

3/31 & 4/7 at 8:00 am CT to all ISAG members & the ISAG
General Information list

<<3/31 subject line>> One Week Until the ISAG-FAO Advisory Group and
Developing Countries Committee Joint Webinar

<<4/7 subject line>> One Hour Away: ISAG-FAO Advisory Group and
Developing Countries Committee Joint Webinar



Join the ISAG-FAO Advisory Group and Developing Countries Committees' Special Webinar!

Dear colleagues,

The upcoming webinar, “**Collaborative Strategies for Accelerating Livestock Genomics and Breeding in Low-Income Countries**,” is coming up soon! Hosted by ISAG’s [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO\) Advisory Group on Animal Genetic Diversity](#) and [Livestock Genomics for Developing Countries Committee](#), the event will take place on **April 7, 2026**, at 3:00 p.m. Central European Summer Time (CEST). *The webinar will be recorded if you can’t make the live event-- stay tuned for more information!*

This webinar will bring together experts to discuss innovative approaches for advancing livestock genomics and breeding programs in resource-limited settings. **Bookmark the link**

(<https://fao.zoom.us/j/97396488303?pwd=5Bzrwf4d396jPz1zW2Kijk15lJ3cPY.1>) to join, and [save the date to your calendar](#) for a reminder!

<<CTA button>> Join webinar

Explore the Schedule

Program	Speaker	Affiliation	Time (CEST)
Welcome	Lucky Nesengani ¹	University of South Africa	3:00 p.m.

		(South Africa)	
Opening remarks: FAO	Paul Boettcher ²	FAO (Italy)	3:05 p.m.
Opening remarks: ISAG-FAO	Juha Kantanen ²	Natural Resources Institute Finland (Finland)	3:10 p.m.
Opening remarks: ISAG	Khanyisile Hadebe ¹	Agricultural Research Council (South Africa)	3:15 p.m.
African cattle diversity and adaptation: The knowns and unknowns	Olivier Hanotte	University of Nottingham (UK) International Livestock Research Institute (Ethiopia)	3:35 p.m.
Cost-effective genomics for sustainable breeding: Low coverage whole genome sequencing in Iberian cattle	Catarina Ginja ^{1,2}	BIOPOLIS, University of Porto, REZGEN-IBA (Portugal)	3:55 p.m.
Data sharing, reutilization, and a collaborative framework	Licia Colli ²	Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)	4:15 p.m.
Challenges researchers are facing in developing countries	Donald Kugonza	Makerere University (Uganda) Chandigarh University (India)	4:35 p.m.
Open questions and discussion	--	--	4:55 p.m.
Closing remarks: ISAG	Josue Chinchilla Vargas ^{1,3}	University of Florida (USA)	5:05 p.m.

1. ISAG Developing Countries Committee

2. ISAG-FAO Advisory Group on Animal Genetic Diversity

3. ISAG Executive Committee

Meet the Speakers

[Licia Colli, PhD](#)



Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Licia Colli is an associate professor in animal breeding and genetics in the Department of Animal Science, Food and Nutrition (DIANA), Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science, at the Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (USCS; Piacenza, Italy). She has been involved in several national and international research projects focusing on the use of genomic and epigenomic applications in animal breeding and biodiversity assessment and conservation, and in the study of adaptation to diseases and

extreme environmental conditions in aquaculture, livestock, and wildlife species.

Colli is a member of the ISAG-FAO Advisory Group on Animal Genetic Diversity and the executive committee of the BioDNA Biodiversity and Ancient DNA Research Center of UCSC as supervisor of the ancient DNA Laboratory.

She acts as an ad hoc referee for more than 30 international journals and is associate editor of the Livestock Genomics section of *Frontiers in Genetics* and *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*, and is associate editor for the Evolutionary, Population, and Conservation Genetics section of *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* and *Frontiers in Genetics*. She has also been coordinator for the *Animal Genetics* special issue, *A Global View of Livestock Biodiversity and Conservation*, and co-edited the *FAO Guidelines on Genomic Characterization of Animal Genetic Resources* (section 3– Genomic tools and methods; 2023).



Catarina Ginja, PhD

BIOPOLIS

University of Porto

REZGEN-IBA

Catarina Ginja is an assistant researcher at BIOPOLIS/CIBIO/InBIO, University of Porto (since 2014; Porto, Portugal), and coordinator of the REZGEN-IBA network, which includes 162 researchers from 16 Ibero-American teams, funded by CYTED (2023-2026). She is interested in understanding the temporal and geographical dynamics that have shaped the genomic composition of domestic animal species. She is a

cattle specialist of the ISAG-FAO Advisory Group on Animal Genetic Diversity and a member of the ISAG Livestock Genomics for Developing Countries Committee.



Olivier Hanotte, PhD

University of Nottingham

International Livestock Research Institute

Olivier Hanotte is a professor of genetics at the School of Life Sciences at the University of Nottingham (Nottingham, UK) and a principal scientist at the International Livestock Research Institute (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). He earned his PhD in zoology in 1991 from the University of Mons-Hainaut (Mons, Belgium). As an evolutionary biologist, he has studied tropical livestock (cattle, sheep, chickens, dromedaries) for more than 25 years, aiming to understand their

origins and the history of their diversity, as well as the genetic control of their adaptation to environmental challenges. Through an extensive network of PhD students and collaborators, his research has pioneered the full-genome analysis at the continental scale of the genome history of African cattle, and the application of ecological niches modeling approaches to understand the adaptation of African indigenous chickens to environmental challenges, guiding the identification, conservation, and utilization of chicken ecotypes. He has published intensively in the field of animal genetics and genomics. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, a member of ISAG, and a member of the Genetics Society (UK).



Donald Kugonza, PhD

Makerere University
Chandigarh University

Donald Kugonza serves as associate professor of animal sciences at Makerere University (Kampala, Uganda) and as adjunct professor of biosciences at Chandigarh University (Chandigarh, India). Kugonza is a two-time continental award-winning animal scientist and a fellow of both the African Academy of Sciences and the Uganda National Academy of Sciences. He is also an executive editor of the *Scientific African* journal. Beyond academia, Kugonza is known as a process catalyst, dedicated science mentor, and enthusiastic mountaineer.

We look forward to your participation in this important discussion!

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