Meeting conclusions

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Meeting conclusions

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Session 1

Main assessments: Productivity/sustainability, management/dynamics, cost compensation, multi-scale impact, quality for what and for whom, and multidisciplinary.

Future prospects: Modelling, stakeholders implication and interdisciplinary.

Session 2

Main assessments: Diets effects on sensorial and nutritional quality of milk and meat, and progress in forage * lipid supplementation interaction, and molecular-biochemical basis of effects on sensorial aspects, including terpens and volatile components.

Future prospects: Better knowledge is needed on what is good for human nutrition to describe in small ruminants the effects of diets on micronutrients of interest to human health, digestion and metabolism mechanisms at the rumen and tissues levels (mammary gland, adipose tissue and muscle) and the effect of feeding strategies on the different aspects of quality.

Session 3

Main assessments: Sensory properties of animal products are affected by grass feeding and the plant composition of the pastures can be useful to link the products to the territory.

Future prospects: Preservation of biodiversity being pastures determinant for the preservation of biodiversity and the needs of linking production system to quality of products and of consumers "education".

Session 4

Main assessments: Conventional methods are prone to errors for secondary compound-rich plants. N-alkanes and NIRS are considered as promising methods to assess intake and digestion, PEG multipurpose: deactivate tannins and as a marker for stall-fed and range ruminants.

Future prospects: Need for standardizing methods to assess rangeland characteristics (nutritive value, animal behaviour), to take into account other secondary compounds!, boost research on promising techniques (NIRS and n-alkane) and dual use of urinary excretion of purine derivatives and fecal markers to estimate intake and digestion.

Round table 1

Main assessments: Review of several markers of grass feeding in small ruminants and traceability of different products in the different countries.

Future prospects: Validate methods to trace grass feeding in animal products in different breeds and in different pastures and guarantee safety products.

Round table 2

Main assessments: To improve the use of chemicals in order to avoid development of resistance, to improve the immune response of animals against parasites through genetic selection and manipulation of nutrition, and to exploit grazing management.

Future prospects: Better evaluation of interaction between tannins and parasites and evaluation of the balance between positive actions of tannins against larvae and negative nutritional consequences.

Round table 3

Main assessments: Methodological approach, functional groups and key species.

Future prospects: Mail exchange, participatory approach and modelling for multi-agent system.