

Implementation of a new, environmentally friendly, natural product to prevent farmed snail acariasis

Summary

The presence at snail farms of mites that debilitate the snails, making it easier for them to succumb to disease and even death, is currently one of the problems that need to be solved to secure the future of more sustainable and profitable snail farms.

Name of the mite: *Riccardoella limacum* (white snail mite).

This mite exclusively affects snails. Moreover, due to the specific conditions of snail farms (humidity and high temperatures), its proliferation is much greater at farms than in the natural world. For this reason, it especially affects farmed snails, reducing the yield of the farms, due to the fact that the mite debilitates the animal by colonising it.

This innovative project aims to provide a solution to this problem and market a new natural product to prevent acariasis or reduce it as much as possible. It will be a new product based on natural additives that, thanks to a pilot test, will ensure its efficacy against mites that affect farmed snails.

Objectives

The main objective is to obtain a new natural product that, when added to the main feed used at snail farms, prevents acariasis in farmed snails.

Other objectives:

- Improve productivity at snail farms, improving the health of the animals, reducing production costs and increasing the quantity of healthy snails.
- Obviate the use of drugs and pesticides.
- Increase the efficacy of the feed currently used, naturally improving the nutrition of the animals.
- Improve the competitiveness of snail farms in the market, achieving more sustainable and profitable farms.

Description of initiatives outlined in the project

- Pilot test in a real production environment.
- Assess both the quality of snails as a food (the product must be completely innocuous to snails, human beings and the environment) and the improvements in the farms' productivity.
- Verify that the resulting feed is of the same quality and does not affect other components.
- Sanitary assessments of the initial situation, and partial and final assessments.
- Controls of the quality of the snails in accordance with farm and retail level parameters.

Expected results and practical recommendations

The expected results of the innovation will constitute major progress on all levels, given that it could significantly improve both productivity and sustainability, ensuring the long-term continuity of the farms, in addition to the sanitary quality of the farmed snail end product.

In any case, the use of drugs or chemical products to ensure the health of the snails will no longer be necessary. There will also be water savings, as it will not be necessary to clean the farms as much, due to improved snail health.

Task force leader

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Typology of entity:
Agri-food company

Task force coordinator

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Typology of entity:
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Other task force members (grant beneficiaries)

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Group. or assoc. of agri-food companies/industries

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Subject area(s) of application

Animal husbandry and welfare
Pest/disease control

Geographical area(s) of application

Province(s)	Region(s)
Lleida	Urgell
Barcelona	Segrià
	Bages

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

- Sectorial and technical seminars: information for the sector.
- Periodicals: National Association of Snail Farming and Fattening (ANCEC) newsletter.
- Internet: www.caljep.es

Project website

<https://caljep.es/projecte-innovador>

More information on the project

Project dates

Starting date (month-year): June 2018

Completion date (month-year):

Current status: *Underway*

Budget approved

Total budget: €208,290.00

DARP funding: €85,123.80

EU funding: €64,216.20

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Order ARP/133/2017, of 21 June, approving the regulatory bases of grants for cooperation for innovation through the promotion of the creation of European Association for Innovation task forces in terms of agricultural productivity and sustainability and the execution of innovative pilot projects by these groups.

Resolution ARP/1868/2017, of 20 July, calling for applications for grants for the year 2017.

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