Questionnaire researcher profile

1) *Tell us about yourself (Who are you? Where are you from? What is your educational background?)*

   My name is Tim Snelling and I am originally from the seaside town of Weymouth on the south coast of the UK. I studied at the institute of biological, environmental and rural sciences at Aberystwyth University.

2) *What is your area of expertise?*

   My first degree is in Equine Science and I specialised in the microbiology of the equine hindgut, focussing on the functional activity and the ecology of the ciliate protozoa. Since then, I have carried out a number of microbial ecology studies focussing on ciliates, bacteria and archaea of the equine hindgut and rumen.

3) *Where does your focus lie within your current project(s)? (related to GHG/methane)*

   Until recently I have been working for the RuminOmics project exploring novel tools to describe the rumen microbial population. This involves developing Metaproteomics as a technique to describe the functional activity of the rumen microbiota. Currently, I am typing strains of *E.coli* that may have a role in the pathology of sub-acute ruminal acidosis (SARA) in beef and dairy cattle. I am also in the process of assembling data from a ring test to determine the effect of different methods on amplicon sequencing microbiome analysis.

4) *What would be the added value for you of joining an international project/network? (such as the METHAGENE network, or the RuminOmics project)*

   Added value for me, as much as anyone, for a collaborative project or network is to have a strong base of shared knowledge, reduced duplication of effort and harmonization of methods.

5) *What and/or who inspired you to make a career in science?*

For personal interest and a challenge, I began my first degree with the Open University, studying at home, part-time. There came a point where I thought it would be much better to do this full time so, when I was accepted at University, I quit my job and began my scientific career. Each time I completed a project I felt there was always more to explore and a chance to do things that little bit better. This led me from my first degree to a research Masters, a PhD studentship and my recent roles with RuminOmics and SARA.

6) *What do you enjoy most about your work?*

Quite often this job can leave you at your wits end. However, I would have to admit that it is probably the continuing challenges that are the best thing about working in science.

7) *What is your most stand-out or surprising moment in science so far?*

I spend most of my time in the lab working on molecular microbiology and bioinformatics. So it was more than a pleasant change to help with a silage experiment, working on the farm on a sunny late summer day, complete with a lunchtime picnic with cured meats provided by the Spanish postdocs and students.