



Terms of Reference for the ICAR Feed and Gas Working Group

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1 Background

The following are the Terms of Reference for an ICAR Group established in 2015. The Group is known as the Feed and Gas Working Group (F&G-WG).

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



Table 1. Change summary.

Date of Change	Nature of Change
8th June 2015	First version adopted by ICAR Board.
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.
22nd October 2019	Updated conflicts of interest sentence including a link to policy for ICAR Groups.

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

2 Context

The F&G-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 F&G-WG is to achieve a number of objectives related specifically to recording of feed intake and greenhouse gas outputs.

3 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.
- 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.

4 Governance

The F&G-WG will comprise a Chairperson appointed by the ICAR Board and members appointed by the ICAR Chief Executive. 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.

All ICAR Group members are required to comply with the most recent version of ICAR's Conflicts of Interest Policy as [here](#).

The F&G-WG 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.

5 Secretariat

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), and forum ensuing contents are up-to-date and relevant according to these terms of reference.

6 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 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 F&G-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
Others	Ensure any other standards, guidelines and services involving feed intake or greenhouse gases are developed using a shared ICAR philosophy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 F&G-WG taking account of its terms of reference and any requests from the ICAR Board.

Priorities for next year are:

- a. Methane Cost action finished and delivered input to write guidelines for recording individual methane emissions.
- b. Protocols from partners to improve guidelines for recording individual feed intake collected and presented. Student will combine these protocols in a document.
- c. Carry out research for 6 different workpackage in gDMI (part 2).



- d. Finish business plan with a small group of EU partners and test the virtual computing centre to calculate EBV using shared data.

REFERENCE: /USERS/BWW/BITRIX24/R_R/GROUPS/GROUPSOVERVIEW/TERMS OF REFERENCE/TOR FEED AND GAS WG V19.01.DOCX

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