

# Breeder's visions of the role of a local pig breed in an extensive farming system:

## *The Nustrale pig case*

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### The *Nustrale* pig breed farming system in Corsica

Pig production in Corsica is an extensive production based on the local breed called *Nustrale* and on local resources



Local breed has got an official recognition since 2006 and is involved in a PDO application for cured meat.



The « traditional » finishing practices using chesnut trees and oaks trees are mandatory in the specification for the PDO project.



The availability of the local resources (chestnuts and acorns) for the finishing process depends on each year conditions. Breeders have to deal with this uncertainty and may develop various strategies for that.

### Conducting interviews to understand breeders points of view

The aim of the study was to understand:

- How breeders took into account the uncertainty on the availability of natural resources in this extensive system
- What is their point of view on the role of the local breed in such a situation

Method: interviews of the breeders

Main themes of the interviews:

Breeders sample:

- 28 breeders in the whole island
- 16 breed only *Nustrale* or corsican type
- 12 breed various breeds, other breeds or crossbred animals

- type of territory available for breeding
- territory available for the finishing process
- way the breeders chose to foresee the resources availability
- way the breeders deal with years of insufficient resources
- point of view of the breeders on the role of the local breed in this management

### Various strategies for dealing with uncertainty of resources availability with the local pig breed

Most of the breeders have chestnuts and oak trees available for finishing the pigs, from less than 10ha to more than 1000 (in property or with the possibility to use it without property).

CRITERIONS TO ASSESS (AND FORESEE) THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES:

IMPOSSIBLE TO FORESEE

FLOWERING OF TREES

METEOROLOGY

STATE OF THE TREES IN SUMMER (FRUITS)



Picture A. LAUVIE

Types of strategies in case of availability problems:

- 1-Doesn't have availability problems
- 2- Acts on feeding complement (with specific prepared food or Barley)
- 3-Acts on stocking rate (priority given to animals to be slaughtered soon)
- 4-Trade-off : part of the animals are fed, other is finished only with chesnuts and acorns.

Consequences for the PDO specification:

- 1-No specific practices to specify
- 2-Difficulty to specify this practices and to establish limits for complement food use
- 3& 4-No specific practices to specify, only a part of the animals will fit the PDO

#### THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL BREED:

Capacity to use the territory and its resources (and to be robust on such a territory)

For most of the breeders only the *Nustrale* has this ability

/For some, other breeds also have this ability

/For some breeders, crossbred animals allow to get a compromise between types of abilities

For a smaller part of the breeders, this ability is learned by the animal and has nothing to do with the genetics

BUT HOW IS THIS ABILITY MANAGED FROM A GENETIC POINT OF VIEW?► To be studied in a further study

The uncertainty on resources availability and its management, through the use of complement food, have to be formalized in the specification for the PDO application for Corsican cured pork meat (the most difficult strategy to « code » is the type 2). As a consequence, it should be characterized in an accurate way.

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