Towards a pan-European typology of sheep and goat farms: A meta-analysis

Alexandros Theodoridis, Athanasios Ragkos, Konstantinos Zaralis, Laurence Smith and Georgios Arsenos
Pan-European typology of S & G farms

✓ Funded by EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme
✓ Topic: “Assessing sustainability of terrestrial livestock production”
✓ The project started on 1 March 2016 and will continue for 48 months (4 years, until 2020)
✓ Consortium consists of 34 industry and research organizations from 7 countries (ES, FI, FR, GR, IT, TR, UK)
Objectives

✓ Development of a *new common typology* for sheep and goat systems in 7 countries

✓ Representation of the *diversity* of the sector across Europe

✓ Consistent farm *assessments* and *policy* recommendations

✓ Identification of *sustainable innovations*

✓ *Introduction* in the existing farm production systems
Methodological approach

- Literature review on typological surveys
  
  \textit{(papers, studies, reports, official typologies)}

- Online survey to 17 industry organizations

- Tentative list of farm types ("Broad" Typology)
  
  13 sheep + 5 goat farm types

- Workshop in CIHEAM (Zaragoza) → Final Typology
  
  5 sheep + 4 goat farm types

Innovation for Sustainability in Sheep and Goats, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain, 3-5 October 2017
Broad Typology – Sheep

1. Farms with *confined* kept sheep and *purchased* feed
2. Farms with *confined* kept sheep and provision of *home-grown* feed
3. Semi-extensive *dairy* farms
4. *Dual-purpose* farms
5. *Traditionally* managed farms
6., 7., 8. Low, Medium, High input *meat* farms
9. *Cheese* producing farms
10. *Pluriactive* farms
11. *PDO* specialist farms
12. *Organic/eco* farms
13. *Intensive* organic/eco farms
Broad Typology - Goats

1. *Traditional meat* production farms
2. Pastoral *dual purpose* farms
3. Pastoral *dairy* farms
4. *Confined dairy* farms
5. *Cheese making* farms
Final Typology

• This initial list of farm types ("broad" typology) was elaborated with research and industry organizations.

• Final "narrow" typology of sheep and goat farms.
Final Typology

1. Intensive dairy farms (e.g. high input of purchased feedstuff)
2. Semi-intensive or extensive dairy farms (e.g. normally pasture fed animals)
3. Intensive meat farms (e.g. high input of purchased feedstuff)
4. Semi-intensive or extensive meat farms (e.g. normally pasture fed animals)
5. Dual-purpose farms (farms where the farmer sees value in 2 or more different products e.g. meat and wool, meat and dairy)
In Summary

- A *qualitative approach* was developed to define a pan-European typology of S & G farms based on a meta-analysis of surveys.
- This approach produced 9 *final farm types* and each one of these types also accounted for a broad range of sub-types of farms (*differences in their size, economic and environmental role, production systems, farming practices and local/regional/national importance*).
- Final typology constitutes a basis for the description of the multiple S & G systems in the continent.
- An important tool in addressing common problems and challenges.
Thank you for your attention!