


# **GOALS, PERSPECTIVES AND KEY CHALLENGES OF THE HORSE COMMISSION NUTRITION WORKING GROUP**

***MARKKU SAASTAMOINEN, MTT EQUINE RESEARCH,  
FINLAND***

***NICOLETTA MIRAGLIA, MOLISE UNIVERSITY, ITALIA***

# Background

- ❑ Feeding and nutrition have been major activities of HC; almost yearly sessions on nutrition from late seventies:
  - Nutrient requirements
  - Feeds and evaluation
  - Feeding of growing horses, brood mares, athletic horses
  - Health and nutrition
  
- ❑ Special sessions and satellites in 1990's

-  Working group was established under EAAP Horse Commission “to promote European competitiveness in equine nutrition science, promote co-operation and result dissemination”
- Has reported its previous work in EAAP conferences and EAAP reports
  - Working Group has been active in constructing scientific programmes of HC and biannual EWEN congresses
  - Since 2002 it has contributed an organisation of EWEN, e.g. the programme, publication of the proceedings

# Further work and challenges

- ❑ Network of people representing widely the horse industry (research, education, teaching, advising, husbandry, breeding, feed industry) = people interested and work on equine nutrition
  
- ❑ Tasks:
  - To facilitate communication, collaboration, co-operation, dissemination of knowledge
  - Promote equine nutrition research
  - Publish “expert consensus” statements
  - Meet regularly

- WG has a board of 8 members (4 elected in EWEN meetings, 1 representing the next EWEN, 3 from EAAP Horse Commission board), 2010 -
- The current board: Manfred Coenen (GER), Pat Harris (UK), Geert Jenssens (BEL), Veronique Julliand (FRA), Jan-Erik Lindberg (SWE), Nicoletta Miraglia (IT), Markku Saastamoinen (FIN), Ana Sofia Santos (POR)

# EWEN Congresses

- ❑ Brand of the Working Group and European nutrition research
- ❑ The board forms the Scientific Committee of the EWEN (+member(s) from the congress organizer)
- ❑ Congresses with various themes:
  - 2002, 2004 France Dijon
  - 2006 Italy Campobasso
  - 2008 Finland Forssa
  - 2010 UK Cirencester
  - 2012 Portugal Lisbon
  - 2014 ??



- Aim and challenge to combine nutrition science with other sciences and extend the knowledge, e.g. socio-economic, behaviour and welfare, and environmental sciences
  
- This is considered in the next EWEN congress in Portugal 2012
  - “Feeding horses with forage based diets and impact of grazing systems on environment”*