



AMS Data Integration Task Force 2

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1 Background

The following are the Terms of Reference (ToR) for ICAR's new AMS Data Integration Task Force 2.0 (AMS TF).

1.1 ToR Changes

Changes to these ToR over time are summarized in .1.1. Change summary.

Version	Date of Change	Nature of Change
2.0	14 th January 2026	First version of ToR for AMS TF 2.0 drafted by M. Burke and Ana Granados for review and approval by ICAR Board
3.0	25 th June 2026	Second version revised by the TF AMS 2.0 in some editorials



1.2 General

At the ICAR Board meeting in October 2024, it was decided that ICAR should fast-track the validation of AMS and in-line milk recording equipment.

In contrast to our traditional certification services, which assess 'devices' performance against prescribed performance guidelines, a validation service attests that a device performs according to the device manufacturer's published specifications. While it is known these sensors do not meet the current ICAR guideline limits for traditional certification, the concept of "validation" of devices was introduced in 2025 by the AMS TF 1.0 under the chairmanship of Steven Sievert.

The Board now wants ICAR to urgently proceed to build on this validation service, further categorise the data from them and develop guidelines to include this data in milk recording schemes. To this end, the ICAR Board have convened a small cross-functional team to finish off the outstanding tasks from the original AMS TF.

The following sections cover the key elements of the Terms of Reference for the AMS TF 2.0

2 Objectives

These are the objectives of the AMS TF 2.0 :

No.	Goal
1	<p>Further enhance the ICAR Validation Service for AMS/In-line sensors by providing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dBase for ID codes for sensor devices - Formation of an ICAR' Test Plan Panel' – a panel of ICAR experts convened to oversee the design and approval of sensor test plans for the various devices - Finalise Publication/Report templates and Labelling for 'validated' devices on the ICAR website - Extensive Communication plan for manufacturers and ICAR Members -
2	<p>Identify initiatives that ICAR can explore to provide value to members in the development of value-added services to AMS farms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review existing guidelines to identify gaps/opportunities for incorporating existing or new traits and data elements from AMS and sensor systems



3 Governance and Members

The ICAR AMS TF Chair 2.0 has been appointed by the ICAR Board as Daniel Lefebvre, ICAR President. The members are appointed based on their expertise and current role in ICAR. As such, the following members of the AMS TF have been appointed by the Chair and GM ;

Daniel	Lefebvr	Lactanet	Canada
David	SAUNIER	Eliance	France
Niels	Henning Nielsen	Schneider Vikings	Denmark
Miel	Hostens	Unv. Cornell	US
Jessica	Kinnander	Vaxa	Sweden
Reinhard	Reents	VIT	Germany
Steven	Sievert	DHIA	US
Bert	van.t.land	CRV	The Netherlands

In principle, members can only vote on those issues for which they or their employers do not have a conflict of interest. The AMS TF 2.0 will answer and report to the ICAR Board.

4 Secretariat

Secretariat (*the person appointed is ICAR GM or her delegate?*) – whose role is to:

- a. **Administer** - agree on dates and venues in consultation with the AMS TF2 Chair, provide notice of meetings to members, agree on agenda with Chair, distribute agenda, take minutes, agree on minutes with Chair, and distribute minutes.
- b. **Team Composition** – maintain the list of team members with up-to-date contact details, in consultation with the Chairperson and ICAR General Manager, ensure membership is comprised of interested and enthusiastic members representing active stakeholders.
- c. **Website** - maintain website and forum, ensuring content is up-to-date and relevant according to the TOR.

5 Timeline

Plan for delivery of above objectives by Q4 2026' face to 'face' meeting of the ICAR Board.



6 Communications with the ICAR Board

- a. Interim and Final Reports to the ICAR Board every quarter.
- b. The ICAR secretariat supports person to maintain files.