



Terms of Reference for Artificial Insemination & Related Technologies Working Group

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1 Background

The purpose of this paper is to outline the updated terms of reference and priorities for the ICAR Artificial Insemination & Related Technologies Working Group (AI&RT WG). These are intended to replace those approved by the ICAR Board on 16th May 2000 in Bled, Slovenia.

This proposal follows on from the discussion that took place involving the current members of the AI&RT WG and members of the ICAR Secretariat (Martin Burke, Brian Wickham and Cesare Mosconi) by telephone conference on 9th September 2015.

Further meetings were held in Chile during the 2016 conference and by conference call on 23rd November 2016. The outcome of these meetings is support to efforts to reinvigorate this working group on the grounds that data from artificial insemination and embryo transfer make a very important contribution to animal recording.



These terms of reference are recommended for approval by the ICAR Board at its meeting on 29th November 2016.

The following sections cover the key elements of the recommended new Terms of Reference for the AI&RT-WG.

2 Objectives

The objectives of the AI&RT-WG are to:

- a. Maintain, update, promote and extend universal guidelines for recording data associated with artificial breeding (for both male and female gametes, primarily in cattle).
- b. Conduct and report the results of periodic international surveys related the recording of artificial breeding data and its use to assess reproductive success.
- c. Identify and specify services that can be provided by Service ICAR to facilitate the recording of artificial breeding data.
- d. Stimulate and facilitate international collaboration in research and development on all aspects of recording artificial breeding data.

3 Governance

3.1 Working Group

The AI&RT WG is a Committee whose Chairperson is appointed by the ICAR Board and whose members are appointed by the ICAR Secretariat in consultation with the Chairperson.

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:

- Geographical regions: Europe (West and East), North America, South & Central America, Asia, Africa & Oceania.
- AI&RT Technical experts in:
 - + Semen collection, processing, storage, distribution, and insemination for cattle and other species of interest.



- + Embryo and oocyte collection, processing, storage, distribution, and implantation for cattle and other species of interest.
- + Use of artificial breeding data for assessing reproductive success.
- Supporters of ICAR Participation in: recording and using artificial breeding data for male and female gametes.

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

3.2 Secretariat & Reporting

- Role of AI&RT WG Secretariat:
 - + **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.
 - + **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.
 - + **Website** – maintain website and forum ensuing contents are up-to-date and relevant according to the TOR.
- Communications with the ICAR Board
 - + Annual report of the AI&RT-WG Chairperson to the Board.
 - + The ICAR Staff support person as identified from time to time by the ICAR Chief Executive. All communications for the Group are to be copied to this person.
 - + Participation of the Chairperson in meetings with the Board, normally on an annual basis coinciding with the ICAR Annual Meetings.



4 Priorities

Priorities are to be established by the Committee taking account of its terms of reference and any requests from the ICAR Board.

That the priorities for AI&RT-WG in the next year include the following:

- a. Establishing a routine of meeting by electronic media (telephone conference, webex, ...) and progressing the work of the group.
- b. Finalizing universal guidelines for bar coding of semen straws for use in international trade.
- c. Developing a web based reference service (to be provided by Service-ICAR as an extension of the Interbull Centre services) that enables ready access to the details of bulls whose semen is being exported/imported into herds recording data with ICAR members.
- d. Reviewing the current guidelines (section 8) and updating them to reflect recent developments in artificial insemination and related technologies.

REFERENCE: MACINTOSH HD:USERS:BWW:DATA:WICKHAM LTD:CUSTOMERS:ICAR:ICAR SC WG TF:GROUPS:WORKING
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