TECH CARE

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

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# Large-Scale farm study from Greece

In the context of TechCare project, a Large-Scale study was conducted on 10 dairy goat farms in Greece (approx. 880 animals) from March to June 2024. The goal was to test advanced tools, called Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) tools, designed to improve animal health, welfare and farm productivity. The farms used devices like weather stations, milk meters, and monitoring protocols to track goat health, milk production, and environmental conditions.

To ensure animal welfare, individual goats as well as the entire flock were regularly checked employing simple welfare protocols. Farmers also submitted daily reports on their goats' health. Weather and air quality data was collected every 30 minutes, whereas, milk yield from each goat was recorded every two weeks using analog milk meters.

While farmers appreciated PLF tools, issues were recorded, such as the lack of a mobile app to alert them of urgent issues, power outages that disrupted operations, and sensors failures due to dead batteries or poor 4G connections for uploading data. Additionally, the goats damaged some of the equipment, stressing the need for stronger designs and for careful selection of installation areas.

Despite these challenges, the study proved that these tools have great potential to make goat farming more efficient. By improving equipment durability and connectivity, PLF tools could play a major role in enhancing animal welfare and farm productivity across Greece.


TECHCARE project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program under grant agreement N°862050.