



THE GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

Terms of Reference for the ICAR ICAR Sheep, Goat and Camelid Working Group

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Consideration

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1 Background

The following are the Terms of Reference (ToR) for an ICAR Group. The Group is known as the Sheep, Goat and Camelid Working Group (SGC-WG).

The changes to these ToR over time are summarized in Table 1:



Table 1. Change summary.

Date of Change	Nature of Change
19 th July 2016	First version adopted by ICAR Board at its meeting on 19 th July 2016. The SGC-WG replaced the Goat Performance Recording, Performance Recording of Dairy Sheep, and Animal Fibres Working Groups.
May 2018	Reformatted to comply with ICAR branding guidelines. Amended to avoid conflicts of interest by clarifying voting rights of members. Refer to 4 Governance. Amended to include a section giving context. Refer to 2 Context. Amended to include a section dealing with relationships with other ICAR Groups. Refer to 7 Relationships with Other ICAR Groups. Include updated priorities from Feb. 2018 report to ICAR Board. Extend ToR to cover all Camelids by removing reference to “small” Camelids in relevant places.
August 2018	Edits based on feedback from chair of SGC-WG. Updating expert advisory group descriptions in section 4 to ensure appropriate coverage for big and small camelid for milk, fibre and meat. Prepared for Board consideration.

The following sections cover the key elements of the Terms of Reference for the SGC-WG.

2 Context

The SGC-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 SGC-WG is to achieve a number of objectives related specifically to Sheep, Goats and Camelids.



3 Objectives of the SGC-WG

The objectives of the SGC-WG are to:

- a. Provide a forum for members of ICAR to collaborate, exchange information and learn from each other on all aspects of performance recording and genetic evaluation for sheep, goats and camelid.
- b. Maintain, update, promote and extend universal guidelines for sheep, goats and camelid performance recording for the full range of traits relevant to decisions on: genetic improvement, farm management, quality assurance, and animal health & welfare worldwide.
- c. Conduct and report the results of periodic international surveys on sheep, goats and camelid performance recording and genetic evaluation.
- d. Develop and support services relevant to sheep, goats and camelid that ICAR will provide to members of ICAR on a user-pays basis.
- e. Facilitate and co-ordinate international collaboration in research and development on sheep, goats and camelid performance recording and genetic evaluation.

4 Governance

The SGC-WG will be appointed by the ICAR Board. 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. In principle, members can only vote on those issues for which they or their employers do not have a conflict of interest.

The SGC-WG will comprise persons covering:

- a. **Geographical regions:** some or all of Europe (West and East), North America, South & Central America, Asia, Africa & Oceania.
- b. **Technical expertise in:**
 - + milk, meat, fibre, reproduction and functional trait recording of sheep, goat and camelid,
 - + genetic improvement (breeding objectives, breeding scheme design and genetic evaluation) of sheep, goat and camelid,
 - + farm management, quality assurance and health & welfare related decisions for sheep, goat and camelid.
- c. **Supporters of ICAR Participation in sheep, goat and camelid performance recording**

It is envisaged that initially the SGC-WG will comprise the current chairpersons of the Goat Performance Recording Working Group, the Performance Recording of Dairy Sheep Working Groups and the Animal Fibre Working Group plus one other person covering Oceania with particular expertise in sheep meat, reproduction, maternal trait and disease trait performance recording. That is, the Chairperson of each of the expert advisory groups (see below).

The SGC-WG, may from time to time, create advisory groups to provide specialist and expert advice on topics of relevance to achieving the objectives of the Group.

Expert advisory groups will operate for:

- a. Sheep, Goat and Camelid milk recording.
- b. Sheep, Goat and small Camelid fibre recording.
- c. Sheep, Goat and Camelid meat, reproduction and maternal trait recording – this expert group will be formed mainly from interests in those countries with major sheep and goat meat sectors including New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, France and United Kingdom. Consideration is to be given to ensuring appropriate coverage for big and small Camelid for these traits.

5 Secretariat

Role of SGC-WG Secretariat:

- 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 and forum ensuring contents are up-to-date and relevant according to the TOR.

6 Communications with the ICAR Board

- a. Annual report of the SGC-WG Chairperson to the Board.

- b. The ICAR Staff support person as identified from time to time by the ICAR Secretary General. All communications for the 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.

7 Relationships with Other ICAR Groups

Relationships between SGC-WG and other ICAR Groups are as summarised in Table 2.

Table 2. Relationship with other ICAR Groups.

Group	Purpose of Relationship	Method of maintaining relationship
All Others	Ensure any standards, guidelines and services relevant to sheep, goats or camelid are developed using a shared ICAR philosophy.	• Providing leadership in relation to sheep, goats and camelids. • Effective communication of plans and progress. • Overlapping membership as needed. • Joint expert advisory group(s) as required.

8 Priorities

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

Priorities are to:

- a. Analyze the survey on recording of meat/reproduction in sheep and goat and valorize it in guidelines on meat & reproduction.
- b. Produce first version of the guidelines on meat, reproduction and maternal traits.
- c. Guidelines: start a work on recommendations on non-merino wool.
- d. Encourage the group to participate more actively to the sessions and enhance members' interest to the yearly enquiry.
- e. Organize a session dedicated to small ruminants at the next ICAR conference in the Czech Republic.
- f. The group will probably ask for help from ICAR secretariat for guidelines finalization for meat and reproduction recording.



REFERENCE: /USERS/BWW/BITRIX24/R_R/GROUPS/GROUPSOVERVIEW/TERMS OF REFERENCE/TOR SHEEP GOAT AND
CAMELID WG V18.02.DOCX