



THE GLOBAL STANDARD
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

Network. Guidelines. Certification.

The ICAR "Artificial Insemination and Related Technologies" Working Group: its goals and current projects

Fritz Schmitz-Hsu et al. (2019)

ICAR Artificial Insemination & Related Technologies Working Group

Version 1.2

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Background

- Several hundred million semen units produced worldwide per year
- Ten thousand embryos transferred annually
- Intensive international trading of semen and embryos



Questions and needs

- ❑ How to produce and label semen units?
- ❑ How to record data in context of artificial insemination and embryo transfer?
- ❑ How to assess fertility?
- ❑ How to facilitate data exchange in this context?
- ❑ What is currently done?
- ❑ What kind of services could ICAR provide?
- ❑ ...

The topics the working group is addressing

- provide, update and extend universal recommendations in the field of artificial insemination (and embryo transfer), mainly in cattle
→ **establish guidelines**
- conduct surveys what is currently done → **learn & document**
- identify new needs in this context → **foresee**
- propose services ICAR could offer → **suggest**
- stimulate and facilitate international collaboration in research and development of all aspects of artificial insemination data recording and evaluating → **promote, collaborate**



Current members of the working group

- Olivier Gérard, Alice, France (previously Co-Chair, **now Chair**)
- Jens Baltissen, Bundesverband Rind und Schwein, Germany
- Mel DeJarnette, Select Sires, USA
- Jos Hooijer, CRV, The Netherlands
- Lamberto Morelli, INSEME SpA, Italy
- Richard Spelman, LIC, New Zealand
- **Liga Kubulina, Sigulda, Latvia (new member)**
- **Eli Sellem, Alice, France (new member)**
- **A.K. Thiruvenkadan, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu, India (new member)**

Very actively supported by

- Laurent Journaux, ICAR Board, France
- Brian Wickham, ICAR Secretariat, Ireland



What's in the Guidelines about AI and ET?

1. **Bovine Semen Straw Marking**
Information to be printed on the straw, barcoding, breed codes
2. **Bovine Embryo Production and Transfer**
Recording of relevant data, parentage assessment, quality control
3. **Fertility Reporting for AI organisations**
Measurements/definitions, rules of calculation
4. **Annexes**
 - Incidence of the chosen option for the exclusion of short returns
 - Consideration of cattle reproductive physiology
 - Embryos storage and movements
 - Validation of data
 - Survey results

Recent activities of the working group

- Maintain guidelines
- Update information on what is printed on semen straws
- Conduct a survey on barcoding
- Initiate a project for establishing an International Platform for Semen Information

What's next?

- Establish the International Platform for Semen Information
- Consider new technologies (RFID?, ...)
- Collaborate closer with
 - other bodies of ICAR (Interbull, Animal Data Exchange, etc.)
 - the International Embryo Technology Society (IETS)
 - industry
- Keep the Guidelines up to date and promote them
- ...



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Thank you

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