

**Activity of the FAO-SCORENA Inter-Regional Cooperative research  
Network on Buffalo and of the International Buffalo Federation during  
2013**

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1. The new book “BUFFALO LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS” was published in 2013. The book is edited by Prof. Antonio Borghese and by the C.R.A., Council for Research in Agriculture, financed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies. The book, in 511 pages and 270 colored figures, is the most complete work in the world about buffalo species: buffalo population, breeds and products are presented for each country in the world; other chapters regarding nutrition and feeding, lactation curve and milk flow, milk quality and products, carcass, meat quality and products, welfare indicators and management, pathologies, cytogenetics, molecular genetics, reproductive technologies, artificial insemination, reproductive pathology, breeding and selection, by the best experts from C.R.A., C.N.R., and from Universities of Italy and Brazil.
2. Publication of a new book in IVIS (International Veterinary Information Service): Bubaline Theriogenology, edited by G.N. Purohit and Antonio Borghese. Different chapters have been published on line and many other are going to be published.
3. Publication of the number 27 (December 2012) of the Buffalo Newsletter, the Bulletin of the FAO-SCORENA Inter-Regional Cooperative research Network on Buffalo and of the International Buffalo Federation. The newsletter is published too on the FAO website: [www.agrowebcee.net](http://www.agrowebcee.net).

4. Organization of the 10<sup>th</sup> World Buffalo Congress and the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Buffalo Congress, May 6-8, 2013, Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort, Phuket, Thailand. On May 6, after the opening ceremony with the greetings and welcome by the Thailand Authorities, Prof. Dr. Prasart Suebka, Rector of the Suranaree University of Technology, opened the congress with the title: Green Production against Global Warming. After the keynote lecture “World Buffalo Production: Challenges in meat, milk production and mitigation of methane emission” was presented by M. Wanapat (Thailand). The President of the International Buffalo Federation (IBF) and of the Asian Buffalo Association (ABA), and Chair of the Organizing Committee, Prof. Rangsun Parnpai welcomed all the people taking part to the congress (700 people from 44 countries) and introduced the lecture dedicated to Prof. Maneewan Kamompatana: by K.H. Lu (China) on “Sperm sexing in buffalo using flow cytometry”.

In the plenary session 1 (Buffalo for Food security and Economy) more lectures were presented: by Libertado C. Cruz (Philippines) on “Changing faces of Swamp Buffaloes in an industrializing Asia”, where Dr. Cruz showed as Swamp Buffaloes, as draft animals in rice field, in many Asian countries were gradually replaced by tractors and their number dramatically declined, as in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines; but the strategy in Philippines and China was to create Buffalo Institutes, as the Guangxi Buffalo Research Institute in China and the Philippine Carabao Center in Philippines, where crossbreeding with River dairy purpose buffalo breeds was applied and backcrossing too for buffalo and milk development programs.

The lecture by Antonio Borghese (Italy) followed on “Buffalo Livestock and products in Europe”, where the same trend than in Asia was shown: countries with dramatic declining of buffalo population, because of mechanization replaced draught animals, and countries as Italy, where a dairy buffalo breed, the Mediterranean Italian, was selected, producing until 5000 kg/ milk per lactation of 270 days, used to support the rich market of luxurious products, as the “mozzarella di bufala campana”, with a registered and protected mark in the European Union.

Marco Zava (Argentina) spoke about the Development of Buffalo Industry in America, while Kitti Koobkaew (Thailand) showed the Thailand Buffalo strategy Plan for 2012-2016.

In the Plenary session 2 (Sustainable Buffalo production) four lectures were presented: Prospects of nutrition and feeding for sustainable buffalo production, by Talat N. Pasha

(Pakistan), brief introduction to the development of Chinese dairy buffalo industry, by Bing-Zhuang Yang (China), Buffalo under threat in Amazon Valley, Brazil, by William G. Vale (Brazil), Buffalo share in small farmer welfare under intensive agricultural system, by Ibrahim Soliman (Egypt).

In the Plenary session 3 (Biotechnological for Efficient Buffalo production) two lectures were presented: Biotechnological approaches for efficient buffalo production, by M.E. Babar (Pakistan), the buffalo genome and the application of genomics in animal management and improvement, by John Williams (Italy).

On days May 7 and May 8, different Symposia were held: Buffalo Reproduction, Genetics and Breeding, Nutrition and Feeding, Buffalo Health, Buffalo Physiology, Production and Management, Socio-Economic and Sustainable Production, Buffalo Meat and Meat Products, Buffalo milk and Milk Products.

On May 7, at 15:30, the IBF Business meeting took place. The IBF General Secretary, Prof. Antonio Borghese presented the economic balance of the Federation, that was approved, and the IBF activities during the period 2010-2012, as the publication of the reported books and of the Buffalo Newsletter no. 25, 26, 27, the 9<sup>th</sup> World Buffalo Congress in Buenos Aires (Argentina, April 25-28, 2010), the 5<sup>th</sup> Buffalo Symposium for Europe and America in Havana (Cuba, November 22-23, 2011), and last but not at least, the participation to different projects: in Hungary to create a new experimental dairy buffalo farm, in Pakistan to support the humanitarian project “Buffaloes in Punjab”, in Bangladesh with an agreement with Lal Ter Seed Limited Company. Finally the IBF President Rangsun Parnpai invited the IBF delegates to present their candidature to the new President for the period 2013-2016, who will organize the 11<sup>th</sup> World Buffalo Congress in 2016.

China, Turkey and Colombia presented their candidature. The IBF delegates voted, each one for each country, and Colombia was elected with Claudia Roldan as President. Turkey was elected for organize the Asian Buffalo Congress on 2015 with Prof. M. Ihsan Soysal as President of ABA.

From May 9 to 13 the Post-Congress tour was held visiting different farms: the Thai Buffalo Conservation and Development Center, a Murrah farm, the Milking Buffalo farm of the Department of Livestock Development, and the World Buffalo show and competition.