



THE GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

Terms of Reference for the ICAR Feed and Gas Working Group

Version July, 2024

Network. Guidelines. Certification.

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1 Background

The following sections cover the key elements of the Terms of Reference for the Feed and Gas Working Group (F&G-WG).

These revised ToR have been approved by ICAR Board at its meeting on 29th November of 2022.

2 Context

The F&G-WG is one element of ICAR's Group structure as elaborated [here](#) on the ICAR website. As a working group:

- a. It is a permanent,
- b. Its chair is appointed by the Board of ICAR,
- c. Its members are appointed by the Chief Executive of ICAR,
- d. It is responsible for policy relating to services to members.

The main purpose of the F&G-WG is to achieve a number of objectives related specifically to recording of feed intake and greenhouse gas outputs.

3 Objectives of the F&G-WG

The objectives of the F&G-WG are to:

- a. Provide a forum for members of ICAR and associated researchers to collaborate, exchange information and learn from each other on all aspects of: recording and using dry matter intake data, and recording and using methane outputs data.
- b. Maintain, update, promote and extend universal guidelines for recording dry matter intake and methane output in cattle, sheep and goats worldwide.
- c. Conduct and report the results of periodic international surveys on recording dry matter intake and methane output in cattle, sheep and goats worldwide.
- d. Develop, provide and promote a system and standards for data storage and genetic evaluation services which will form the basis of services that ICAR will provide to members of ICAR and their research associates on a user-pays basis.
- e. Facilitate and co-ordinate international collaboration in research and development on recording and using dry matter intake data, and recording and using methane outputs data.

4 Governance

The F&G-WG will comprise a Chairperson appointed by the ICAR Board and members appointed by the ICAR Chief Executive. The term of membership and voting rights of members will be determined at the time of appointment and may be reviewed from time to time.

All ICAR Group members are required to comply with the most recent version of ICAR's Conflicts of Interest Policy as [here](#).

The Committee F&G-WG will comprise members who cover some or all, depending on the level of interest and participation in ICAR activities, of the following interests:

- a. Geographical regions: Europe (West and East), North America, South & Central America, Asia, Africa & Oceania.
- b. Technical expertise in: recording feed intake and methane output, combining feed intake and methane data from multiple sources, computing genetic evaluations using performance, pedigree and genomic data.
- c. Supporters of ICAR Participation in: feed intake and methane recording, pooling data across countries and breeds and providing genetic evaluations for dry matter intake and methane outputs.

The Committee may, from time to time, create advisory committees to provide specialist and expert advice on topics of relevance to achieving the objectives of the Group.

5 Chair duties

- a. Group Composition – in consultation with ICAR Secretariat and ICAR Board ensure membership is comprised of interested and enthusiastic members representing active stakeholders.
- b. Business and Group Meetings – takes initiative for dates, agenda and minutes in consultation with Secretariat. Organise at least two meetings per year, 3 to 4 meetings per year are recommended.
- c. Coordinate relationships with other ICAR groups (see paragraph 8). Have awareness of activities going on in other groups.
- d. Group activities - in consultation with the group members, establish priorities with agreed duties of group members and agreed deliverables and timescale. Accomplishment of the tasks in time and activities leading to a satisfactory outcome.
- e. Communications with the ICAR Board. See paragraph 7.

6 Secretariat

Role of ICAR Secretariat in providing support to the F&G-WG:

- a. Business Meetings - agree dates and venues in consultation with Chairperson, provide notice of meetings to members, agree agenda with Chairperson, distribute agenda, take minutes, agree minutes with Chairperson, and distribute minutes.
- b. Group Composition - maintain list of Group members with up-to-date contact details, in consultation with Chairperson and ICAR Board ensure membership is comprised of interested and enthusiastic members representing active stakeholders.
- c. Group Meetings - agree dates and venues in consultation with Chairperson, provide notice of meetings to members, agree agenda with Chairperson, distribute agenda, take minutes, agree minutes with Chairperson, and distribute minutes.
- d. Website - maintain website, as part of the ICAR Website (www.icar.org), and forum ensuing contents are up-to-date and relevant according to these terms of reference.

7 Communications with the ICAR Board

- a. Annual report of the F&G-WG Chairperson to the Board.
- b. The ICAR Staff support person as identified from time to time by the ICAR Chief Executive. All communications for the F&G-WG are to be copied to this person.
- c. Participation of the Chairperson in meetings with the Board, normally on an annual basis coinciding with the ICAR Annual Meetings.

8 Relationships with Other ICAR Groups

Relationships between F&G-WG and other ICAR Groups are as summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Relationship with other ICAR Groups and other institutions.

Group	Purpose of Relationship	Method of maintaining relationship
Others	Ensure any other standards, guidelines and services involving feed intake or greenhouse gases are developed using a shared ICAR philosophy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective communication of plans and progress. • Overlapping membership as needed. • Joint expert advisory group(s) as required.

9 Priorities

Priorities are to be established by the F&G-WG taking account of its terms of reference and any requests from the ICAR Board.

The priorities for F&G-WG in the next year can be found in Table 2.

Table 2. Priorities for F&G-WG in 2024.

Priority	Description
1	Wiki guidelines for feed intake and methane emissions a) Introduction towards end of the year
2	Webinars in 2024 a) MIR as proxy for feed intake and methane (reach out to milk analysis, ExtraMIR) b) Microbiome as proxy for feed intake and methane
3	Meeting in Bled a) Session on recording and analysis of environmental traits (incl. proxies) b) Meeting with advisory group
4	Further exploration about collaboration with Global Methane Hub.