

OPTICARN - Optimising the storage conditions of meat from different species to improve sensory quality and shelf life, applying specific ageing protocols

Summary

The production of aged meat is a process in which the sensory characteristics of the meat are improved. Specifically, the meat becomes more tender and juicier, and its characteristic flavours, smells and tastes become more concentrated and enhanced, making it more appealing to restaurateurs and consumers.

In recent years, the meat sector's need to emphasise the value of meat awakened an interest in the practices of vacuum ageing and dry ageing. This interest is accompanied by growing consumer interest in high-quality meat, and by progress in preservation and packaging technologies that have enabled more and more control of the process.

This project aims to use ageing strategies in meat from different species (cattle, sheep, pigs and rabbits) to improve its sensory quality and shelf life.

Objectives

Optimise the storage conditions of meat from different species (cattle, sheep, pigs and rabbits) to improve its sensory quality and shelf life, by means of innovative ageing strategies appropriate to each case.

Description of the actions planned in the project

Activity 1. Strategies for improving the sensory quality and shelf life of BEEF through meat ageing.

Activity 2. Strategies for improving the sensory quality and shelf life of SHEEP meat through meat ageing.

Activity 3. Strategies for improving the sensory quality and shelf life of PORK through meat ageing.

Activity 4. Strategies for improving the sensory quality and shelf life of RABBIT meat through meat ageing.

Activity 5. Transfer and dissemination of results.

Expected results and practical recommendations

- Results of the shelf-life study of vacuum-aged beef.
- Results of the shelf-life study of vacuum-aged sheep meat.
- Results of the shelf-life study of dry and vacuum-aged pork.
- Results of the shelf-life study of vacuum-aged rabbit meat.
- Guide to good practice for the production of vacuum-aged rabbit meat.

Leader of the Operational Group

ORGANISATION: MATADERO FRIGORÍFICO DEL CARDONER, SA

Coordinator of the Operational Group

ORGANISATION: IRTA - Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology

Other members of the Operational Group (grant recipients)

ORGANISATION: VENANCI MONCADA, SL

Other members of the Operational Group (not recipients of the grant)

ORGANISATION: ANAFRIC

Subject area(s) of application

- Agricultural production system
- Agricultural practice
- Agricultural equipment and machinery
- Livestock farming and animal welfare
- Vegetable production and horticulture
- Landscape / Territorial management
- Pest and disease control
- Fertilisation and nutrient management
- Soil management
- Genetic resources
- Forestry
- Water management
- Climate and Climate Change
- Energy management
- Waste and by-product management
- Biodiversity and environmental management
- Food quality/processing and nutrition
- Supply chain, marketing and consumption
- Competitiveness and agricultural and forestry diversification
- General

Geographical area(s) of application

PROVINCE(S)	REGION(S)
Barcelona, Tarragona and Girona	Bàges, Tarragonès and Baix Empordà

Dissemination of the project (publications, conferences, multimedia, etc.)

Different dissemination actions are planned to effectively explain the project and report the results, and reach the whole target public included in the scope of the project (agri-food sector from primary production, processing and distribution through to consumers): associations, sector conference, explanatory article, infographics and publishable report and social media.

Project website

--

More information on the project

PROJECT DATES	TOTAL BUDGET
Starting date: July 2021	Total budget: €175,408.80
	DACC funding: €81,118.30
Current status: Under way	EU funding: €61,194.50
	Own funding: €33,096.00

With funding from:

Project funded through Operation 16.01.01 (Cooperation for Innovation) through the Catalan Rural Development Programme 2014-2022.

Order ARP/113/2021 of 20 May, approving the regulatory bases for grants for cooperation for innovation by promoting the creation of European Association for Innovation operational groups in the areas of agricultural productivity and sustainability and the execution of innovative pilot projects by those groups, and Resolution ACC/1660/2021, of 27 May, announcing the call for the grant.

