SmartCow

an integrated infrastructure for increased research capability and innovation in the European cattle sector

Stakeholders engagement

Chairs: Florence Macherez, Idele (task leader),
René Baumont, INRA (coordinator)

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SmartCow – Stakeholders Engagement

1. Introduction

- ***Objectives of Stakeholders' commitment in Smartcow***
  - **Ensure that the results of the SmartCow project have maximum impact** and that methodologies and tools are broadly disseminated and appropriated throughout the cattle production chain
  - Ensure relevance of activities **for the pre- and post-farm gate industries, advisory bodies, farmers' organisations...**

- ***Who are potential Stakeholders of Smartcow?***
  key players and experts in the field **of sustainable agriculture, animal nutrition, genetics, health and welfare, farming technologies, climate impacts...**
  from **industry, advisory bodies, farmers' organisations, NGOs, policy makers**

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- *Role & benefits*
  - **Obtain regular information,** updates on progress, outcomes, results, methodologies of SmartCow
  - **Consultation, to contribute to refine**
    - Dissemination and Exploitation Plan (DEP)
    - Priority topics for:
      - transnational Access (TNA) calls
      - trainings & study tours adapted to their needs
  - **Contribution to dissemination among European stakeholders, industrial and technical researchers**
    - Dissemination of SmartCow methods & results
    - Promotion of access to Research Infrastructures (RI)
    - Promotion of harmonised methodologies and best practices
  - **Direct participation in**
    - TNA calls (application, possibly jointly with research organisations)
    - Trainings: physical (on RIs) & on-line (no tuition fees)
    - Study tours

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Main Results that will benefit to stakeholders	Potential use
Inventory of animal RIs, research databases/sample, equipment and techniques (WP1)	Better overview of services, tools & technologies available for cattle research
TNA access procedure, TNA calls (WP2)	High quality research project proposals
Common guidelines, standards and experimental protocols (WP3)	Use by research community and stakeholders for further experiments
Cloud-based data platform (WP3)	Access for further research & meta-analysis. Integration & sharing of data from other projects
Improvement of ontologies for bovine phenotypic traits and environment conditions parameters (WP3)	Testing and using of new ontology traits in relation to a sustainable animal production. Systemic approach to animal breeding

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Main Results that will benefit to stakeholders	Potential use
Refinement and standardization of optimised methods for measurement of dietary nutrient uses and gas emissions by cattle (WP5)	Creation and use of standard approved methodologies
Standard guidelines for using the most promising proxies of feed efficiency and its components in beef and dairy cattle (WP6)	Use by research community and stakeholders for further experiments. Phenotyping tools for selecting cattle based on feed efficiency and its determinants
New methods reducing the constraints in animal experimentation (WP6)	Use by the research community and stakeholders for further animal experiments
Quantitative methods of data analysis for phenotyping of cattle based on behaviour (WP7)	Improve the power of experiments
Ethical guidelines specifically for cattle trials (WP8)	Provision of commonly accepted standards for cattle trials

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- **Different levels of interactions**

   1. European: EU Stakeholder Platform   1 meeting p. year (Brussels)
   Around 14 European representatives of branch organisations + Smartcow partners

   2. National: 10 national workshops on partners' RIs
   Around 20 to 50 participants per country

   3. South, East-EU countries, international:
   ICAR annual meetings (workshops)
   EAAP Annual meetings (SmartCow sessions)

   Enrolment: Stakeholders requested to sign a Secrecy agreement

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Members of the European Stakeholder Platform

Organisation	Type
CIWF Europe	Animal welfare NGO
FABRE-TP/EFFAB, European Federation of breeding organisations	Breeding industry
Eurogenomics	Breeding industry
GenTORE	EU-funded project
Animal Task Force	EU PPP
CEMA, European Agricultural Machinery represented by Lely	Technology industry
Biores KU Leuven	Technology research
Antelliq	Technology industry
UECBV: European Livestock And Meat Trading Union	Farmers & industries
FEFAC - Federation of European Animal Feeding Organisations	Feeding industry
SAI Platform (Sustainable Agriculture Initiative)	Food industry
Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases	International org.
ICAR International Committee for Animal Recording	International org.
European Commission - DG Agri, DG Research, DG SANTE	Policy makers

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2. First feedbacks from stakeholders

Expectations:
- Access to project result and outcomes: databases, mapping of infrastructures & databases, harmonised methodologies
- More coherence in EU cattle research
- Find proxies for phenotyping complex traits using specific new technologies
- Co-funding for research projects via TNA (funders)
- Via TNA calls: experiments on projects' RI and on topics not addressed by JRA
- …

Recommendations:
- Synergies with existing projects and ongoing initiatives in similar domains
- Large data sharing encouraged but difficult to implement
- Supporting academia & industry partnerships under TNA calls
- Enlarge Stakeholder platform to other NGOs and consumers
- Preparation for an "advanced community"
- …

Contribution to dissemination
- results, TNA calls and trainings information in their networks

Participation
- trainings, study tours
- application to TNA calls, co-funding

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3. Stakeholders consultation (3' each)

– *What do you expect from SmartCow?*

– *Do you intend to concretly contribute to dissemination among EU stakeholders, industrial and technical researchers?*
  - Dissemination of SmartCow methods & results among members & networks
  - Promotion of access to RI, harmonised methodologies & best practices

– *Do you intend to participate in:*
  - TNA calls application (alone? jointly with research organisations?)
  - Physical trainings on RIs & on-line trainings, Study tours

– *Do you have recommendations for:*
  - Dissemination and Exploitation
  - Priority key research topics for Transnational Access (TNA) calls
  - Priority topics for trainings & study tours