

1st meeting of the network “Actions for Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change in Livestock Sector in Mediterranean Area” (MLN)

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Meeting Summary

On 20th July 2016, the 1st meeting of the network “Actions for Mitigation of and Adaptation to Climate Change in Livestock Sector in Mediterranean Area”(MLN) was held in Bella, Italy. The meeting was hosted by the Extensive Animal Husbandry Research Unit of the Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA-ZOE).

The idea of create MLN arose at the annual LRG meeting held at Lodi (IT) and was launched at the GRA Engagement Workshop, held in Izmir (Turkey) on November 18-19 2015, to deal with three areas representing key concerns for livestock in the Mediterranean region: 1. Water; 2. Mycotoxins; 3. Good practices of mitigation and adaptation.

Meeting presentations:

- Many aspects of the complex relationships among soil, water, air and livestock were introduced by Marcello Mastroianni (Research Unit for Cropping Systems in Semi-arid Environments (CREA-SCA))
- Umberto Bernabucci (Department of Animal Science and Forestry of the University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy), sent an overview on the effects of mycotoxins on health of ruminants.
- Sonia Roig Gómez (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Sociedad Española para el Estudio de los Pastos) presented “Livestock grazing as key land and ecosystem services management tool in Spain”.
- Dominique Francois (INRA GenPhySE Toulouse, France) presented “Adaptation traits in sheep & project to phenotype sheep about methane emissions”, giving an interesting overview of the work made and in progress in genetic studies concerning adaptive traits for small ruminants for harsh environments: disease resistance, protection with fleece, behavior, body condition, climatic stress tolerance, feed efficiency, and GHG emissions.
- Lucia Sepe (CREA-ZOE), presented the idea of applying a COST project. She exposed the main characteristics of COST projects, namely that they do not fund research but scientific exchanges, workshops, training activities etc. She also presented the different categories of countries that can participate.

Meeting outcomes:

- The actions that MLN could begin within short timeframe are: a. gather literature on themes of interest of MLN; b. gather information about national and international programs on MLN themes.
- Priorities of the MLN’s actions should be: a. Concepts – Methods; b. Strategies of mitigation and adaptation.
- Participants to MLN made the decision to apply a COST project for supporting the activities of MLN. Particular attention will be paid to methods and to novel concerns (i.e. emerging mycotoxins).
- All the scientists who expressed their interest in MLN will be invited to join the project and to share this information with other colleagues, especially if belonging to countries not presently involved.

All people interested to joint MLN can contact the GRA Secretariat or Giacomo Pirlo (giacomo.pirlo@crea.gov.it).