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Dear WRSA officers and members,

Six months have passed since our fourth 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,

WRSA acts as a body serving the community of Rabbit scientist, engineers and all persons interested in rabbit sciences and farming. Thus, WRSA exists if supported by its Members. A World Association cannot be strong enough without strong and active National Branches. So, first, I 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 in rabbit production.

This year, with the WRSA office, we will have a great job in preparing our next World Rabbit Congress (1-3 July, Nantes, France). Already, several tasks have been engaged, and the work will intensify this year and in early 2020. We hope your participation in submitting papers and in attending the congress. (see below the last information 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

News from the WRSA branches

The **Italian Association of Rabbit Science** (*Associazione Scientifica Italiana di Conigliicoltura*, ASIC) was funded in 1976 by a group of young researchers that contributed to the research and technique development in rabbit production at an Italian and international level (Daniele Gallazzi, Claudia

Baldissera Nordio, Marcella Battaglini, Casimiro Crimella, Roberto Parigi Bini). During the first two mandates, prof. Maria Teresa Auxilia of the University of Turin coordinated ASIC activities. After that, every two or three years, a Directive Council, including scientists and coordinators of breeder and technical organizations, has been elected by the ASIC members.

The latest **Directive Council** has been composed by the President Cesare Castellini (University of Perugia), the Secretary-Treasurer Angela Trocino (University of Padova), the Vice-presidents Fabrizio Agnoletti (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie) and Rossella Pedicone (UnaItalia), the Members: Claudio Cavani (University of Bologna), Elena Circella (University of Bari), Fabio Luzi (University of Milan), Gerolamo Xiccato (University of Padova), Gianni Corbara (Technician) and Francesco Danese (AIA).



Cesare Castellini (President)

ASIC is one of the largest WRSA branches with a number varying from 40 to 70 memberships, from academy, breeder associations and industries. The association continuously and actively acts to diffuse and promote rabbit science at different levels. Thus, it participates to institutional tables for ruling rabbit production in agreement with industries and farmers.

ASIC organized twice the World Rabbit Congress in Italy, i.e. the 3rd WRC in Rome (1984), and the 8th WRC in Verona (2008). Yearly it organizes scientific conferences (e.g. Giornate di Coniglicoltura ASIC in Forlì), and round tables on specific topics, like rabbit housing and welfare, antibiotic resistance, technical innovation, in different locations in Italy, as well as training courses and events for breeders, technicians and veterinaries often in collaboration with the Fondazione Iniziative Zooprofilattiche of Brescia.

The activities of ASIC and WRSA are published on the ASIC website www ASIC-wrsa.it

Last News from 2020 World Rabbit Congress

It is with great pleasure that we invite you, on behalf of the WRSA, to join us at the WRC 12th Congress 2020 which will take place at The Cité des Congrès, Nantes between 1 and 3 July 2020. This is an excellent opportunity for businesses in the industry to engage with scientists in the rabbit science research field.

The Congress will attract a wide range of delegates, including both rabbit research scientists and stakeholders, and will include invited speakers from across the world. It is expected that delegate numbers will be of 400 visiting Nantes from over 30 countries joining together to share and helping to forge the future of rabbit science.

We look forward to welcoming you to Nantes in 2020.

Sylvie Combes and Chantal Davoust

Chairman Local Organizing Committee of the WRC 12th Congress 2020

Information and Agenda

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

The WRC is under development, it will be filled progressively according to the agenda.

Early registration:

15th September 2019 – 15th May 2020; - late: 15th May -24th June 2020



Paper submission process:

First call for a short paper title + synopsis: starting at 15/06/2019 till 15/10/2019

Submission for short papers: starting at 15/09/2019 till 15/11/2019

The submission process will follow a 3-step process:

- **first step:** Submit by mail a one page containing title, author list and address, synopsis and corresponding author e-mail. This will help the scientific comity to build well balance sessions. A notification of acceptance for short paper submission will be send to the corresponding author.
- **second step:** Submit your complete short paper according to the author guidelines, exchange with the referee will give the opportunity to improve the paper. Referee will send notification of whether the paper is accepted as oral presentation or poster
- **third step:** Authors prepare oral presentation or poster according to 12thWRC guidelines.



Selected Publications

Popular Articles in World Rabbit Science last 12 months:

1. [Behaviour and reactivity of female and male rabbits housed in collective pens: effects of floor type and stocking density at different ages](#) 929 views since: 2018-06-28
2. [Single nucleotide polymorphism of the growth hormone \(GH\) encoding gene in inbred and outbred domestic rabbits](#) 704 views since: 2018-03-28
3. [Technical note: Estimation of real rabbit meat consumption in Italy](#) 524 views since: 2018-03-28
4. [Humoral immune response to different routes of myxomatosis vaccine application](#) 418 views since: 2018-06-28
5. [White lupin bran and its effects on the growth performance, carcass characteristics and digestibility of nutrients in fattening rabbits](#) 413 views since: 2018-03-28

International and National Congresses

In the last six months, there have been an international congress and an annual national congress

VI American Rabbit Congress

Between August 27th and 29th, 2018, the VI American Rabbit Congress was held in the city of Goiania - Brazil. This event brought together professionals from Brazil, Mexico and Argentina, as well as European countries such as Portugal, Hungary, Spain and France, as well as Nigeria. The Congress took place within the schedules of "Zootecnia Brasil" and took place at the PUC Goiania Convalescent Center.

Renowned researchers such as Concha Cervera of the UPV and Thierry Gidenne of INRA as well as young promises participated in the event. There were presented extremely current topics such as rabbit welfare, pet rabbit nutrition and organic rabbit breeding in addition to traditional



themes. The event also had a roundtable, presentations of oral and poster works. The lectures were recorded, edited and are available in the link: <http://acbc.org.br/site/index.php/iv-senacitec2/material-do-evento>

There are lectures in portuguese, spanish and english languages. More than 100 person participated of the congress and 27 papers were presented in oral and phoster formats. These papers are available in the link: <http://acbc.org.br/site/index.php/iv-senacitec2/iv-seminario-nacional>

This congress was extremely important to increase the dialogue among all those involved in the activity. In addition, it was extremely important for new research groups appear and to it participate in the work of reseach and disseminating of the activity. In addition, there was substantial strengthening of ACBC and AB-WRSA associations. Photos from this event can be accessed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HA_GPDiMzo



8th Annual Congress on Rabbit Industry Development in China

The 8th China Rabbit Industry Development Conference (CRID) was held in Ningyuan city (Hunan province, China) from the 2nd to 4th of November 2018, hosted by China Animal Agriculture Association (CAAA) and China Branch of WRSA. The theme of this year conference is industry upgrading. The plenary session and 5 sub-sessions were arranged and mainly focused on rabbit breeding, local rabbit genetic resource protection, non-antibiotic farming and rabbit industry standard etc. There were more than 180 participants to this conference.

A total of 120 communications were received during call-for-paper, which covered reproduction and genetics, breeding, nutrition, biosecurity and welfare, and management etc. Finally total 19 communications were orally presented. Specific sessions were designed for experience sharing and technical exchange among farmers and enterprises. In addition, after the congress a field trip was arranged to visit local farms.



Congresses just around the corner:

In March 2019, 28th will take place the Annual ASIC Convention, organized by the *Associazione Scientifica Italiana di Coniglicoltura* (ASIC) in Forli (Italy). You can get all the information about this event at

<http://www.asic-wrsa.it/index.php>





In May 2019, 27th-28th will take place the 18th French Rabbit Days, organized by the *Institute National de la Recherche Agronomique* (INRA) and the Association Scientifique Française de Cuniculture (ASFC) in Nantes (France). You can get all the information about this event at



<http://www.cuniculture.info/Docs/Magazine/Magazine2018/Fichiers%20html/mag45-003-Presentation-JRC2019.html>

In June 2019, 5th-6th will take place the 44 Symposium on Cuniculture, organized by the Spanish Association of Cuniculture (ASESCU) and the *Unión de Campesinos de Castilla y León* (UCCL) in Aranda de Duero (Burgos, Spain). You can get all the information about this event at



<https://asescu.com/symposium-asescu/>

In April 2019, 13th-14th will take place the VI National Seminar on Rabbit Science and Technology, as well as the II Meeting of Santa Catarina's Rabbit Farmers, organized by the Brazilian Rabbit Science Association (Associação Científica Brasileira de Cunicultura) in Florianópolis (Brazil). You can get all the information about this event at



<http://encontrodecunicultores.paginas.ufsc.br/#>

Best regards and wishing you a great 2019

Juan José Pascual
WRSA General Secretary

Valencia (Spain), January 28, 2019