QUALITY ASSESSMENT FORM

Title of the study:

STUDY ON THE LABELLING OF PRODUCTS FROM CLONED ANIMALS AND THEIR OFFSPRING

DG/Unit: DG AGRI, Unit C3

- Official(s) managing the evaluation: Kai-Uwe Sprenger

Evaluator/contractor: ICF International

Assessment carried out by:

- Steering group with the active participation of units C.3 and E.4 of DG AGRI and DG SANTE, TRADE, GROW, SG

Date of the Quality Assessment: December 2015

(1) RELEVANCE

Does the study respond to information needs, in particular as expressed in the terms of references?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
				X	

Arguments for scoring:

The study identifies necessary investments and maintenance work generated by the requirement to ensure reliable and verifiable labelling of food from clone offspring. The study clearly identifies ancestry recording and individual identification of animals as key elements for clone offspring labelling. It analysis the existing systems and quantifies modifications that would be necessary if clone offspring labelling would be introduced.

The study responds to the information needs and meets the requirements of the Terms of Reference. The time provided in the Terms of Reference was exceeded. The study covers the scope requested in an appropriate manner. Certain questions were discussed in the Steering Group and resulting clarifications were adequately factored in.

(2) APPROPRIATE DESIGN

Is the design of the study adequate for obtaining the results?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
		X			

Arguments for scoring:

The methodology design is appropriate for addressing the objectives of the study. However, substantial input from the steering group was necessary to identify key issues, data sources and to develop methodological approaches.

(3) RELIABLE DATA
Are data collected adequate for their intended use and have their reliability been ascertained?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:
The study subject was characterised by limited availability of data in certain areas. The contractor has made an effort to exploit all available data sources. In the event that data were not available, the contractor used estimations based on expert consultation. The limitations of those estimations are explained. The contractor could not find data to substantiate a reasonable costs calculation for segregated supply chains. Variability in factors was too high for meaningful quantitative estimations. Due to this a qualitative approach had to be chosen.

(4) SOUND ANALYSIS
Are data systematically analysed to address the study theme and cover other information needs in a valid manner?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:
The analysis was carried out in a systematic way. The methodology developed progressively in the same way as data sources were explored and was verified frequently with the steering group. The examination was developed both in quantitative and qualitative terms. Limitations of the analytical approaches in areas short of data were clearly presented and taken into account in the interpretation of the results.

(5) CREDIBLE FINDINGS
Do findings follow logically from and are justified by, the data/information analysis and interpretations based on pre-established criteria and rational?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:
The findings are based on a sound and detailed analysis of the study subject. The study clearly identifies the essential elements of a clone offspring labelling system. For areas where available data allowed a cost analysis such analysis was carried out. The main cost elements (individual animal identification, ancestry recording, verification) were quantified and put into perspective. The study elaborates the specificities of the different animal products and species covered.

(6) VALID CONCLUSIONS
Are conclusions non-biased and fully based on findings?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

The conclusions are substantiated by the findings, are drawn from a sound analysis. Given the data constraints, they are balanced; however, the reasoning supporting the link between the findings and the conclusions is not always well explained.

(7) CLARITY
Is the report well structured, balanced and written in an understandable manner?

SCORING	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Very Good	Excellent
			X		

Arguments for scoring:

The report is well structured and balanced. All elements required by the Terms of Reference are addressed. In some parts the description of the methodology lacks precision. Due to the very specific nature of the matter, the use of the technical terminology makes the reading sometimes difficult.
There are unnecessary repetitions of information.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT
OF THE FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

Overall, the quality of the report is assessed to be **good.**

Is the overall quality of the report adequate, in particular:

- Does the evaluation fulfil contractual conditions?

Clearly and fully.

- Are the findings and conclusions of the report reliable, and are there any specific limitations to their validity and completeness?

The findings and conclusions of the report are reliable and sufficiently precise.

- Is the information in the report potentially useful to provide a basis for discussing the labelling of products from cloned animals and their offspring?

The study provides a useful reference for analysing the impact of labelling of products from cloned animals and their offspring.