

Context

In the Mediterranean region, rangeland and pastoral systems considered to be the traditional way of farming contain elements that can prove to be of high value under new conditions related to the need to protect the environment and biodiversity and with consumer demands for safe, quality products. These production systems utilising local genetic resources adapted to the production environment could increase their profitability through the modernisation of the production systems and by enhancing the means of commercialisation of the products.

Objectives

The project aims to investigate the factors that influence the sustainability of pastoral and rangeland production systems in the participating countries, focusing on sheep and goat production, and examine adaptation strategies to the socio-economic and environmental challenges.

Workplan

Towards this aim, the following aspects are examined: the different components of the production systems; the role of local authorities and the organisation at territorial level; and the distribution of products through the supply chain, the trends in the market and the role of the different stakeholders.

Tools will be developed to support the sustainable development of production systems contributing to the increase of the value of the breeds, their commercial enhancement, their uptake in agriculture and their positive impact in rural economies.

The plan will allow us to underline positive synergies in breed-product interactions. The aim is to enhance the interactions between local genetic resources and quality products by reviewing the existing strategies and supporting the development of new ones.

Coordinator:

Christina Ligda, General Direction of Agricultural Research Hellenic Agricultural Organisation, DEMETER, Greece.

chligda@otenet.gr

Partners:

- LRDE, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, France
- Animal Production, Agricultural Research Institute, Nicosia, Cyprus
- Feeding, Qualification and Environnement in Animal Production, Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II, Morocco

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The transverse analyses of specific case studies in the partner countries in a comparative way will make it possible to construct specific guidelines to promote breeding programmes and valorisation strategies for local breeds. The outputs will provide practical frameworks for the valorisation of local genetic resources and the successful uptake of their products into the markets

