



Integrating innovative TECHnologies along the value Chain  
to improve small ruminant welfARE management

**Press release n. 7**

**Italy Pilot Farm.**

TechCare is a multi-actor approach project (EU H2020 programme) to demonstrate innovative approaches and appropriate business models to monitor animal-based welfare indicators and improve welfare management in small ruminant systems, using precision livestock farming (PLF) technologies along the whole production chain.

During 2022-2023, AGRIS Sardegna (agriculture research agency of Sardinia Region - Italy), together with Abinsula (a North Sardinia ICT Company), in the frame of TechCare project, is conducting trials in one pilot farm to monitor dairy sheep welfare. The farm is located in the North West of Sardinia (Bonassai farm, AGRIS), and represents the Mediterranean dairy sheep systems.





Several technologies and innovative tools are being used and installed in Bonassai pilot farm to monitor the animal welfare of Sarda milking ewes and ewe-lambs. The innovative tools tested are electronic identification weigh scale with 3-way gate auto drafter, milk flow meters, milk tank scale, portable somatic cell count reader (DCC), walk-over-weighing system (WoW), indoor and outdoor weather stations. Sheep welfare assessments are also being carried out, to test whether information obtained from the innovative tools can predict and anticipate welfare issues.

Data collection, transfer and analysis issues are verified, as well as connectivity and infrastructure requirements thanks to an IoT platform realized by Abinsula.



Early warning systems will be developed from the data collected, together with those from the other pilot farms in the project. Once testing on pilot farms is completed, the candidate tools will be deployed on commercial farms for large-scale studies in real-conditions testing. Results of pilot and large-scale studies will be presented to stakeholders during the next workshops of the project.

**Stakeholders are central to the project, so if you are interested to join in these discussions, please contact us.**

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