

SOLID PROJECT PROMOTES ORGANIC AND LOW INPUT DAIRYING IN EUROPE

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In the rapidly changing environment in which Europe's agri-food industries must prosper, new knowledge-based farming systems are required that are profitable at a farm level, produce competitive food products for the market place, are environmentally sustainable and energy efficient. In dealing with the challenges facing agriculture such as climate change and biodiversity loss, the multi-functional potential of agricultural systems is now as important as productivity for a sustainable future for European agriculture. The SOLID (Sustainable Organic and Low Input Dairying) project supports developments and innovations in organic and low input dairy systems to optimize competitiveness while maximising the potential of these systems to deliver environmental goods and biodiversity, and optimising economic, agronomic and nutritional advantages for the development of innovative and sustainable organic and low input dairy systems and supply chains. Both dairy cow and goat systems are encompassed. SOLID involves 13 research partners in UK, Denmark, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Finland, Greece, Spain and Romania. An essential part of the project are the SMEs which enable a participatory approach for both research and dissemination supported by innovative science (e.g. proteomics) to answer practical problems and develop methodologies and models. An active Stakeholder Platform gives valuable feedback to the researchers and provides their expertise

to the use of the project. The work packages cover the whole milk chain featuring 1) Innovation through stakeholder engagement and participatory research, 2) Adapted breeds for productivity, quality, health and welfare, 3) Forages for productivity, quality, animal health and welfare, 4) Environmental assessment for improvements and communication in organic and low input dairy systems, 5) Competitiveness of organic and low input dairy sector: Supply chain and consumer analysis, 6) Socio-economic evaluation of novel strategies in organic and low-input dairy farming, and 7) Knowledge exchange and training. SOLID will deliver an innovative toolbox of novel methodologies that will contribute to the competitiveness of the dairy industry and increase the effectiveness with which these benefits are delivered. MTT Agrifood Research Finland participates in all work packages and results from environmental assessment as well as future challenges of the organic milk supply chain in Europe are presented separately in the current seminar (Hietala et al., Latvala et al.). The project started in 2011, lasts until 2016 and is funded by the EC FP7 under the grant agreement n° 266367. For more information, see the project website at www.solidairy.eu. Among others, the website contains descriptions of farms around Europe that are involved in the project, and links to publications based on project results.

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- open, critical and collaborative approaches

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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