

STAKEHOLDERS' PERCEPTIONS OF PRECISION LIVESTOCK FARMING TO IMPROVE SMALL RUMINANT WELFARE



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Introduction

Within the TechCare Project, a list of Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) tools, with potential for monitoring animal welfare in small ruminant production, was formulated in TechCare Countries.

Materials and Methods

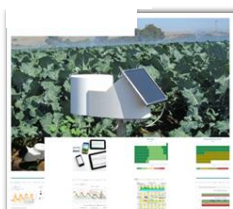
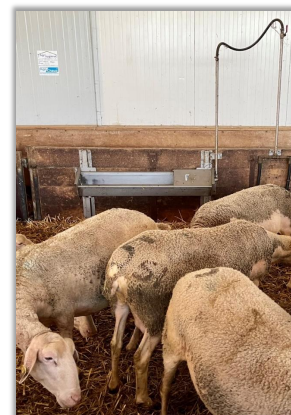
The opinions of stakeholders were taken into account after consultations, following a multi-actor approach. The OPERA method was used to reach consensus between stakeholders.

Results

Overall, stakeholders' opinions appear rather uniform.

Meet sheep

1. Automated weighing and low frequency identification (LF) system
2. Localisation (GPS)
3. 3-axial accelerometers (new ultra-high-frequency (UHF) eartags and readers for several uses (e.g. water intake)



Dairy sheep

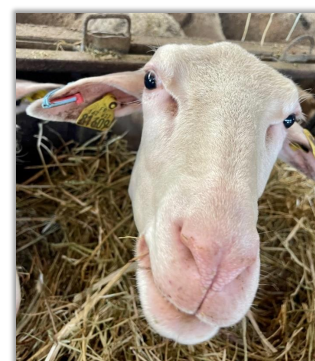
1. Environmental-air quality sensors (e.g. weather stations)
2. Automated milk recording
3. Low frequency identification (LF) and automatic weighing



Dairy goats

1. Ultra-high-frequency (UHF) eartags and readers

UHF RFID TAG

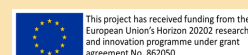


Conclusions

Regardless of the production system, the most important traits of selected PLF tools were low cost and ease-of-use. Most stakeholders also expressed concerns on their ability to collect and handle the data generated from PLF tools for monitoring individual animals.

Acknowledgements

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