



# **Terms of Reference for ICAR Feed & Gas Working Group**

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### **1 Standard Terms of Reference (DRAFT)**

The following is a draft Terms of Reference for the proposed ICAR Feed Intake & Greenhouse Gas Working Group (F&G-WG).

#### **1.1 Background**

The purpose of this paper is to outline the terms of reference for the ICAR F&G-WG following:

- Completion of the work of the gDMI (global dry matter intake) project – refer to Appendix 1.
- Discussions involving the ASSGN<sup>1</sup> consortium which have taken place over the last few years.
- WLR<sup>2</sup> being accepted as an associate member of ICAR in June 2014<sup>3</sup>.
- Conference call meeting involving Roel Veerkamp and Yvette de Haas of WLR, and Martin Burke and Brian Wickham of ICAR<sup>4</sup>.

This report is for consideration by the ICAR Board at its ..... (date) meeting in ..... (place).

The following sections cover the key elements of the recommended Terms of Reference for the F&G-WG.

#### **1.2 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Animal Selection Genetics & Genomics Network - <http://www.asggn.org> accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Wageningen UR Livestock Research - <http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Research-Institutes/livestock-research.htm> accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Minutes of ICAR Board meeting dated 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Minutes available from Brian Wickham ([brian@icar.org](mailto:brian@icar.org)) or Yvette de Haas ([yvette.dehaas@wur.nl](mailto:yvette.dehaas@wur.nl)).

- 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.

### 1.3 Governance

The F&G-WG will be governed by a Committee appointed by the ICAR Board.

The Committee 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.

### 1.4 Secretariat & Reporting

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](http://www.icar.org)), and forum ensuring contents are up-to-date and relevant according to these terms of reference.

### **1.5 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 Group 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.

### **1.6 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 two to five years include the following:

- a. Maintain the momentum established by the gDMI project by facilitating secure data sharing and genomic evaluations for dry matter intake in Holstein dairy cattle and expanding to inclusion of other breeds including beef breeds.
- b. Establish ICAR guidelines for recording dry matter intake and methane output in a range of settings.
- c. Establish a business and operational model for maintaining an international database of dry matter intake and methane output data for use in research and genetic evaluations.
- d. Expand the dry matter intake and methane output collaboration to more partners, countries, species and breeds.

Reference: Macintosh HD:Users:bww>Data:Wickham Ltd:Customers:ICAR:ICAR SC WG TF:Groups:New Activities:Feed and Gas WG Proposal:ICAR F&G WG TOR v2.docx