



Terms of Reference for Sustainability Task Force

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1 Background

The following are the Terms of Reference (ToR) of an ICAR Task Force, known as the Sustainability Task Force (STF).

1.1 ToR Changes

Changes to these ToR over time are summarized in Table 1:



Table 1. Change summary.

| Date of Change | Nature of Change |
|------------------------------|--|
| 21 st August 2021 | First version of ToR drafted by M. Burke and Tone Roalkvam for review and approval by ICAR Board.. |
| | |
| | |

1.2 General

ICAR has the role of providing animal recording guidelines to support farmers in their effort to collect valid data for daily management, and to deliver proven and validated information for genetic evaluations.

Ultimately this data should help farmers to make management (including breeding) decisions and produce healthy, safe, and sustainable food in a profitable way. With the continuous improvement of animal production systems, ICAR has helped its members to become more competitive, so they can provide relevant services to their stakeholders (primarily farmers and ultimately consumers).

At the same time, efficiency improvements in farming methods can have unintended consequences and modern agriculture has in many ways become a victim of its own success. Increased production has come at a high price. Pollution, destruction of soil, emission of greenhouse gasses, challenges in animal welfare and, perhaps most perniciously, the erosion of the feeling in society at large that agriculture and husbandry is an important part of our society. Many people now feel that modern agriculture equals large-scale, heavy on chemicals and engineered (GMO). The concerns of society at large are not translated in ways of doing business.

Policy, science and consumer expectations and farmer practices all point to the same paradigm: optimisation not productivity, for land, animals and energy. Taking on this challenge, we need to reset and take ecology and the carrying capacity as our starting point. This means a paradigm shift towards circularity, as part of a larger bio-based economy.

Following on from its successful ICAR 2021 conference in Leeuwarden, where 'Circularity in Agriculture' was the main theme, the ICAR Board want ICAR to now organise how it addresses Sustainability, so the organisation has a clear and coordinated approach.

To this end the ICAR Board have asked the CE to form a Task Force with the goal of developing a coordinated approach to Sustainability across its Working Groups and Sub Committees. This document then is the Terms of Reference for this new ICAR Sustainability Task Force (STF).



The following sections cover the key elements of the Terms of Reference for the STF.

2 Context

The STF, is one element of ICAR's Group structure as elaborated [here](#) on the ICAR website. As a Task Force:

- a. It has a limited term until June 2022
- b. Its Chair is appointed by the Board of ICAR
- c. Its members are appointed by the Chair in consultation with the Chief Executive of ICAR.

The main purpose of the STF is to achieve a number of objectives related to how ICAR addresses Sustainability - specifically so in the field of livestock recording.

3 Objectives

The objectives of the STF are to:

| No. | Goal |
|-----|--|
| 1 | Recommend a structure and roadmap for how ICAR addresses Sustainability on an ongoing basis in the context of animal recording |
| 2 | Provide interim Report to ICAR Board by Nov 2021 |
| 3 | Full Recommendations Report to ICAR Board June 2022 |

4 Governance and Members

The ICAR STF Chair has been appointed by the ICAR Board as Tone Roalkvam. The members of the STF will be appointed by this Chair in consultation with the ICAR Chief Executive.

Members of the STF should be:

- Experts in the field of sustainability in livestock production
- Have practical approach and experience in the subject
- Membership should reflect a balance of representatives from the various regional systems that ICAR Members operate in (e.g., EU, Americas, Oceania etc.)
- Be working for an ICAR member or be nominated by and ICAR member
- TF should constitute a minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 members.

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 STF will answer and report to the ICAR Board.

5 Secretariat

Secretariat (person appointed is ICAR CE) – whose role is to:

- a. Administer - agree dates and venues in consultation with STF Chair, provide notice of meetings to members, agree agenda with Leader, distribute agenda, take minutes, agree minutes with Chair, and distribute minutes.
- b. Task Force Composition - maintain list of task force members with up-to-date contact details, in consultation with Chairperson and ICAR Chief Executive ensure membership is comprised of interested and enthusiastic members representing active stakeholders.
- c. Website - maintain website and forum ensuing contents are up-to-date and relevant according to the TOR.

6 Timeline

Plan for delivery to the ICAR membership over the next 10 months and at the ICAR 2022 meeting Montreal, CA.

| Goal/Objective | Planned Deliverable | Delivery Date |
|------------------------|--|--|
| STF Terms of Reference | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft. • Approval by ICAR Board | August 20 th 2021 August 31 st 2021 |
| Appoint STF Members. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Call' send to Members • Appoint Members | Sept 03 rd 2021 Sept 24 th 2021 |
| Meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene 1st Meeting • Convene 2nd Meeting | Oct 8 th 2021 Oct 29 th 2021 |
| Interim Report | Interim Report to ICAR Board | Nov 4 th 2021 |
| Meetings | Convene 3 rd Meeting Convene 4 th Meeting Convene 5 th Final Meeting | Jan 2022 Feb 2022 Apr 2022 |
| Final Report/Disband | Final Report to ICAR Board | May 28 th 2022 |



After the ICAR 2022 meeting in Montreal, the work of the STF will be complete and the Task Force will disband, with the new structure and expertise taking over to go and develop new guidelines in relevant areas.

7 Communications with the ICAR Board

- a. Interim and Final Reports of the STF Chair to the Board.
- b. The ICAR secretariat support person to maintain files.

8 Relationships with Other ICAR Groups

Relationships between STF 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 | Ensure ICAR standards, guidelines and services relating to Sustainability are consistent across WGs and SCs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overlapping membership. • Effective communication of plans and progress. • Joint expert advisory group(s) as required. |

9 Priorities

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

That the priorities for STF in the next year also include the following:

- a. Provide a definition of Sustainability in the context of livestock animal recording
- b. Develop a structure within ICAR that delivers an ongoing practical roadmap for Sustainability in animal recording.
- c. Outreach to other external institutions conducting practical applications of sustainability, e.g., IDF, Global Dairy Platform and others etc, ensuring collaboration and avoiding overlap/duplication of effort.
- d. In doing so also raise the international profile of ICAR and its role in promoting sustainability in animal recording.
- e. .