

ECOBENESTAR – Strategies for improving production efficiency, animal welfare and product quality in organic pig production

Summary

The land used for organic production in 2020 in Spain grew by 3.5% overall compared to the previous year, with 2,437,891 hectares used for this type of production, of which 257,000 are in Catalonia.

Organic production is in line with the European production agenda, as in the European Green Deal, which aims to make Europe a climate-neutral continent by 2050. Increasing the volume of organic crop and livestock production is one of the strategies recognised in the European Green Deal to achieve the goal of increasing sustainability in food production systems.

This operational group aims to address two main strategies to improve welfare and production efficiency in organic pig production: reducing neonatal mortality in the farrow-to-wean phase, increasing comfort and managing space more efficiently in the fattening phase. Both of these challenges fall in the Welfare Quality® conceptual framework areas of good housing and appropriate behaviour.

Objectives

The general objective established in this operational group is to obtain strategies to improve welfare, production efficiency and the quality of the end product in organic pig production, addressing two production phases: farrow-to-wean and fattening. In general terms, the challenge facing the sector is to provide knowledge to increase organic pig production in Catalonia, in line with more global challenges such as the European Green Deal.

Description of the actions planned in the project

ACTIVITY 1. Implementing strategies to reduce neonatal mortality in organic production.

ACTIVITY 2. Implementing strategies to improve production efficiency and product quality in the fattening phase.

ACTIVITY 3. Analysis of results and dissemination.

Expected results and practical recommendations

The implemented strategies are expected to reduce neonatal mortality during the farrow-to-wean phase and increase comfort, thereby providing more efficient management in the use of space in the fattening stage.

Leader of the Operational Group

ORGANISATION: AGROPECUARIA VIGIL PUJOL, SLU

Coordinator of the Operational Group**ORGANISATION:** IRTA - Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology**Other members of the Operational Group (grant recipients)****ORGANISATION:** AGROPECUARIA D'ARTESA DE SEGRE, SCCL**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)**

Girona, Tarragona, Lleida

REGION(S)

Baix Ebre, Baix Empordà, Noguera

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): 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: €122,112.00
	DACC funding: €56,471.04
Current status: Under way	EU funding: €42,600.96
	Own funding: €23,040.00

With funding from:

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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.

