



Re-Livestock
RESILIENT FARMING SYSTEMS

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Re-Livestock Abstracts

ENGAGING AKIS ACTORS IN EXPLORING RESILIENT LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS IN
EUROPE.....2

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Engaging AKIS actors in exploring resilient livestock systems in Europe

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Abstract

Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from livestock systems requires both technical innovation and a deep understanding of farmer motivations and perceptions of sustainability (Jantke et al., 2020). Re-Livestock, a five-year EU-funded project, employs a multi-actor approach to 1) develop science-backed innovations tailored to diverse livestock systems and regions and 2) engage Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) actors to explore perspectives on resilience. Central to this are annual, iterative stakeholder forums across 13 case studies in eight European countries. In Year 1 (2023-24), these forums explored the concept of resilience and drivers and barriers to innovation adoption. Year 2 (2024-25) used interactive activities with participants to define the ‘ideal’ future resilient farming system, while Year 3 (2025-26) is currently employing backcasting exercises to identify transition pathways to these futures. In Year 1, the forums engaged 151 participants (46% of whom were farmers), increasing to 221 participants (49% farmers) in Year 2. Preliminary findings indicate that ‘resilience’ is a difficult concept for farmers to define with most describing it through themes including ‘adaptability, flexibility, future prepared-ness’, and ‘creativity and open-mindedness’. Participants identified twice as many barriers (86) as drivers (43) for adopting innovations for resilience. A relatively high proportion of barriers relate to education, knowledge, and mindset, whilst drivers include intrinsic motivation and the associated perceived benefits from more resilient farming systems. Stakeholder forums identified: reduced and more local inputs; technology-aided labour and a highly skilled workforce; niche and more self-sufficient markets; more targeted advisory services; and a re-organisation of subsidies as features of the ‘ideal’ future farming system. Backcasting exercises with the AKIS actors will establish transition pathways towards these ideal futures while the study suggests that engaging these actors in conversations around sustainability and resilience uncover important insights for developing targeted innovations for resilient livestock systems.



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