



RTD2Farm - Enhancing collaboration in research for livestock

FP7- KBBE-2010-4

Grant Agreement Number 265661

Title	Project Summary
Scope	This summary provides an overview on the previous work in the project and gives an outlook on the future activities.
Revision	0
Author	Sabine Ecker (VMU)
Diss. Level	PU

RTD2Farm is an initiative of the Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien, Austria (co-ordinator); ENCO Consulting; Italy (ENCO); Nutrition Sciences N.V, Belgium (NS); Lebensmittelversuchsanstalt, Austria (LVA); Centro Ricerche Produzioni Animali, Italy (CRPA); Rattlerow Seghers Holding NV, Belgium (Ra-Se); Campo Bo SS, Italy (Farm-IT); RTD Services, Austria (RTDS); Verband Österreichischer Schweinebauern, Austria (VOS); Vereniging voor Varkenshouders, Belgium (VEVA); eutema Technology Management GmbH & Co KG, Austria (eutema). RTD2Farm is co-financed by the European Commission's KBBE programme in Framework Programme 7 with Grant Agreement No. 265661.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this document are solely those of the authors. The European Commission is not responsible for the facts and opinions presented in this document.

Acknowledgement

Work reported here was funded by the Knowledge Based Bio-Economy Programme of the European Commission under the RTD2Farm Grant agreement no. FP7-KBBE-265661 RTD2Farm stands for "Enhancing collaboration in research for Livestock".

Summary

Within various scientific projects financed by the European Union a large amount of knowledge is generated, which is only known to the scientific community and hardly translated into products. Especially in the field of agricultural sciences there is a lack of knowledge transfer from scientific groups to livestock farmers. It is the aim of the project to bring together farmers and multipliers (i.e. farmers' associations, veterinarian organizations, governmental agencies) with the scientific community, in order to improve co-operation and knowledge transfer. The project RTD2Farm is concentrating on pig related science fields and pig farming as pigs are the main animals for meat production in the EU. The project covers the main big areas of interest; Genetics/Breeding, Farm Management and Feeding.

The first objective was to gather information on the research activities currently implemented in Europe or that have been recently completed, and to organise the information in a clear and well-structured way in order to disseminate at the end of the project the results to the final beneficiaries of the project. Each project has been described using standardised template. The collected knowledge was used for the development and as content of the innovation window "Wikipigs" and partly for the development of the RTD2Farm materials for the lifelong learning platform "Pigsci".

The next step in the project was to map the pig farmers' interest in specific topics and to map existing national and transnational technology transfer instruments. In order to analyse farmers' needs and interest a questionnaire was conducted. Based on these results and the collected research project a matrix was developed, which allows a matchmaking between farmer needs and scientific/technology knowledge. In addition to the collection of research activities existing regional, national and international (including non-EU) knowledge & technology (KT) transfer techniques have been mapped. The survey showed, that KT transfer straight forward to the pig farmer is very diverse and fragmented. KT transfer usually happens via ad hoc and non-harmonized channels of interaction between public, or private (research) organizations and other pig farming stakeholders.

Based on these findings, discussion with multiplier organisations and interaction with farmers via various workshops and trainings the RTD2Farm project developed two information platforms: The innovation window **Wikipigs** - an online interactive platform which provides information on European or national public financed project results in the field of agricultural pig sciences. The second developed tool is the pig related online tool **Pigsci**, which is an information and lifelong learning platform for farmers and multipliers. Pigsci is at the moment available in the national languages of the RTD2Farm project partners

Wikipigs and Pigsci form the virtual European Center for Excellence in Pig Sciences (EUCEPS) which wants to encourage interaction and co-operation along the whole pig value chain, between scientists, pig producers, associations, funding organizations, politicians towards multipliers and stakeholders.

