



The 21st annual IFIF/FAO meeting was held in September in Rome. Photo courtesy of the International Feed Industry Federation

IFIF/FAO Annual Meeting

The period from mid-September through mid-November was a very busy time for officers of the World Renderers Organization, as they actively represented the industry at several international events.

IFIF/FAO Annual Meeting

In September, I represented WRO at the Food Agricultural Organization of the United Nations/International Feed Industry Federation annual meeting that took place at the FAO headquarters in Rome. I would like to highlight the main subjects addressed there:

- An FAO action plan to contain antimicrobial resistance, by gathering and disseminating reliable scientific information to all livestock production stakeholders.
- One of IFIF's sustainability actions is developing a coproduct/by-product guidance for use in animal feeding, clearly defining the circular bioeconomy concept — a very important concept for renderers.

For future plans, I would advise WRO members to attend the 7th Global Feed and Food Congress, to take place in Bangkok,

Thailand, in March 2024. For more details, see www.gffc2024.com. The WRO is intending to officially support this event.

LEAP/FAO

As decided at the last WRO annual meeting hosted at the European Fat Processors and Renderers Association Congress in Vila Moura, Portugal, a WRO working group was created to evaluate if WRO should foster our participation in Phase 4 of the UN's global livestock partnership. At the FAO headquarters, I had a preliminary meeting with Dr. Aimable Uwizeye in Rome, presenting the sector and what our members do for the sustainability of the livestock. Following that, the WRO working group participated at the 35th Livestock and Environmental Assessment and Performance steering committee meeting.

Priorities have been confirmed for LEAP 4 projects to be done through the end 2024: ecosystem services, circular economy, land use change and leather. Rendering activities benefit from almost all four projects, but especially the first two. WRO's working group decided to maintain support for LEAP 4. A complete report was sent to the WRO members, and the decision will be taken in a voting section soon.

For more information, visit <https://www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/en/>.

16th Australian Renderers Association Symposium

At the ARA Symposium, WRO had three activities. First, there was an interim meeting where officers could update members on the latest activities. Then a presentation was given on “What is LEAP and what does it mean to the rendering industry?” We explained LEAP’s history, actions and future plans, and the program’s possible benefits to renderers. Finally, a second presentation, Innovation in Rendering, was given.

NARA Annual Convention

At the 89th annual convention, the WRO had two activities including an interim meeting for the officers to update members of the latest activities, addressing the WRO working group report regarding LEAP, and presenting to convention attendees on WRO’s latest actions and achievements.

BiodieselBR Conference

WRO was invited to give a presentation at the 15th BiodieselBR Conference, the most comprehensive event of the Brazilian biodiesel market, where the main stakeholders met to discuss the future of the sector. The event took place in São Paulo in November, and WRO showed how rendered animal fats are in demand for biodiesel programs in several countries, and their importance for lowering carbon intensity scores and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Last, but not least, the World Organization for Animal Health is about to release a proposal draft for the Terrestrial Animal Health Code regarding the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) chapter, as well as for foot and mouth disease — two very important chapters that will likely be presented for adoption at the 2024 WOAHA general session, in late May 2024 in Paris. The WRO expert working group is committed to defending renderers’ interests in key WOAHA sanitary recommendations for country status and international trading. **R**



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