



Participatory approaches for sustainable livestock production



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Topic	Livestock type – country code
100% pasture-fed cow-calf dairy systems	Dairy-DE
Management for maximisation of C sequestration in pasture	Dairy-FR
Dairy with agroforestry aiming for self-sufficiency in protein-based feed	Dairy-RO
More-from-less dairy systems utilising on-farm advice and carbon foot printing tool	Dairy-SE
Conventional production utilising manure for biogas	Pork-FR
Organic farmers utilising "green-protein" from grass/clover working with feed company and refinery	Pork-DK
Conventional pig production with innovative flooring (solid floor with a layer of material for rooting for all ages) and focus on biodiversity	Pork-NL
100% pasture-fed beef systems utilising mob grazing, herbal leys and mobile slaughterhouses and Community Supported Agriculture	Beef-UK
New breeding methodology for "mountain pasture" with own certification/label development	Beef-IT
Quality assured (IP SIGILL) production system for beef and sheep on HNV semi-natural pastures together with label development	Beef-SE
Agri-tech innovation for improved welfare	Poultry-PL
Farmer co-operative producing and sharing compost from plant-based litter	Poultry-FR
Closed-loop egg production feeding food processing waste and recycling manure	Poultry-NL
Dehesa Mediterranean system of sheep rearing in silvopasture with different input levels	Sheep-ES
Individual animal data processing tool to increase the efficiency of resource management in dairy goats	Goats-ES

List of PATHWAYS Practice Hubs/Living Labs

Why this topic?

Participatory approaches, which actively engage stakeholders in decision-making and give affected parties a voice, provide a way to align livestock systems with local needs while enhancing sustainability. This study examines the characteristics of participatory approaches applied to improve the sustainability of livestock production within the EU-funded PATHWAYS project.



Importance (1= very unimportant, 7 = very important) of five factors for benefits for society (PCA-results) and underlying variables, as seen by stakeholders

What did we do?

- Stakeholder analyses to assess those that are involved in or affected by decisions
- Surveys to assess the opinions of relevant stakeholders
- Focus groups to gather in-depth insights from international actors
- Farm networks (15 Practice Hubs) focusing on innovative practices related to sustainable livestock production (dairy, beef, pork, poultry, sheep and goat) and led by trained facilitators
- Living Labs (15) to test practical improvements in on- or off-farm farmer-initiated trials

What did we learn?

Findings indicate that participatory approaches enhance collaboration, strengthen stakeholder ownership and support informed decision-making in the livestock production sector. By integrating diverse perspectives, these approaches contribute to more sustainable livestock systems that are better aligned with stakeholder needs and capacities.



**Funded by
the European Union**

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 101000395.

