common action on this point could be the creation of a small common purchasing agency for the material (milk tank, etc.).

1.3.2 Improvement of milk quality at farm level

Vulgarization and training of the breeders and technicians about the hygiene and milking practices could be organized in order to improve the raw milk quality.

1.4 Development of a milk processing unit

Some of the associations want to settle a milk processing unit as a priority of common action. They are motivated in this project by the difficulties they face concerning the milk marketing and the milk prices. They think that it could contribute to the producers' income improvement by a better product valorization, compared to the sale to a company. Today, their project would be to settle a unity of milk powder production.

The past actions, in France and in many countries, show that it is very difficult for producers to create a profitable processing unit and to satisfy the producers' waits. The success occurred only when such producers' units focused on traditional products (specific cheese,...) but extremely seldom when the unit process basic products, and milk powder is a basic product.

Moreover, the actions concerning the investment in processing and the marketing of the products are the most difficult to realize collectively. It is really not the easiest way to start partnership between the Cattle Breeders' Associations by such kind of actions. It would be more reasonable to start cooperation by technical actions, to build the knowledge of each other and the trust.

This does not mean that the project is absolutely to eliminate, but a serious technical and economic feasibility study is necessary before starting any project of this kind.

2 Actions that would be interesting to undertake in relation with the National Cattle Breeders' Association of Turkey

2.1 Creation of a milk analysis laboratory

We noted the will of the associations to set up a common laboratory owned by the producers for milk, fodder and feed analysis. This will is understandable, as the producers can hardly be reliable in the industrialists' analysis (on which are based the milk payments by companies) if they are not able to verify the results by themselves.

During our visit in Ankara, the Cattle Breeders' Association of Turkey, informed us that this is also the will of the National Association to develop five laboratories on the Turkish territory. Consequently, it would be interesting to undertake this action in relation with the National Association. Indeed, in future, Turkish cattle breeders will need a network of milk analysis laboratory not owned by the industrialist only but by themselves (or shared with industrialists like in France). So, the creation of a milk analysis laboratory for Amasya and surrounding departments could be a common project, and could be the first one (Pilot project) of a network that the National Association wants to settle.

A technical assistance to the definition of the functioning and an accompaniment of the setting up of the laboratory could be provided by a French laboratory, CECALAIT. CECALAIT is used as the reference laboratory for all the interprofessionnal milk analysis laboratories in France, and has already been involved in many technical cooperation with foreign countries. Its technical director was the chairman of the ICAR committee specialized on laboratory for years.

3 Actions that would be interesting to undertake at Amasya department level only for the present time

The activities of Amasya Cattle Breeders' Association are well managed, the team is motivated and the chairman is a dynamic leader, open to innovation and perceptive. So, we consider Amasya Cattle Breeders' Association as a well adapted partner, for developing pilot projects of cattle development in Turkey.

Nevertheless, and as discussed during our mission, Amasya Cattle Breeders' Association should today strengthen its activities and determines its middle term development plan. The priority should be to focus on the association's role and to develop the services in order to satisfy their members as to the main missions of the association : genetic improvement and services to farmers to develop the production.

For years, Amasya Association made the choice to invest on human resource training through its different projects fund by EU. That is the right orientation and the association should continue in this way : open-minded breeders are precious in the development of actions of the association, and the different kind of training contributes to enlarge the number of breeders that could be involved in the association life.

3.1 Development of advise services to farmers

3.1.1 Improvement of skills of the technicians on various topics, for a global approach of the cattle farming systems

The improvement of the skills of the technicians and of their advising capacities should be a priority, as it is the heart of the role of the association.

The need is for practical trainings, in order to train operational advisers. The technicians should have a global approach of the cattle farming systems and be trained to highlight rapidly the weak points during their visit on the farm, so they could focus their advices on the critical points in priority. Their field of advice would be : feeding practices for dairy cows, heifers rearing (an essential subject to ensure the success of the livestock activity for tomorrow), diet balance and economic optimization using locally available components, fattening practices, etc.

The training should be realized by a binomial formed by a French trainer (used to train technicians in France) and a Turkish trainer. So, the trainings would have two objectives : to train the technicians, and to transfer the training method (more practical than theoretical) to the Turkish trainer.

3.1.2 Development of a service of scoring (morphological evaluation) and matting plan

Today, there is no genetic advise to breeders, and the several breeders that we met agree on the lack of such a service. Indeed, this service would be truly useful for the breeders and it is really the role of the association to provide a good quality service on this aspects : appropriate AI bull choice and matting plan, accompaniment of the choice of heifers for renewal, etc.

A training of technicians on scoring and matting plan building could be organize to fulfill this need.

3.2 Definition of an adapted genetic strategy according to the various livestock system

The livestock conditions are not uniform in Amasya department : variety of practices and variety of breeder know-how levels, variety of feeding resources availability, conditions (mountain areas, grazing, etc.), variety of breeds, etc. So, the definition of a diversified genetic strategy based on the livestock farming system is recommended. This approach would be highly innovative and is an interesting way of doing.

The proposed method involved a Franco Turkish experts team, and is the following :

- Identification of the diversity of livestock systems in Amasya department ; based on a survey in the farms and a data analysis. The survey document should be validated by the Franco Turkish team and the field work could be realized by students supervised by Turkish professors of university) ;
- Organization of a workshop gathering the Franco Turkish experts team in order to define adapted genetic recommendations for each livestock farming systems (genotype, criteria for the choice of female for renewal, etc.). That would lead to the definition of a genetic strategy, well adapted to the diversity of livestock farming systems in Amasya department.

The implementation of this strategy on the field would follow and could be managed by a technician that could be trained in France to this operational achievement.



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