MultiSward

Multi-species swards and multi scale strategies for multifunctional grassland-base ruminant production systems

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Collaborative Project
SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Priority: Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Biotechnology

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MULTISWARD Leaflet

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Project start date: March 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2010  \hspace{1cm} Duration: 48 months

Workpackage concerned: 6

Concerned workpackage leader: Christian Huyghe

Dissemination level: PU
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I. General presentation of the flyer

Content
The MultiSward flyer will present briefly the context of the Multisward project, the objectives and the various workpackages. It also gives an overview of the project. A special section is devoted to the interactions with the stakeholders.

Expected use
The Flyer will be broadly distributed by all project partners at every national or international event. It must broadcast the content of the project, give access to the information through the Website and encourage the stakeholders to interact with the project.

State of progress
The Flyer will be available from September, 1st, 2010.

II. Detailed presentation of the Flyer

Structure of the Flyer
The Multisward Flyer will be distributed as an A4 page folded in three parts. This offers the possibility to develop up to six sections (see the flyer in its current shape on pages 5 and 6).

The various sections

Page 1:
This page shows the project logo and the whole title. The logos of the EU and of the FP7 program are at the top right of the page.

The address of the Website is given.

The bottom of the page is the heading of the Website

Page 2
The page includes the context of the project and the general objectives
Pages 3 and 4
These pages give a more detailed information on the project and its various workpackages, including the names of the coordinator of the project and of the workpackage leaders.

Page 5
This page gives a sketch of the two-ways interaction with the stakeholders, throughout the duration of the whole projects. It includes an early interaction with them to better identify and prioritize their stakes and the stakeholders’ expectations. The outputs of the projects will be disseminated through national and international conferences and symposium and through dedicated meetings with groups of stakeholders.

Page 6
This page gives a list of the project partners, with their names, nationalities and logos.

**Dissemination**
This Flyer is in English and will be made available both as printed and electronic versions.

It may be made available under different languages if needed by the project partners.
MultiSward closely interacts with stakeholders

Stakeholders meetings
- at international and national levels
  - to identify and prioritize expectations and stakes
  - to take into account the diversity of situations and strategies of farmers in different European regions

Dissemination of MultiSward outputs
- through
  - meetings of the national grassland societies
  - international conferences (European Grassland Federation)
  - meetings with groups of stakeholders
    - public information and open days

Project partnership

- INRA - Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique - France
- AU-IBERS - Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences - Aberystwyth University - United Kingdom
- Agroscope - Swiss Federal Research Station - Federal Department of Economic Affairs - Switzerland
- Teagasc - Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority - Ireland
- ILVO - Growth and Development, Applied Genetics and Breeding, and Business Unit and Service Centre - Instituut voor Landbouw- en Visserijonderzoek - Eenheid Plant - Belgium
- Wageningen UR Livestock Research - Wageningen University and Research Centre - Netherlands
- UGEO - Georg-August-Universität Göttingen - Germany
- UMB - Norwegian University of Life Science - Norway
- Bioforsk - Norwegian Institute for Agricultural and Environmental Research - Norway
- PULS - Poznan University of Life Sciences - Poland
- RHEA - Natural Resources, Human Environment and Agronomy Bureau - R&D Office for Sustainable Rural Development and Ecosystem Management - Belgium
- UNIUD - Università degli studi di Udine - Italy
- FIBL - Research Institute of Organic Agriculture - Switzerland
- Institut de l'élevage - France
- INRA Transfert - France

Coordinator: Jean-Louis Peyraud (INRA)

www.multisward.eu

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Context

MultiSward is an European FP7 funded project on multi-species swards and multi-scale strategies for developing multifunctional grassland-based ruminant production systems.

Sustainable agriculture requires to combine economic performance, social acceptance of production systems and preservation of the environment.

Grassland-based ruminant production systems are at the basis of a major economic sector and may provide efficient tools to mitigate environmental impacts and to generate environmental benefits, especially regarding biodiversity in all European regions.

Objectives

The objective of MultiSward is to support developments and innovations in grassland use and management in different European farming systems (including low-input and organic), pedoclimatic and socio-economic conditions. This makes it possible

i) to enhance the role of grasslands at farm and landscape levels to produce environmental goods and to maximise services from biodiversity and

ii) to optimise economic, agronomic and nutritional advantages.

The project was built in order to continuously interact with the stakeholders in order to better identify their expectations and to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and innovations.

MultiSward includes 6 groups of actions

Actions are under the responsability of international leaders.

Multifunctional Grasslands: roles, utility and expectations
Leader: Agnes van den Pol-van Dasselaar (WUR)

MultiSward aims to secure optimal acreage and utilization of grasslands in Europe and to highlight benefits of grasslands. In order to contribute to this overall objective, we will define the roles of grasslands, identify stakeholder expectations and secure their participation in the project.

Agronomic value and provisioning services of multi-species swards
Leader: Rosemary Collins (AU-IBERS)

The aim is to investigate the provisioning aspects of multi-species swards in terms of the relationship between sward diversity, sward dynamics and agronomic performance (production, forage quality). We will implement soil-vegetation growth models.

Supporting and regulating services of multi-species swards from local to regional scales
Leader: Olivier Huguenin-Elie (Agroscope)

The overall objective is to assess the effects of management strategies related to multispecies swards on the regulating and supporting services under different pedoclimatic and socio-economic conditions encountered in Europe. A special attention is given to the preservation of biodiversity in grassland-based production systems. It will test and provide indicators for decision makers.

Multifunctional ruminant production systems
Leader: Pat Dillon (TEAGASC)

The objective is to increase the sustainability and competitiveness of grassland-based systems of ruminant production in Europe using grasslands with a range of productivity levels (nutrient poor grasslands, organic systems, highly productive grasslands) through science and innovation. This will require increases in the efficiency of production and reductions in soil, water and air pollution, while at the same time increasing biodiversity and landscape services.

Socioeconomic and political driving forces
Leader: Alain Peeters (RHEA)

The profitability and the persistence of sustainable grassland-based production systems are highly affected by various socio-economic and political driving forces. We will analyse the effect of these forces at farm and region levels and to help European Union policy makers to produce new instruments by providing them with scientific expertise and scenarios evaluation.

Dissemination and technology transfer
Leader: Christian Huyghe (INRA)

Each group will disseminate knowledge in peer-reviewed scientific journals. In addition, we will disseminate MultiSward achievements and knowledge to stakeholders in order to promote innovations in agriculture and animal husbandry. We will also popularize grassland-based production systems for the European Union citizens. An e-learning centre will be implemented.