

Code: Re-farm – Reframing farming systems for quality and sustainability

On one hand, intensive livestock production systems (ILPS) are growing fast to satisfy the increasing demand. However, there is public scepticism about intensification in livestock production driven primarily by adverse links to environmental aspects and sustainable utilization of natural resources. Moreover, ILPS are perceived as being detrimental to animal health & welfare and may potentially undermine the quality of derived products. On the other hand, extensive livestock production systems are low-input systems which are critical to support the development of rural communities. However, economic sustainability of such systems is often questioned as they are challenged by natural resource limitations, adverse climatic conditions and diseases. Products from extensive systems are considered of superior quality, but their resource-limited environment undermines their safety.

Understanding key strengths & weaknesses of different farming systems is crucial for sustainable production and delivery of quality products. Therefore, strategic planning and a profitability analysis considering the system-oriented challenges and the added-value resulting from consumer-driven demands and niche products are necessary. The **Code:Re-Farm** research project focuses on poultry & goat production systems with the goal of **understanding the links between husbandry systems and intrinsic quality of derived products**. Novel technologies, combined with state-of-the-art laboratory techniques, will be exploited for assessing the intrinsic quality of products along the value chain (Product Lifecycle Monitoring), from farm to fork. The insights from this assessment, combined with insights on societal demands and sustainability of production processes will drive the development of alternative business models that meet the needs of sustainability and consumer-driven demands for product quality and animal welfare.

Nine combinations of breeds, production lines and farming systems will be studied during the project, five of them concerning poultry meat and eggs production and four of them concerning goat milk production. The poultry pilot farms are located in the Netherlands, while the goat pilot farms are in Italy, Greece and Switzerland.

Code: re-farm is being developed by a multi-disciplinary team, coordinated by CyRIC, Cyprus Research and Innovation Center Ltd, in the framework of EU's Horizon 2020 Programme. The project has just been launched (1st May 2021) and will run for three and a half years, to allow enough time for undertaking the study and performing the scientific assessments.

The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101000216. Project partners include: CyRIC - Cyprus Research and Innovation Centre (Cyprus), Agricultural University of Athens (Greece), Alpes Lasers SA (Switzerland), Technical University of Vienna (Austria), National Research Council (Italy), Quantared Technologies GmbH (Austria), REM Analytics SA (Switzerland), EXUS Software (Greece), Aristotle University of Thessalonini (Greece), University Carlos III of Madrid (Spain), Biosense Institute (Serbia), Tecnoalimenti S.C.P.A. (Italy), Eindhoven University of Technology (Netherlands), University of Copenhagen (Denmark), Noldus Information Technology BV (Netherlands), Institute of Communication and Computer Systems (Greece), Skopelos goat livestock cooperation (Greece), AgroMilk (Greece), Caprilait (Switzerland), Aeres (Netherlands), Societa Agricola Accadia Verde srl (Italy)

- ENDS -

Notes for editors:

1. Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.

2. For media enquiries, please contact CyRIC on +357 22 777200 or e-mail info@cyric.eu

Logos:



code: re-farm

