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MEMBER

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Living Lab Coccinelle | France



Coccinelle Living Lab aims to develop and test innovative and agroecological

options for upland grass-based dairy systems that shape the Massif Central (France) cultural landscape. An INRAE experimental farm is located within the territory of this Living Lab and allows testing of innovative and risky management options that would lead to unacceptable learning costs if tested on commercial farms.

Aim

Our main aim is to enhance the resilience of upland dairy farms to climate change, biodiversity conservation, animal health and welfare, cheese quality, farmer's and community wellbeing, by strengthening the link between farmers, farm advisors, PDO cheese boards, a Regional Park, consumers and researchers.

Background information

Coccinelle LL was established in 2018-2019, with three founding meetings involving a wide range of researchers and local stakeholders, most of whom were already involved in R&D projects on grass-based systems. A farmlet experiment was set up in 2019 at the INRAE experimental farm; the experiment investigated late calf-dam separation associated with a gradual change in cow genotype. A farmer platform started in 2020 to share knowledge with farmers. A PhD thesis (2020 - 2023) used the knowledge-concept-proposal (KCP) design method for sharing values related to dairy farming with citizens and co-creating innovative solutions for the veal-calf sector. Since 2022, the focus has been on environmental dimensions and co-creation of knowledge thanks to Horizon Europe project Agroecology-TRANSECT.

Funding structure

Coccinelle has so far benefited from regional funding (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, I-SITE Clermont), research and development projects (Tetrae AgriAURA 2050), and more recently EU funding (Horizon Europe Agroecology-TRANSECT). The PhD was funded by the INRAE interdisciplinary programme on animal health and welfare.

Activities

- A co-design approach and the presence of consumers helped reduce fixation effects and led to innovative solutions, which, in some cases, could

transform the veal-calf sector.

- In line with these outputs, we aim to develop an ethical and local calf fattening system, in collaboration with the Regional Park and actors in the veal-calf sector.
- On-farm tests of adaptation strategies to ensure fodder production in a changing environment.



Source: Christophe Maître (INRAE)



Source: Floriane Teixeira

Methods, stakeholder engagements and tools

Including citizens in the co-design process is central to Coccinelle's activities and values. We use serious games (La Grange® <https://la-grange.hub.inrae.fr/>) and other participatory designs to explore conflicting values between farmers and citizens, and to promote dialogue between them.

Achievements

- Associating KCP and game-based learning approaches not only promoted horizontal sharing of knowledge among stakeholders but also put farmers and citizens in designing innovative systems.
- A serious game session led to the inclusion of two citizens in the management board of the INRAE farming system experiment.
- An educational trail was recently created around the INRAE experimental farm in Marcenat (Cezallier Plateau) to inform hikers about dairy farming and grassland ecology.

Publications

Adaptation strategies to manage summer forage shortages improve animal performance and better maintain milk and cheese quality in grass- versus corn-based dairy systems.



Quand les citoyens se glissent dans la peau d'une vache laitière : résultats d'un dispositif participatif.



Including citizens through co-design in a participatory research project to explore innovative agro-food systems.



Principles, barriers and enablers to agroecological animal production systems: a qualitative approach based on five case studies.

Contact



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