



Israel stakeholders' opinions on sheep welfare aspects prioritization and potential PLF tools

In Israel, two series of national workshops have been carried out to date. Workshop #1 (17 participants) was held online in May 2021 and focused on welfare issues and priorities affecting the Israeli sheep farming industry. Participants were highly experienced professionals and brought to the discussion technical and professional knowledge. Having representatives from the farming, research, veterinary, advisory, value chain and academic sectors. The consensus regarding the prioritisation of sheep welfare issues (meat and dairy respectively) in Israel was: 1. Undernutrition (insufficient feed to meet metabolic demand), 2. Mastitis, 3. Abortion, 1. Stocking density, 2. respiratory disease, 3. Feed competition (stocking density and feeder space). After discussion within the whole project consortium, precision farming tools that could potentially help manage some of these welfare concerns were identified and presented back to stakeholders for their feedback, during a second workshop held in September 2021. Attendees of workshop #2 were asked to give their opinion on each tool's potential to tackle welfare issues and its cost-effectiveness. Tools discussed included ultra-high frequency and low frequency readers and ear-tags, accelerometer and GIS wearables, proximity sensors, electronic identification enabled weigh-crate and, water consumption sensors. Durability of the tools were mentioned as concerns regarding ongoing running and maintenance costs. The need for long term support services and dependencies was also mentioned.



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