



THE GLOBAL STANDARD  
FOR LIVESTOCK DATA

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

Version July, 2024

Network. Guidelines. Certification.

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# Table of Contents

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<b>1</b>	<b>Background.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Context.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Objectives of the SGC-WG .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Governance.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Chair duties.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Secretariat .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Communications with the ICAR Board.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Relationships with Other ICAR Groups .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Priorities .....</b>	<b>6</b>

## Tables

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Table 1. Relationship with other ICAR Groups and other institutions.....	5
Table 2. Priorities for SGC-WG in 2024.....	6

## 1 Background

The following sections cover the key elements of the Terms of Reference for the Sheep, Goat and Camelid Working Group (SGC-WG).

These revised ToR have been approved by ICAR Board at its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November of 2022.

## 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 sICAR 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.

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

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.

Initially expert advisory groups will be created for:

- a. Sheep and Goat milk recording – comprising the current membership of the current Performance Recording of Dairy Sheep Working Group and the Goat Performance Recording Working Group.
- b. Sheep, Goat and Camelid fibre recording – comprising the current membership of the Animal Fibre Working Group. Consideration needs to be given to adding wool to the priorities for the expert advisory group.
- c. Sheep and Goat meat, reproduction and maternal trait recording – this expert group will be formed primarily from interests in those countries with major sheep meat sectors including New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, France and United Kingdom.

## 5 Chair duties

- a. Group Composition – in consultation with ICAR Secretariat and ICAR Board ensure membership is comprised of interested and enthusiastic members representing active stakeholders.
- b. Business and Group Meetings – takes initiative for dates, agenda and minutes in consultation with Secretariat. Organise at least two meetings per year, 3 to 4 meetings per year are recommended.
- c. Coordinate relationships with other ICAR groups (see paragraph 8). Have awareness of activities going on in other groups.

- d. Group activities - in consultation with the group members, establish priorities with agreed duties of group members and agreed deliverables and timescale. Accomplishment of the tasks in time and activities leading to a satisfactory outcome.
- e. Communications with the ICAR Board. See paragraph 7.

## 6 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 ensuing contents are up-to-date and relevant according to the TOR.

## 7 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.

## 8 Relationships with Other ICAR Groups

Relationships between SGC -WG and other ICAR Groups are as summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Relationship with other ICAR Groups and other institutions.

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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing leadership in relation to sheep, goats and camelids.</li> <li>• Effective communication of plans and progress.</li> <li>• Overlapping membership as needed.</li> <li>• Joint expert advisory group(s) as required.</li> </ul>

## 9 Priorities

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

The priorities for SGC -WG in the next year can be found in Table 2.

Table 2. Priorities for SGC-WG in 2024.

Priority	Description
1	Guidelines on wool: terminate review and propose final version for approval by ICAR GA in Bled 2024.
2	Guidelines on efficiency and resilience in sheep and goat: SMARTER deliverable completed. As soon as green light by EU Project Officer, translate recommendations into ICAR guidelines.
3	Other guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Section 16 (milk recording) : update + increase consistency.</li> <li>b) Start guidelines on large camelids.</li> </ul>
4	Initiative following SMARTER: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Across-country evaluation: possible routine evaluation in the next future in Latxa x Manech dairy sheep breeds (FR x SP). Within ARDI2 project if accepted.</li> <li>b) EU Reference Centre: precise framework, operational condition, governance.</li> </ul>
5	ICAR Bled 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Session on small ruminants and camelids</li> </ul>
6	Cooperation with WG & SC: MRSD SC (new meters, extension of agreement) and DNA-WG (survey on DNA accreditation services in sheep and goats).