

NEWSLETTER 04/2017

Dear VERA stakeholder,

Another VERA year has passed and also the last two months were filled with tasks worth mentioning. Read more:

International VERA Board

Reaching out for a potential cooperation with EU-ETV

During the latest IVB meeting 12 December in Brussels we had the chance to discuss a possible cooperation between VERA and the European ETV system (<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/etv/>) together with the European Commission. Now is the time, the EU Com evaluates the pilot program and considers its future developments. Although more concrete plans can only be drawn up after the evaluation has been completed which are expected for autumn 2018, the general interest in potential cooperation has been reaffirmed.

VERA Board meeting in Brussels

Along with discussions about EU-ETV and some general aspects, the VERA Board agreed on the priorities of the up-coming nine months which will be the final period of the International VERA Secretariat under German leadership. Major tasks will be finalizing the revisions of the VERA test protocols, following-up the developments in EU-ETV in contact with the EU Commission and eventually, transferring the VERA Secretariat to the Netherlands.

Expert Activities

The revision work on all VERA test protocols is still in full swing in order to update these document to the latest state-of-the-art. The publication of these revisions are expected for the course of the next year.

In addition, several consultations on new VERA verifications have been conducted.

Trade fairs and conferences

AGRITECHNICA

From 12 – 18 November VERA was an official exhibitor at AGRITECHNICA, the world's leading trade fair for agricultural machinery and equipment at the trade fair grounds of Hanover, Germany. Again, there was a noticeable increase in the visitors' interest for VERA, even from countries outside Europe.

ManuREsource with VERA Workshops

The 3rd edition of the ManuREsource conference from 27 - 28 November 2017 in Eindhoven, The Netherlands, focuses on circular economy and recycling in the agricultural sector with regard to an optimized manure management. <http://www.manuresource2017.org/>

On the second conference day, 28 November 2017, we had the opportunity to present and discuss VERA during an one-hour workshop with some interested participants. New contacts to ministry representatives of other European countries could be made.

Website

The VERA website has been updated and revised. The news starting from 2017 now contain also presentations or papers provided during the meetings. Another reason to check out for our news regularly on our website!

Thanks for your interest, contribution and efforts in 2017. See you in 2018!

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Kind regards

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PS: the International VERA Secretariat is closed for Christmas. We are back 3 January 2018.

If you don't like to receive this newsletter any more, please answer to this email with subject "Cancellation newsletter" and we will delete you from our distribution list.

About VERA

VERA is a multinational collaboration between Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany for testing and verifying environmental technologies within the agricultural sector. It includes test protocols for the following technologies for:

- ✓ air cleaning
- ✓ livestock housing and management
- ✓ slurry separation
- ✓ land applied manure
- ✓ mitigation systems for stored manure.

Beside farmers and authorities also manufacturers of such technologies benefit of this collaboration with regards to approval processes. Manufacturers get the possibility to have their technologies tested by a neutral and recognised test. The VERA test protocols were developed by well-known experts of the participating countries and guests. They provide comparable and substantiated results with a high level of acceptance. A VERA Verification Statement confirms that the technology was tested by a competent test laboratory according to the requirements of the relevant VERA protocol. The results allow to derive efficiency levels which can be considered with regards to emission evaluations, e. g. in approval processes. The authorities receive secured data which at the same time supports the farmer when planning new investments. The manufacturer bears all costs for the test; costs for the evaluation and issuing of the verification statement will be covered by the responsible national ministries via the VERA Secretariat.