

“Membership Review”

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**THE GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA**

1. ICAR Membership Categories

1.1. Full ICAR Member

Conditions to qualify as a “FULL” ICAR member;

Any organisation that is providing and operating identification services*, performance recording services and/or evaluation services of farm animals. (*In this case services does not include “product or software” providers (manufacturers are excluded))

Full members who operate Identification and Recording systems have multi-step processes, which includes some or all of the following steps:

- a. identification of a target group of animals for which records are to be collected
- b. determination of the extent to which the group of animals share the same environment in terms of nutrition, management and exposure to diseases
- c. identification of the animals within the target group for which records are not collected
- d. identification of an animal
- e. taking of a sample (milk, tissue, ...) from the animal or from its production
- f. the measurement (which by definition includes observations, that is, measurement by visual assessment) of one or more attributes of the animals, for example weight and milk yield, or the taken sample
- g. validation of the measurement and its association with an individual animal
- h. storage of the results in a database
- i. extraction and combining of data from databases to compute genetic evaluations which are stored back into databases and distributed to the breeding industry for use in breeding decisions
- j. extraction, statistical analysis, formatting and distribution to herd owners of a wide range of reports
- k. use of the reports by the herd owner to make farm management decisions (breeding, culling, drying-off, nutrition, disease control, ...)
- l. extraction, statistical analysis, formatting and distribution to the wider industry and community, nationally and internationally, of reports which provide comparative information over time, over organisations, over countries of animal production characteristics (breeding, farm management, supply chain and health).

The recording process as operated by ICAR Full members is summarised by **Errore.**
L'origine riferimento non è stata trovata..

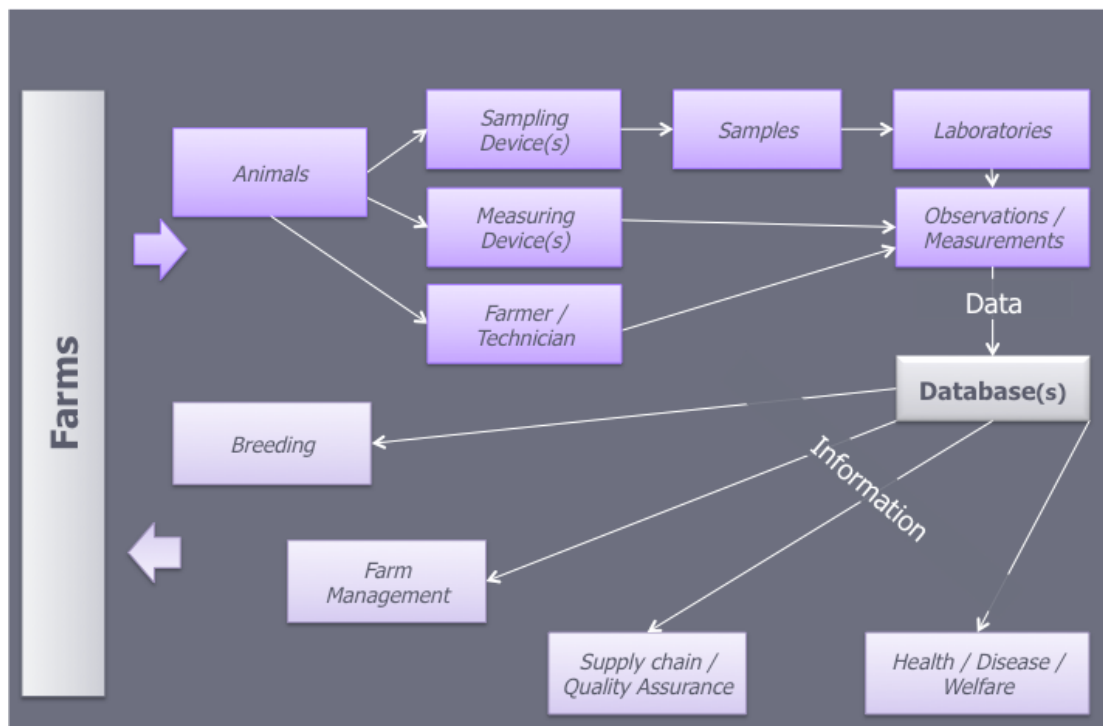


Figure 1. The recording process as operated by ICAR Full members.

Rights Conferred to Full member;

- Has a vote in the General Assembly which in turn means has a say in approval of guidelines content
- Can nominate sub-committee or working group members

Typical examples of FULL ICAR members are National or Regional DHI Associations, Herdbooks, Breeding and Genetic evaluation centres etc

1.2. Associate ICAR Member

Conditions/requirements to be an “ASSOCIATE” member;

Any organisation that is providing services or products to ICAR full members. The associate members themselves do not operate recording services but rather provide services or products to those who do.

Rights Conferred to an Associate member;

Participation all Assemblies/Workshops,

Participation in all Industrial Exhibitions

Access to Services from S-ICAR

- Does not have a vote in the General Assembly which in turn means does not have a say in approval of guidelines content
- Cannot nominate or be directly a member of sub-committee or working group members. However SC or WGs are encouraged to ensure Associates have a forum to interact and work with the SC and WGs as invited guests, to ensure ICAR is kept abreast of latest technological developments in the field.

Typical Associate members would be manufacturers of Recording or ID devices, who all supply some products, components or software to our Full members.

2. Membership – Other Considerations

2.1 Service providers to Service-ICAR

Service ICAR offers test and certification services on behalf of ICAR and its Full members. Those test and certification service providers contracted by S-ICAR must fulfil ICAR selection criteria as defined the relevant SC or WG (but should we also insist they at least be an Associate member of ICAR ?) This minimum requirement to be an Associate member does not apply to other contractors that S-ICAR may use to provide “non test / certification” related services in its normal day to day administration whether it be IT, Legal or consultant etc

The Associate membership requirement applies to Contractors who provide test and certification to;

Current:

SC of Recording Devices – Device test centres/labs
 SC of Identification Devices – Tag testing labs
 SC of Milk Analysis – Ring test labs
 SC of Interbull – Genetic Evaluation Centre (Uppsala)
 DNA WG - DNA Data Interpretation Centres

Future:

WG of Animal Data Exchange – Licenced Data Exchange Centres/Services?

3. Conflicts of Interests (CoI) in Sub Committee and Working Group (WG) members;

3.1 Voting rights in SCs and WGs

The main reasons that ICAR’s membership structure makes a distinction between voting (full) and non-voting (associate) members are:

- a) To ensure that the interests of the organisations actively involved in animal recording operations predominate.
- b) To ensure decisions on recording guidelines are not biased by commercial interests and particularly those of the suppliers of devices used to facilitate animal recording.

- c) To ensure Service-ICAR decisions relating to technical and commercial aspects of its services are free from self-interest of service providers, and service users.

The downsides of the current approach includes:

- a) The ‘associate members’ (manufacturers or technologists) may have considerable knowledge and expertise that can be very useful in designing guidelines. ICAR’s Groups obtain access to this knowledge by including “associate” participation on a non-membership basis
- b) The non-voting members are excluded from participating in general assembly decisions in which they have a genuine and legitimate interest. For example, governance and finances.

The purpose of this discussion is to explore other options for dealing with conflicts of interest and opening the way for ICAR to provide better value for all members.

3.2 [How to avoid a Conflict of Interest](#)

Suggest ICAR needs to

- a) Establish a policy by which conflicts of interest between a business and its board, sub committees, working groups, employees and contractors are avoided.
- b) In each SC or WG’s Terms Of Reference (ToR) there should be an appendix that identifies/lists what situations constitute unethical conflicts
- c) Make it a requirement that each SC or WG member read and sign off the policy as part of that SC or WG’s Terms of Reference.

The Governance Committee and CE should be charged to implement the policy by screening for the conflicts listed. Such a policy should also clearly state all the potential resulting actions the organization may take in response to any conflict of interest found in regard to any individual already associated with the organization and any candidates for hire.

See sample policy attached – for discussion

4. **Other considerations?**

mcb 26/03/19