ISNH 2018 provided unique opportunity to discuss the role of herbivore nutrition in addressing the current challenges of producing higher quality livestock products more efficiently, with smaller impacts on the environment and animal welfare in the context of climate change. Nearly 500 scientists from 46 countries could discuss advances in the field of herbivore nutrition in a globalised and changing world. Twenty-two Plenary Conferences, the texts of which are published in a dedicated issue of the “animal journal”, were given in 11 sessions. In addition, 420 communications including 40 oral communications and posters showing 65 posters orally presented were presented. The texts of the communications are published in the “Advances in Animal Biosciences” journal. Three workshops also addressed the mitigation of methane emissions, methods for assessing product quality, and sustainable livestock systems that leverage the levers of agroecology. The symposium outlined the avenues for sustainable herbivore production: possible convergence of agro-ecology and sustainable intensification, use of non-competitive feeds with human nutrition, efficient animals to transform their ration in proteins and adaptable to a fluctuating environment, nutritional control of product quality, renewed feeding systems and precision feeding techniques, modulation of the ruminal microbiome, nutritional management of health and welfare, adaptation of animals and of their management to climate change. The symposium was followed by two satellite conferences, on one hand the “Nutrition and Health of the Rumen” organised by Lallemand, and on the other hand the “Renewed INRA Feeding System for Ruminants”. The symposium was supported by 23 sponsors from public and private sectors, reflecting the sustained partnerships of INRA with the herbivore breeding sector. Technical visits allowed the participants to discover the research carried out on herbivore breeding and the consequences of climate change on the INRA sites of Theix, Laqueuille and Crouël as well as to visit private breeding farms, e.g. specialised in production of PDO Saint-Nectaire cheese.

The next edition of the symposium will take place in South America, a major region for herbivore livestock that never had the opportunity to host the conference. It will be organized jointly by Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay.

Valoration
https://symposium.inra.fr/isnh2018/

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