2013- N°1

N E W S L E T T E R

JUNE 2013

EGS-ABG 2013-2017

Warm congratulations to our new fellowship holders !

- Zih Hua Fang (Taiwan)
- Bingjie Li (China)
- Jovana Marjanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
- Wossenie Mebratie (Ethiopia)
- Christina Rochus (Canada)
- Qianqian Zhang (China)
- Anoop Arya (India)
- Sonia Eynard (France)
- Tao Xiang (China)

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COORDINATOR'S WORD

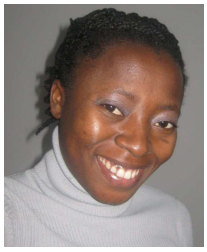
The first group of doctoral candidates is almost at mid-term. Interesting results were or will be presented in congress, and the first scientific papers were published (see information in the present issue).

The third group of dotoral candidates was selected a few months ago and will start this coming September. On behalf of the EGS-ABG staff, I warmly welcome all these new doctoral candidates! A new call of candidates, on September 2013, is under preparation for PhD projects scheduled to start on September 2014.

The next "Welcome course" and "Research School" will take place on the ILRI campus in Ethiopia, on October 2013, which is an exciting perspective for all doctoral candidates. Especially, the Research School will focus on sustainable animal breeding and food security, with emphasis on value chain development. This School is jointly organized by EGS-ABG and ILRI: I warmly thanks our Associated Partner ILRI for its valuable input!

Etienne Verrier, EGS-ABG coordinator

EGS-ABG WELCOMES A NEW ADDITION TO THE GROUP 2



TENGHE Amabel Manyu Mefru
"Whole genome sequence information and progesterone measurements to improve selection for fertility in dairy cows", Wageningen University—Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

I obtained a BSc in Zoology from the University of Buea (Cameroon), and a Masters in animal breeding and genetics from Wageningen University (Netherlands) and AgroParistech (France), 2010. I started my PhD in January 2013 and I am currently working on my first objective. My project is focused on improving genetic selection for fertility in dairy cows by combing two approaches: 1) using in-line milk progesterone measurements and 2) using whole-genome sequence information to detect quantitative trait nucleotides (QTN) for fertility traits. I thank the EGS-ABG for giving me this opportunity, as I look forward to making a valuable contribution in this area of research.

Photo: Doreen Schwochow

INTRODUCTION COURSE—FALL SCHOOL 2013

The next Introduction Course and EGS-ABG Fall School will for the first time take place in a third country partner: the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). PhD candidates from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd group will meet in Ethiopia from October 23rd to November 1st to study Animal Breeding and Developping countries.

Contact: egsabg@agroparistech.fr — **Website**: www.egsabg.eu — **Director of publication:** Etienne Verrier — **Editor:** Delphine Deschamps

EGS-ABG PHD CANDIDATES IN MOTION

POSTER AWARD

During the journées ABIES, the 2nd-year PhD students presented the subjects and objectives of their PhD projects to the other students from the doctoral school. The students enrolled at ABIES doctoral school (the AgroParisTech doctoral school; the acronym "ABIES" is the abreviation from "Agriculture Alimentation Biologie Environnement Santé") work in a great variety of subjects around life sciences, so many thematics were presented. The fact of presenting a poster at these journées was

a particular challenge because the audience is different to what we find in more-related genetic congresses: the presenter needs to find a way of explaining their highly detailed phD project to a general (but still scientist) audience. I absolutely found that it was an amazing exercise of communication. I presented the main objectives and background of my PhD project, as well as other details. And for that, I used two visuals (one of them I had it on my hand on the photo) that I used to ask a question to my "guests" as a kind of game, in order to wake up the curiosity and to understand my topic in a fully way. I was voted by the audience as one of the 6 best posters!

Bélén Jimenez Mena (Group 1)

PUBLICATION

Irene Van Der Berg will shortly publish in the journal *Genetic Selection Evolution* an article entitled: « QTL fine mapping with Bayes C(pi): a simulation study » , co-authored by S. Fritz and D. Boichard.

Photo: Doreen Schowochow

ORAL PRESENTATION

Doreen Schwochow (Group 1) had the opportunity to make an oral presentation entitled: « *The barred beauty – what chickens can teach us about melanocyte survival* » during the Pigment Cell Development Worshop (University of Edinburg, May 2013)

EGS-ABG IN EAAP 2013

Many PhD candidates are also preparing presentations for the next EAAP meeting in August 2013 :

Esinam N. Amuzu-Aweh: Use of genomic information from pure-lines for the prediction of heterosis in their crossbred offspring.

Gabriel Rovere: Effect of specialization on genetic parameters in sport horses.

Hadi Esfandyari: Medium to long-term effects of selection in finite locus models with non-additive effects.

Sandrine I. Duchemin: Fine-mapping of chromosomes, as an attempt to refine genomic regions and to identify genes that might be related to milk-fat composition.

Xiaowei Mao: Population level genome-wide association study for calving traits in Holstein cattle .

Berihu Gebremedhin Welderufael: Genetic evaluation of mastitis liability and recovery through longitudinal models of simulated SCC

Andre M. Hidalgo: Pleiotropic effects of a QTL region for androstenone level on pig chromosome 6.

A communication about EGS-ABG will also take place during the session “training for the future”.

Photos: Irene Van Der Berg

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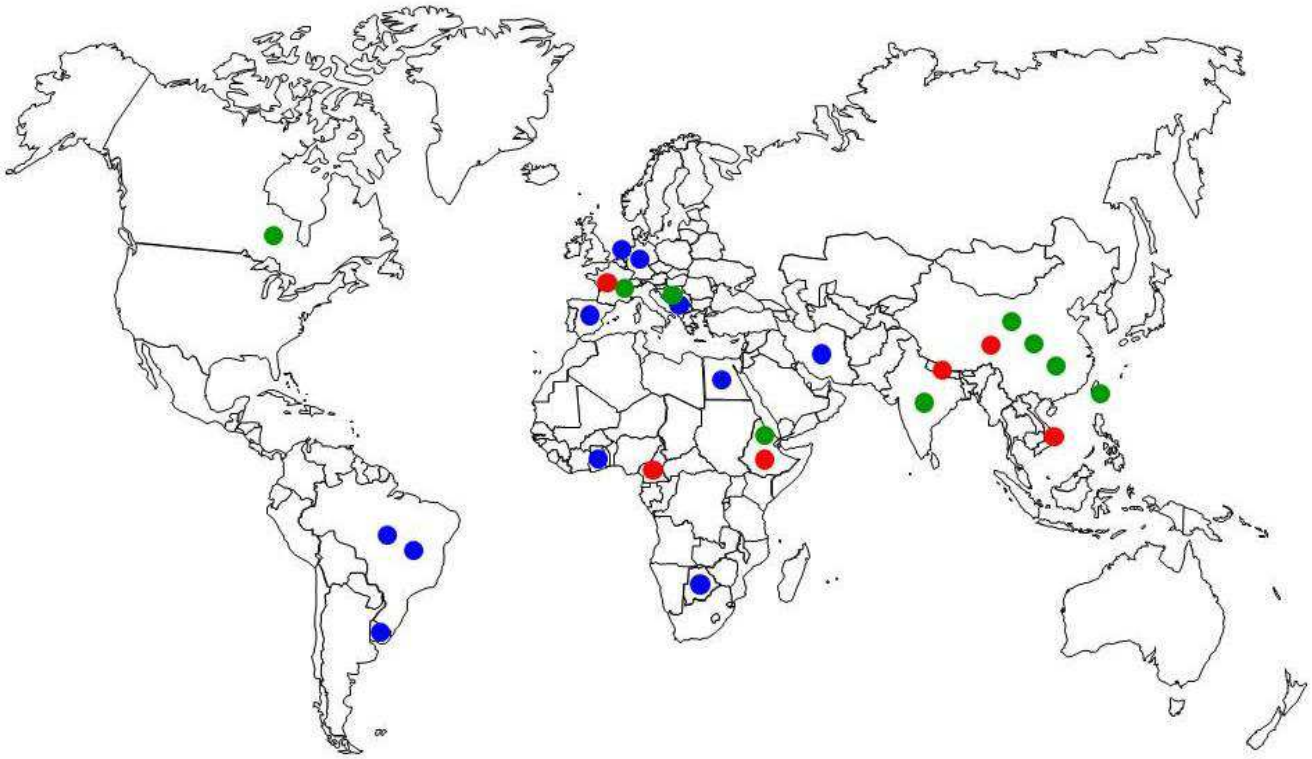
GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN OF CANDIDATES



LEGEND

Group 1:

Bosnia, Botswana, Brazil, Germany, Ghana, Iran, The Netherlands, Spain and Uruguay

Group 2:

China, Ethiopia, France, Kenya, Iran, Nepal and Vietnam

Group 3:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, China, Ethipia, France, India and Taiwan

Ongoing Selection Process

◊ **April-June, 2013**

Call for PhD projects

◊ **July-August, 2013**

Project evaluation

◊ **Sept-Nov, 2013**

Publication of the selected projects, call for candidates

◊ **Dec 2013-Feb, 2014**

Validation of applications, interviews of the best applicants, selection

◊ **May, 2014**

Publication of the main list of doctoral candidates and of the reserve list

◊ **September, 2014**

Start of the PhD projects

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