

14th AIEAA Conference

18-20 June 2025, Pisa, Italy

Envisioning Plausible and Desirable Futures for the Livestock Sector

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Abstract

Ensuring sustainability requires addressing environmental, economic and social challenges through transformational policies that enable livestock systems to operate within planetary boundaries. However, current European agricultural policies must evolve to balance sustainability, economic competitiveness and social acceptance. This study, conducted as part of a Horizon project, presents an innovative approach that integrates explorative and normative scenarios through a participatory methodology involving key stakeholders. By combining these perspectives, we aim to provide insights into effective strategies for the transition to an equitable and resilient livestock system and preserve its important role in supporting the well-being of marginal/rural/mountain communities and territories. This approach also supports climate change adaptation and mitigation policies by defining goals and pathways towards a desirable future. Future policies should embrace innovative thinking that considers the interconnectedness of society, animals and the environment to ensure effective governance and institutional support. Scenarios are valuable tools for navigating future uncertainties, identifying key drivers and plausible development paths.



