

EGRAN Sample Bank and Database for Rabbit Feeding

General Agreement

within the frame of the ERAFE Project - Concerted action FAIR3 - 1651

Introduction

Each partner of the European Group on Rabbit Nutrition "EGRAN" performs in-vivo digestibility trials to measure the nutritive value of rabbit feeds or feedstuffs. The two past ring-tests have demonstrated the importance of using a common harmonised procedure for these time consuming in-vivo measurements, in order to reduce the variability and thus the reliability of the results.

Most of the partners does not store for a long term samples of the essayed feeds or feedstuffs. Moreover, in view of predicting the nutritive value a sufficient numerous and reliable dataset is necessary to achieve this goal. None of the partners involved in this activity is able to constitute such a sample bank. Furthermore, a common sample bank makes it possible to harmonise chemical, in vitro or NIRS analyses. Earlier trials with other species (pigs, poultry...) and rabbits have clearly shown the limits of a data bank without a sample bank.

Objectives

1. To collect and store samples of diets and feedstuffs (and corresponding faecal samples) **essayed with the EGRAN digestibility** procedure.
2. To collect the in-vivo digestibility data of the essayed samples in an electronic database file.
3. To use the samples for future works connected to EGRAN activity (e.g. ERAFE program).

Procedures

1. Location, responsibilities and costs:

Sample bank is located at INRA/ SRC under the responsibility of J.M. PEREZ. Details concerning size and identification are given below.

Database handling is located at CLO under the responsibility of L. MAERTENS. The corresponding in vivo data of SABA have to be sent, preferentially by E-mail in an attached file, as soon as possible after the expedition of the sample.

Costs for sample expedition are on charge of each EGRAN member

Costs for sample bank management is a fixed shared cost for each EGRAN member. It will be determined through a common agreement, in annual meeting of the group.

2. SABA : preparation of samples for a long term storage

a) **Principle:** the sample is put under vacuum with adapted plastic bags and stored at +4°C.

b) Type & presentation of samples:

- Diets: pellet form
- Raw materials: in original form without drying or grinding
- Faeces: grounded on 1 mm screen (fixed pool after drying for 24h at 80°C)

c) Size of samples

- 2 bags of 350g for diets and raw materials
- 2 bags of 100g for pooled faeces

d) Vacuum procedure, (preferably performed at INRA)

- Double plastic bags (high quality, non-retractable): 250 x 280 mm
- Common soldered joint for the 2 bags (one suppl. weld for faeces)
- After vacuum packing, samples are put under observation for two weeks at room temperature

e) Identification of samples

The samples are identified with a label between the two plastic bags and include: (use following example)

Code:
Origin:
Type:
Date of vacuum-packing:
Replicate

Code = Origin + Number + Type

(ex: **G001D G002RM G003F G004RM** etc...)

Origin: G (CLO, Ghent), L (ISAL, Lisboa), M (UPM, Madrid),
P (UPADU, Padova), T (INRA, Toulouse), V (UPV, Valencia)

Type: D (Diet), RM (Raw material, feedstuff), F (Faeces)

3. Required information to be sent for database of SABA:

- general information: lab, date, diet raw material or faeces
- number and age of the rabbits involved in the balance trial
- mean intake level (g/d) during the balance trial
- chemical composition: DM, OM, CP, EE, GE, NDF, ADF, CF and starch and ADL if available
- mean value of in vivo digestibility determination of DM, OM, CP, GE and eventually EE, NDF, ADF or CF
- ingredient composition of diets
(distributed model files have to be used for diets, raw materials and faeces)

NOTE: although all the data are confidentially, **each lab has the right to hide some information** (please indicate CONFI instead of the value). In this case the lab commits to store this information **but agrees** to give this information later on the demand of the EGRAN group.

Agreements

- samples sent to the data bank can not more recalled by the original laboratory, without the authorisation of all EGRAN members.
- the use of the samples and data is authorised but limited to the works dealing with the EGRAN activity.
- analyses or utilisation of the data outside the EGRAN activity have to be previously authorised by all EGRAN members.
- the managers of the data and sample bank confirm that the data and samples are confidentially and thereby no reproduction is authorised without permission of all EGRAN members.
- publications issued from SABA samples or from the SABA database have to mention at least the name(s) of the original laboratory.
- in order to stimulate the sample and data bank development, publications based on the concerted action will take into account the number of data as an important item to judge the citation or the order of cited authors.

Signature and date

INRA:

CLO:

ISAL:

UPADU:

UPM:

UPV: