



JUNE 2012



EGS-ABG 2012-2016

Warm congratulations to our new fellowship holders!

- **Berihu Gebremedhin Welderufael (Ethiopia)**
- **Merina Shrestha (Nepal)**
- **Le Hong Thu (Viet Nam)**
- **Xiaowei Mao (China)**
- **Farhad Ghafouri Kesbi (Iran)**
- **Matthieu Besson (France)**



COORDINATOR'S WORD

Less than one year ago, the first group of doctoral candidates started their PhD projects (you may read news from some of them in the present issue).

The second group of doctoral candidates was selected a few months ago and will start this coming September (see the list on the top left corner of this page). On behalf of the EGS-ABG staff, I warmly welcome all these new doctoral candidates!

The third set of PhD projects, to be started in 2013, is currently under construction and the call for candidates will take place after the Summer.

Now, EGS-ABG works with overlapping generations!

Etienne Verrier, Coordinator

INTRODUCTION MODULE AND FALL SCHOOL

It has been decided during our last Consortium Meeting (in February 2012 in Wageningen) that the Fall School and the Welcome Course will be held at the same time of the year and at the same place, but as two distinct events.

This year these events will take place in Denmark from September 24th to September 28th.

With such a simple organization, interactions between PhD candidates will be easier.

We are looking forward to seeing you there, then!

CHANGES IN THE CONSORTIUM COMMITTEE

Last May, after some years at Aarhus University, Peer Berg changed his position and became head of Nord-Gen Animals (the Nordic genebank for farm animals). As a consequence, a new representative of Aarhus University, namely Peter Sørensen, was appointed in addition to Elise Norberg. Peer Berg used to be the head of the EGS-ABG Selection Committee. The new head of this Commit-

tee is Erling Strandberg (SLU). The new EGS-ABG Executive Board includes Elise Norberg (AU), Erling Strandberg (SLU), Hans Komen (WU, head of the Education Committee) and Etienne Verrier (APT, Coordinator). The EGS-ABG staff thanks Peer for his valuable contribution to the program and is happy to consider that, in his new position, he still has an input!



TABLE OF CONTENT

- **EGS-ABG 2012-2016**
- **Coordinator's Word**
- **Introduction Module**
- **Departure and Arrival Consortium Committee**
- **Salon de l'Agriculture**
- **INRA-GA PhD Candidates Meeting**
- **Geographical Origin of Candidates**
- **PhD Projects 2012**
- **Selection Process**

SALON DE L'AGRICULTURE IN PARIS MARCH 2012

In March 2012, two doctoral candidates who are working in Paris, went to the « Salon de l'Agriculture » (Paris International Agricultural Show). This is a very well-known show that takes place every year. The story of the Agricultural show began in 1870 with the creation of the General Agricultural Competition. This competition has grown over the last 141 years. Originally it was an animal competition only and now, it also includes a wide variety of regional products, including dairy products, wines etc... It acquired a major commercial showcase: the Paris International Agricultural Show.

Belén Jimenez' testimony: « All people from INRA (the place where I work here in Paris) had been telling me their experiences of last years and how big it was since I started working here in September. But I did not expect such a huge event! (...) Personally, it was a

opportunity to put "a face" to the name of the breeds I will be working on! »

Doreen Schwochow's testimony: « This year was the first time that I ever visited an agricultural show and I ended up coming back three times during one week. I didn't really know what to expect but every time I came, I discovered new things. A new breed of cattle I haven't seen during my previous visit or one of the delicious cheeses that were free to try in one of the buildings. I was amazed about the huge numbers of animal breeds presented, in particular cattle and sheep, and being a true city kid, I think I was as much excited to see them so close as were the very little ones. Besides of the animals, I also very much enjoyed the French food and product section were I did find many gifts to take home to my family in Germany.»



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YEARLY INRA MEETING, ÎLE D'OLÉRON, FRANCE, MARCH 2012

The INRA meeting is a yearly event organized to gather all Doctoral candidates of Animal Genetic division. As EGS-ABG « French » doctoral candidates do most of their work at INRA, they participated to this event.

Here are their testimonies of this seminar in one of the most beautiful island on the Atlantic coast:

Edin: « Personally, I found the seminar really interesting (...) I had a chance to meet a lot of people (...) In summary, the seminar was well organized just

a bit short since we didn't have much free time to explore Oléron Island »

Belén: « It was a special event for me because it was the first time I prepared a poster and lived a "Poster walk". I also had a great time explaining and receiving interesting outputs of my PhD topic from different colleagues and researchers »

Utlwanang: « Apart from the presentations I learnt more during the session called "Questions and discussions about the doctoral projects" which includes, how to organize yourself, some challenges



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and what is expected from us when running the projects »
Irene: « All first year PhD students like me had the opportunity to present a poster. I really

enjoyed the seminar, it was nice to meet the other PhD students and hear about their topics ».

GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN OF CANDIDATES

Ongoing Selection Process

◇ April-June, 2012

Call for PhD projects

◇ June-August, 2012

Project evaluation

◇ Sept-Nov, 2012

Publication of the selected projects, call for candidates

◇ Dec-Feb, 2013

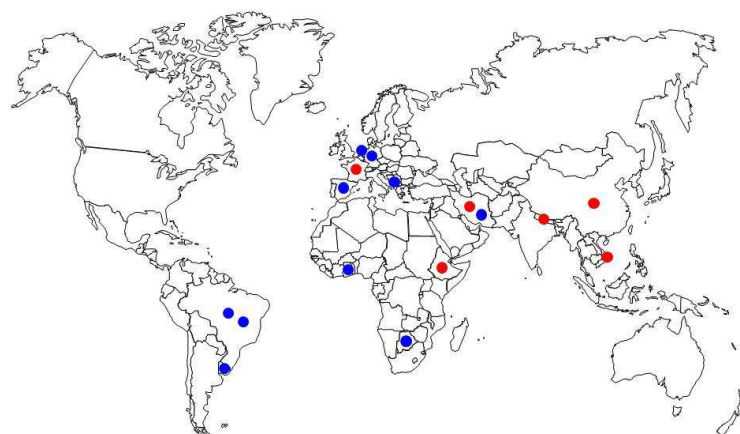
Validation of applications, interviews of the best applicants, selection

◇ April, 2013

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

◇ September, 2013

Start of the PhD projects



LEGEND

Group 1:

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

Group 2:

China, Ethiopia, France, Kenya, Iran, Nepal and Viet-Nam.

PHD PROJECTS TO BE STARTED IN SEPT 2013

For the Group 3 of doctoral candidates, a total of 11 PhD projects have been submitted. These projects deal with topics such as genetic factors of a given function, methods for genomic evaluation/selection, use of genomics tools, management of genetic variability... Most topics are species oriented, dealing with dairy cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry or fish. The evaluation process of these projects is ongoing. The selected projects after this process will be published on coming September. The call for candidates will take place during Fall. To know how to apply, please, visit our website: <http://www.egsabg.eu/spip.php?article8>