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Dear WRSA officers and members,

Six months have passed since our sixth Newsletter. Over the course of these months, many interesting things have happened in the rabbit world, that next we will try to summarize.

Letter from the WRSA President

Dear WRSA members and followers,

At the dawn of this new year, I am proud to announce that our community is enlarging with two new branches, from Malaysia and Philippines, that have fulfilled the steps to belong to WRSA. Their definitive registration will be pronounced during our general assembly in Nantes, at the occasion of our 12th World Rabbit Congress. I also would like to express my gratitude to WRSA National branches officers for sharing the common effort of increasing the knowledge about rabbit science and the interest for rabbit production.

This year, with the WRSA office, we have a great job in preparing our next World Rabbit Congress (30th June to 3rd July, Nantes, France). Already, many tasks have been engaged, and the work is intensifying. We hope your participation in submitting papers and in attending the congress. (see below the last informations about the 2020WRC).

Do not forget to use our discussion forum for every question to our community:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/world-rabbit-science-asso>

Visit and publish in the WRSA journal: World Rabbit Science

<http://polipapers.upv.es/index.php/wrs>

Visit our WRSA website (<http://world-rabbit-science.com/>) and our facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/wrsaface/>).

I hope rabbit production will maintain and possibly increase its substantial role in covering the human needs for high quality food.

Have a healthy, peaceful and active year.

Thierry GIDENNE 🐰🌐
WRSA President
Auzeville (France), January 6, 2020

Last News from 2020 World Rabbit Congress

Our next WRC is progressing in its preparation. We are in the final phase of communications submission, which will be evaluated and considered for possible presentation at the congress. The deadline is January 15, 2020. To date, we have already received more than 100 communications for the congress, so if you have not sent your communication, do not delay. You have all the information about the communications submission procedure at <https://colloque.inra.fr/wrc2020/Submission>

Now the refereeing system is working. Scientific Referees of our WRC are: Mrs Fang WANG (China) for Pathology & Hygiene, Mr Jose S. VICENTE (Spain) for Reproduction, Mrs Angela TROCINO (Italy) for Welfare & Ethology, Mr Massimiliano PETRACCI (Italy) for Product Quality, Mr. Saidu OSENI (Nigeria) for Miscellaneous, Mrs Nuria NICODEMUS (Spain) for Nutrition, Mr Milan MAROUNEK (Czech Republic) for Biology and Physiology, Mr Luiz Carlos MACHADO (Brazil) for Farming Systems and Economy, and Mr Herve GARREAU (France) for Breeding and Genetics. Exchanges with the referee will give you the opportunity to improve your paper (final revised paper must be submitted in early March). Referee will send you a notification, as soon as your paper is accepted (or not) and you will be noticed to prepare either an oral presentation or a poster.

The eight main conferences have already been commissioned, you can check the titles and the main speakers on the congress website (Keynote speakers section), which will cover a wide variety of issues: females nutrition, physiology of ovulation, semi-natural conditions, rabbit meat consumption, applied neuroendocrinology, rabbit meat trade, robustness and resistance to disease, and viral haemorrhagic disease variants.

On the other hand, the WRC Scientific Committee has already proposed titles for the five round tables that will take place in the WRC, on current issues with high interest: post-antibiotic era, rabbits in developing world, boost the meat market, coccidiosis in farm, and new farming systems. Currently, the organization is contacting potential candidates to chair this round tables.

The deadline for the paper submission for the candidates to the scholarship for young scientists from developing countries was last November 29, 2019. Their works are currently being evaluated and in the coming months the selected candidates will be informed. <https://colloque.inra.fr/wrc2020/>

Other relevant information, such as which the congress program, how to register (and key dates), how to be a sponsor and where it will be held ..., is already available on the official website of the congress:

<https://colloque.inra.fr/wrc2020>

Early registration deadline: 15th May 2020; Late: 15th May -24th June 2020

We look forward to welcoming you to Nantes in 2020.

Selected Publications

Popular Articles in World Rabbit Science last 12 months:

1. [A review of recent research outcomes on the housing of farmed domestic rabbits: reproducing does](#) 1603 views since: 2019-03-29
2. [Children's consumption of rabbit meat](#) 857 views since: 2019-09-30
3. [Molecular genetic diversity and conservation priorities of Egyptian rabbit breeds](#) 592 views since: 2019-09-30
4. [Rabbit haemorrhagic disease: experimental study of a recent highly pathogenic GI.2/RHDV2/b strain and evaluation of vaccine efficacy](#) 589 views since: 2019-09-30
5. [Abstracts of the 18th French Rabbit Days](#) 574 views since: 2019-09-30

International and National Congresses

In the last six months, there have been a national and an international conference.

9th Annual Conference on Rabbit Industry Development in He Tian city (China)

The 9th China Rabbit Industry Development Conference (CRID) was held in He Tian city (Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China) from the 11th to 12th of Oct. 2019, hosted by China Animal Agriculture Association (CAAA), China Branch of WRSA and He Tian government.

The theme of this year conference is *Green Farming, Technological Innovation, Poverty Alleviation and Rural Revitalization*. The plenary session and two forums were arranged, which focused on rabbit breeding, feed and nutrition, disease control, facility and environment control, marketing and branding, poverty alleviation through rabbit farming. In the Expert Interaction Session, the participants discussed with experts on challenges and opportunities of rabbit farming and non-antibiotic farming. There were more than 800 participants to this conference. A total of 112 communications were received during call for paper, which covered reproduction and genetics, breeding, nutrition, biosecurity and welfare, and management. Finally, total 18 communications were orally presented.

During the conference, the business cooperation and investment were also welcomed, and totally 19 companies from other provinces signed contracts with local companies. After the conference, two field trips were arranged to visit local farms and processing companies.

The organizer also held the rabbit meat cooking competition, more than 20 restaurants and companies recommended their chiefs to participate in the contest. Finally, the winners were awarded the prizes. During the committee meeting of Rabbit Association of CAAA, Prof. Yinghe Qin was elected as the president.

[Provided by *Laping Wu*, China Branch of WRSA]



International Conference on Rabbit Production in Tropical Climate 2019 and 4th Asian Rabbit Production Association Conference, in Selangor (Malaysia)

The International Conference on Rabbit Production in Tropical Climate 2019 and the 4th Asian Rannit Production Association Congerence, organized by the Indonesian Branch of the WRSA, was held in Selangor (Malaysia) from the 5th to 6th of August, 2019.

The conference brought together the majority of researchers and technicians who focus their activity on rabbit production in Indonesia, with the invited presence of some North American and European researchers.

The main issues addressed throughout the conference were aspects of great interest for the production of rabbits in the tropics, such as adapting rabbit production to climate change, the usefulness of rabbit farming in times of disaster, new and alternative raw materials for rabbit nutrition in this area, effect of tropic conditions to the physiology of rabbit and their meat characteristics, production in tropic and urban conditions and main infections in Indonesian rabbit farms, as well as the current situation of the rabbit industry and Selangor (Malaysia).



[Provided by *Aisya Abdullah and Thierry Gidenne*]



RABBIT PRODUCTION
In Tropical Climate

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RABBIT PRODUCTION IN TROPICAL CLIMATE
AND 4TH ASIAN RABBIT PRODUCTION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE**

“Rabbit as Future Livestock for Sustainable Development”

4-6 AUGUST 2019
SELANGOR, MALAYSIA

XI Conference of the Portuguese Association of Cuniculture in Vila Real (Portugal)

On November 12th and 13th, 2019, at UTAD (University of Trás os Montes and Alto Douro), the community's rabbit breeding days were held in Portugal, in a joint organization of ASPOC (Portuguese Association of Cuniculture - XI journeys) and APEZ (Portuguese Association of Zotechnical Engineering - VII journeys) and with the collaboration of the Department of Animal Production.

Under the theme “Cuniculture: Designing the future”, over a day and a half of the works, about 18 internationally renowned guest speakers from Portugal, Spain and France, gave presentations in various areas, focusing on the most relevant aspects to the rabbit production. The topics of food, sanity, antibiotic resistance and animal welfare were addressed. The Journeys ended with a Rabbit Meat Tasting Dinner, hosted by a local Cheff.

With the event, it was sought that the present congressmen (about 220, among professionals and technicians of the sector, students and teachers), acquire tools that can prepare them for the constant challenges of the production, innovating and improving the techniques, to enhance production and improve the profitability. We hope with this initiative to have once again made our humble contribution to the promotion of rabbit production.

More photos of the event at:

<https://www.facebook.com/APEZNACIONAL/photos/a.2474281099284856/2610227805690184/?type=3&theater>

[Provided by *Victor Pinherio and Ana Sofia Santos*, Portuguese Branch of WRSA]



Congresses just around the corner:

Next January 31, 2020, the Italian Branch of the WRSA, the Italian Scientific Association for Rabbit Farming (ASIC), will hold their ASIC Annual Conference at Verona (Italy). A few days after the publication of the new EFSA Opinions on rabbit welfare in breeding and slaughtering, the annual ASIC conference aims to take stock of the production and research situation in Italy in light of the new European perspectives. At the VeronaFiere site, the meeting between production, research and the various speakers will also be aimed at illustrating the state of the art and all the actions that have been carried out so far, as well as the opportunities for sector renewal. For this, the new guidelines elaborated by the Italian Ministry of Health and the funding possibilities for the sector related to the Rural Development Program of the Veneto Region will be presented.

On April 29 and 30, 2020, the Spanish rabbit farming sector is convened to the 45th edition of the ASESCU Cuniculture Symposium. This edition is co-organized by the Institute of Biotechnology of the University of Oviedo, which will welcome us in the beautiful capital of Asturias (Oviedo, Spain). The conference venue will be the Aula Magna of the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Oviedo (Campus El Cristo).

The objectives of the forty-fifth edition of the Cuniculture Symposium are to publicize the reality of cuniculture in the Asturian community and its surroundings, serve as a meeting point for rabbit breeders, technicians, commercial, companies, teachers and researchers to analyse the current situation of the rabbit sector in Spain and serve as a scenario for the presentation of advances in research and technological development in the field of cuniculture since the previous Symposium.

From ASESCU we invite the whole sector to meet us in Oviedo.

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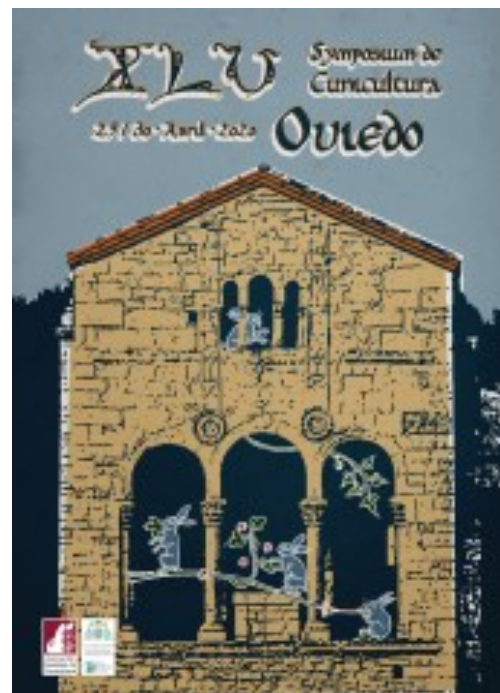
31 gennaio 2020

Convegno Annuale ASIC

(Associazione Scientifica Italiana di Coniglicoltura)

Tavola Rotonda

Numeri e prospettive del settore cunicolo in Italia



In memory of our colleagues

Tribute for Dominique Licois



Dominique left us on 7th september 2019. He has always been a man very invested in rabbit sciences and particularly in rabbit pathology. He also always been involved in rabbit farming too. He has brought us great scientific advances by developing the method of reproduction of coccidiosis, colibacillosis and REE.

He worked hard, and his work has always been humble and was wellknown for his great kindness, welcoming everybody who need help (colleagues, young scientists, numerous trainees, etc.). His objectivity has always been noticed. He has a very high international reputation and was invited in numerous conferences and gave regularly courses in rabbit pathology. He published several hundred publications.

As a member of various scientific associations (WRSAs, ASFC, ...), he has made a major contribution to the French rabbit conferences to world rabbit congresses.

All the rabbit science community offer their condolences to his wife (Arlette L.) and to his family.

Thank you, Dominique, for sharing your experience with all of us, your work still is alive.

Best regards and wishing you a great year 2020

Juan José Pascual
WRSAs General Secretary



Valencia (Spain), January 13, 2020