Towards sustainable livestock systems: EU policies and R&I activities

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Livestock in economic terms (2017)

Total agricultural value
40%

Annual Turnover
400 billion EUR

Farms employees
4 million people

EU livestock Farms
58%

Challenges to the livestock farming system

- Environment (climate, air, soil & water, biodiversity...)
- Social (human health, animal welfare...)
- Economic (just transition, fairer income...)

Livestock in economic terms (2017)
• Animals **convert nonedible biomass** into highly nutritious food for humans.

• Livestock farming produces food on **57% of land that cannot be used for crops**.

• Livestock farming ensures rural vitality in regions where it is the **only sustainable economic activity**.

• Animal by-products provide **raw material** for hundreds of different products
Actions for sustainable livestock production

Methane Strategy (October 2020)

Organic Action Plan (March 2021)

Zero Pollution Action Plan (May 2021)

Legislative initiatives to enhance cooperation of primary producers (support position in food chain) (2021-22)

Proposal for a revision of the feed additives Regulation to reduce the environmental impact of livestock farming (2021)

Action plan for integrated nutrient management to reduce the pollution from fertilisers (2021)

Proposal for a revision of the existing animal welfare legislation, including on transport and slaughter (2023)

Revision of Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive and enhancement of IPM (2022)

+ others .....
Challenges to the livestock farming system:

- Nutrition
- Feeding strategies
- Microbial ecosystems
- Animal breeding, genetics, genomics
- Grazing management
- Improved pastures
- Mixed farming
- Animal health & welfare
- Nutrition
- Feeding strategies
- Grazing management
- Improved pastures
- Mixed farming

EU strategies & targets:

- Green Deal / Farm to Fork Strategy / Biodiversity Strategy / Methane Strategy / Circular Economy Action Plan
- Zero Pollution Action Plan
- EU Climate Law
- Nitrate Directive
- Organic Action Plan

R&I as key enablers

CAP

Horizon 2020
Horizon Europe

EIP-AGRI
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Zero Pollution Action Plan
- EU Climate Law
- Nitrate Directive
- Organic Action Plan

Multi-sectoral R&I projects
EIP-AGRI Focus groups & workshops
Thematic networks
- Science only & R&I projects

R&I as key enablers
Horizon Europe: instruments to power the transition

- Missions
  - Calls for collaborative projects
  - Achieving goals
  - Partnerships

- Agroecology living labs and research infrastructures
- Animal health and welfare
- Agriculture of data
- Safe and sustainable food systems
So much more than food...