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# Environmental impacts of pig production systems relying on European local breeds

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## Conventional pig production

Modern highly selected breeds  
and crossbreeding



Lower global impacts / kg LW  
Higher local impacts / ha of land

**n=25**

**WOS**

## Traditional pig production

Autochthonous pig breeds  
and pure breeding



Higher global impacts / kg LW  
Lower local impacts / ha of land

**n=5**

**Gaining knowledge on environmental impacts of pig production  
using local breeds**

- **What are the hotspots for reduction of environmental impacts?**
- **What are the impacts associated with the use of resources available for outdoor pigs?**
- **What saving of climate change impact could be achieved through carbon sequestration associated with such systems?**



*Gascon*



*Mora romagnola*



*Krškopolje*

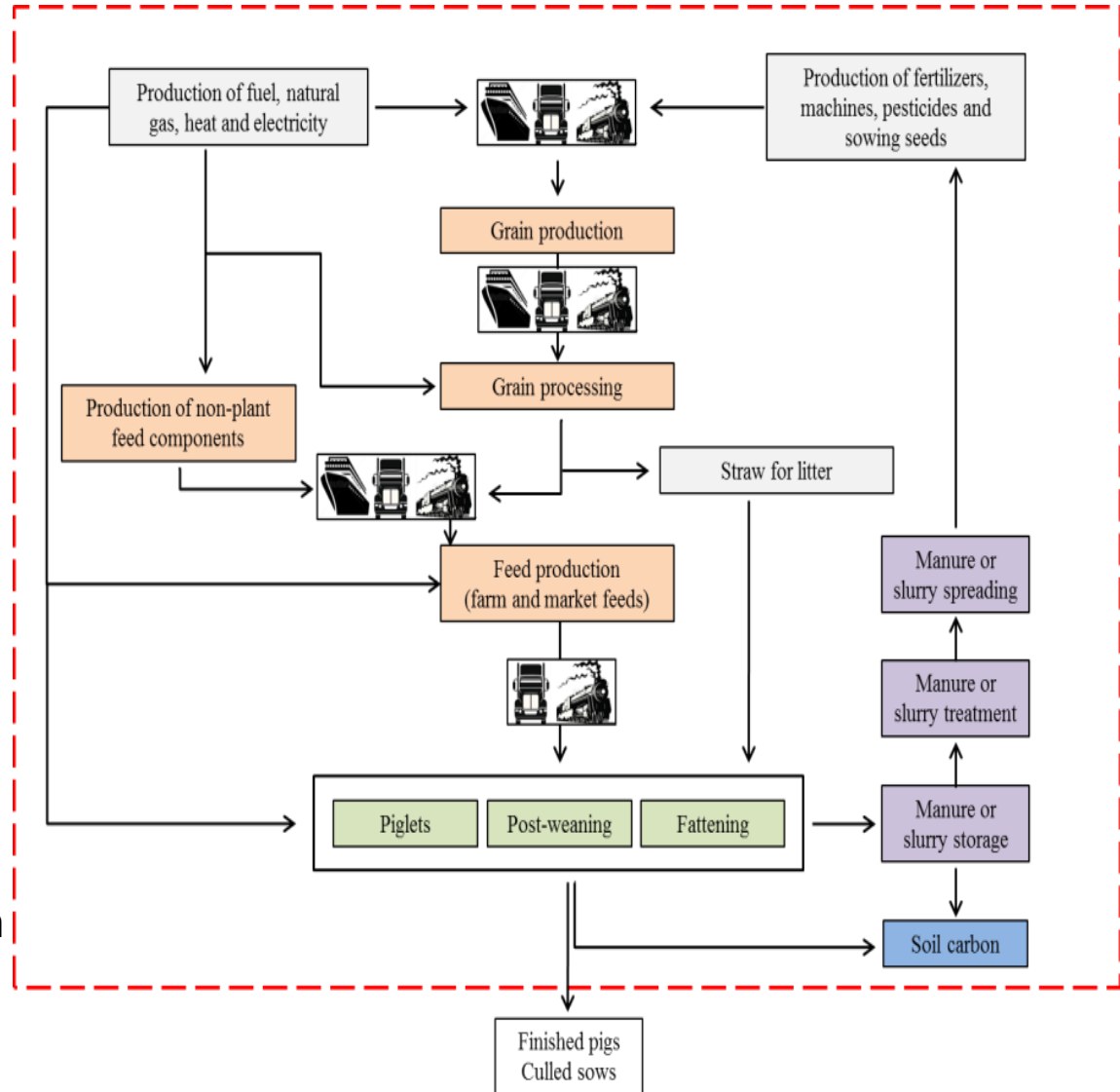
**Life Cycle Assessment of pig production in farms raising local breeds in 3 European countries**

## Goal and scope

### Captions

- Production of feeds and feed ingredients
- Pig production
- Manure management
- Potential carbon sequestration
- Ancillary inputs
- System boundaries

**Functional units:**  
 - kg of live weight at farm gate  
 - ha of land use



## Inventory of emissions and resources

- On-farm surveys
- Life Cycle Inventories (LCI) of feed ingredients
  - France → EcoAlim dataset (Wilfart et al. 2016)
  - Slovenia and Italy → LCI adapted with yields and fertilization in each country

Country   breed	Farms
France   Gascon	N=25
Slovenia   Krškopolje	N=15
Italy   Mora romagnola	N=8

- Nutrient (mainly N, P and K) excretion = intake – retention
- N Retention (Rigolot et al. 2010) with lean % at slaughter:
  - 35% for Gascon breed (Sans et al., 1996)
  - 44 % for Krškopolje breed (Čandek-Potokar et al., 2003)
  - 39 % for Mora Romagnola breed (Fortina et al., 2005).





## Inventory and Characterization

- Nutrient intake for grazing pigs
  - Growing-finishing pigs → grass intake = f(concentrate supply) with 9 exp.
  - Sows → grass intake = 4.49 g DM/kg LW/day (Rivera Ferre et al., 2001)
  - Nutrients contents of pasture from botanical composition and INRA (2010)
  
- Emissions from pig production
  - $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{NO}_x$ , and  $\text{CH}_4$  for sows, post-weaning piglets and fattening pigs
  - Outdoor → Emission factors from Basset-Mens et al. (2007)
  - Indoor → Step-by-step procedure recommended by EMEP/EEA (2016)
  
- CML method for Global warming Potential (GWP), Acidification (AC), Eutrophication (EU), Land Occupation (LO), and Cumulated Energy Demand CED V1.8



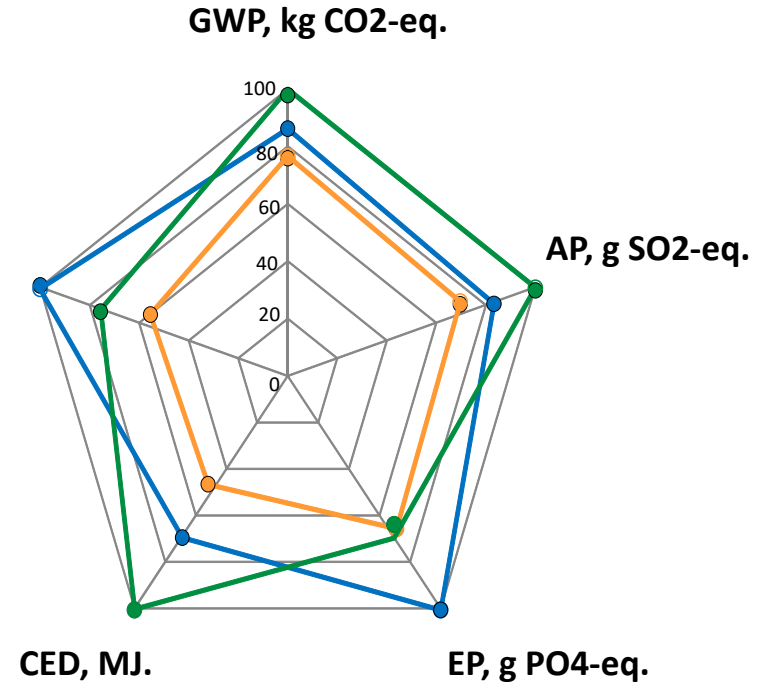
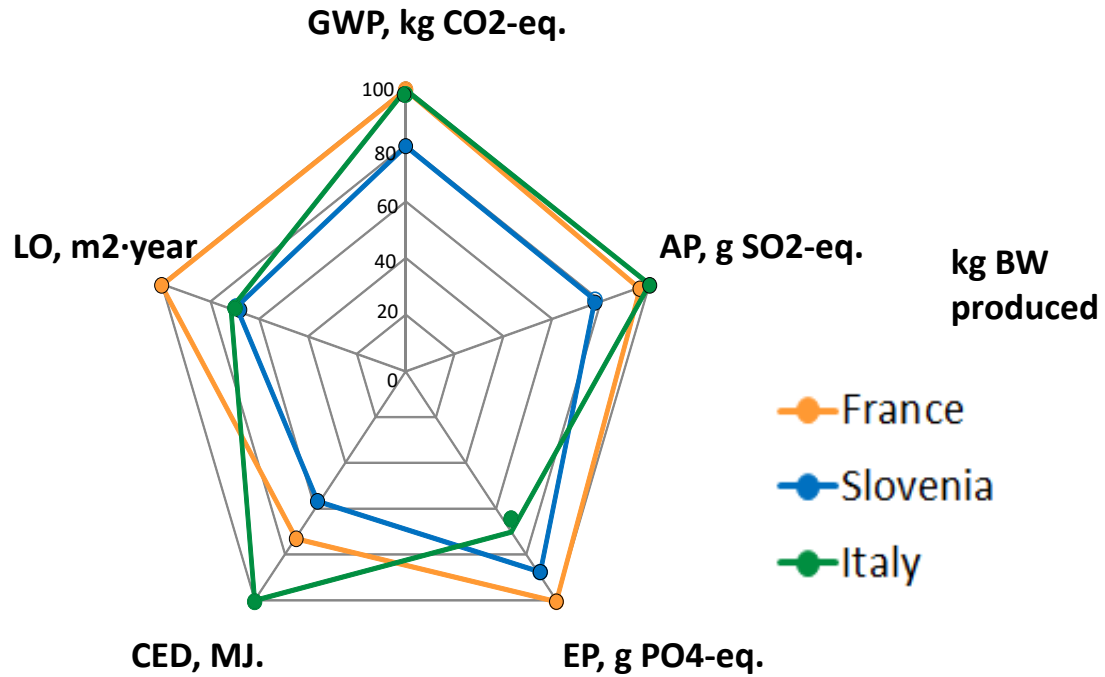
## Scenarios

- 2 Scenarios of grass digestibility
  - grass with high digestibility (+25% of the mean) - **HighD**
  - grass with low digestibility (-50% of the mean) - **LowD**
  
- 2 scenarios for potential carbon sequestration of permanent pastures
  - Low potential scenario: **LowP**  
200 kg C/ha/year → 730 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/ha/year (Nguyen et al., 2012)
  - High potential scenario: **HighP**  
500 kg C/ha/year → 1,800 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/ha/year (Garnett et al., 2017)



## ➤ Impacts per kg LW

## ➤ Impacts per ha of land use

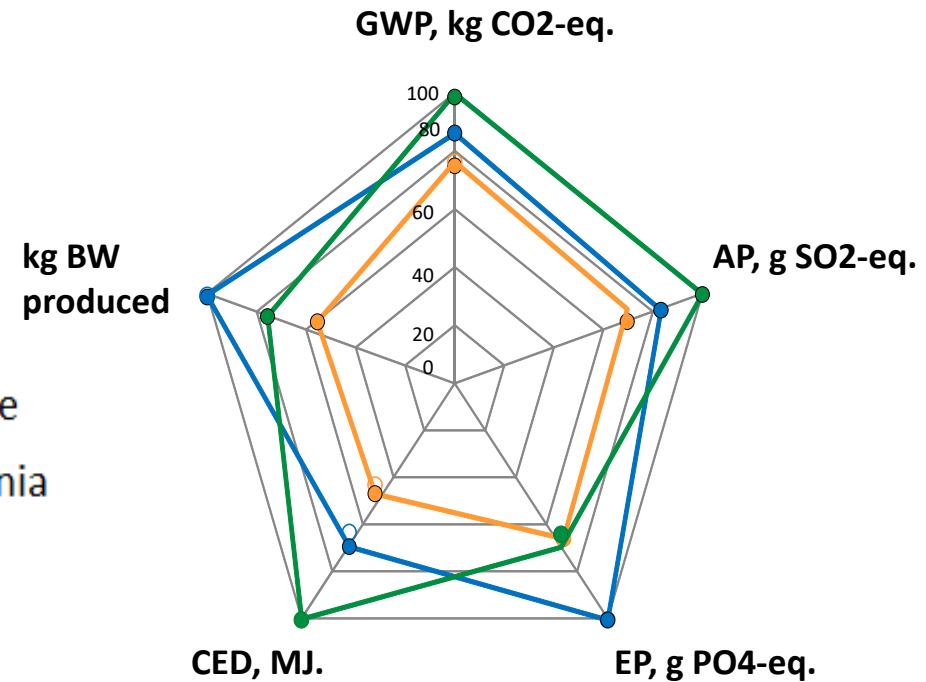
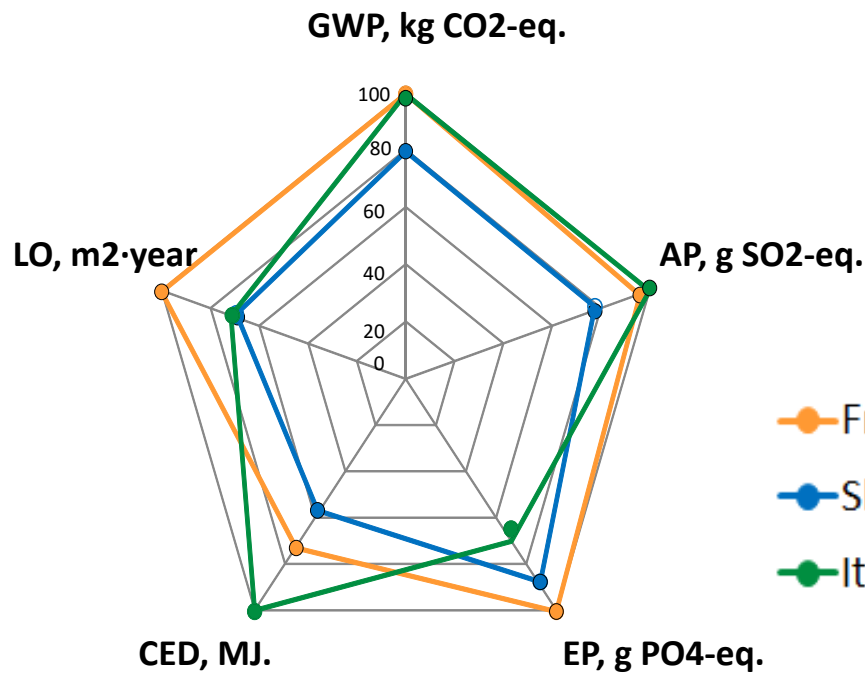


**Slovenia:**  
**Lower feed conversion ratio - indoor**  
**Lower GWP of feeds**



## ➤ Impacts per kg LW

## ➤ Impacts per ha of land use

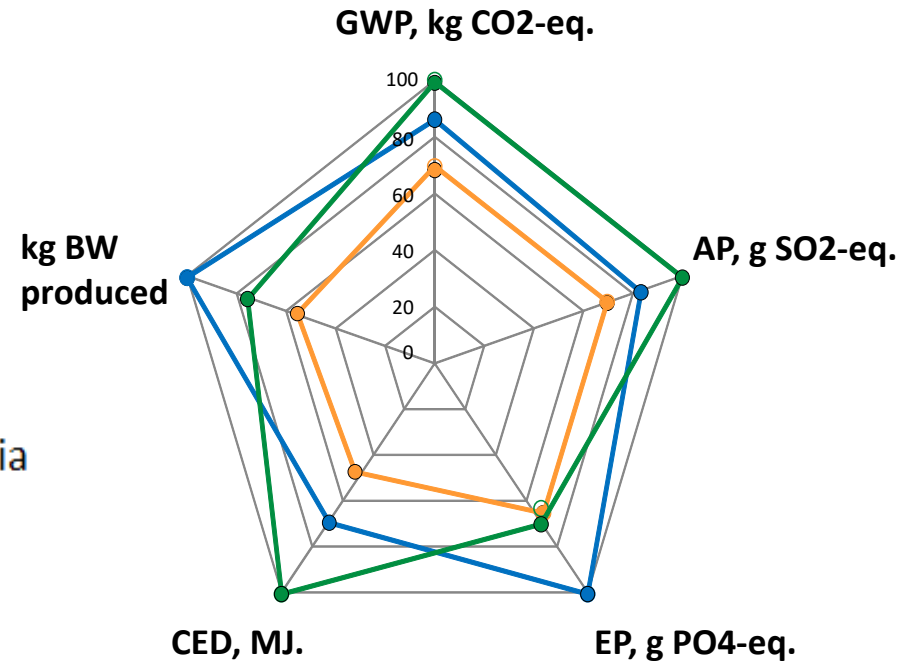
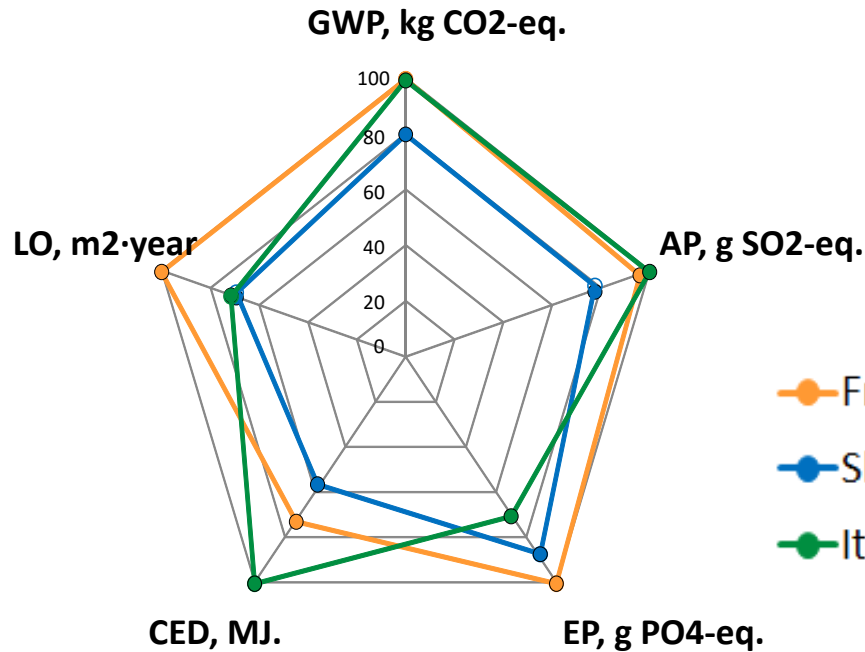


**France:**

**High feed conversion ratio - supply  
Outdoor fattening**

## ➤ Impacts per kg LW

## ➤ Impacts per ha of land use

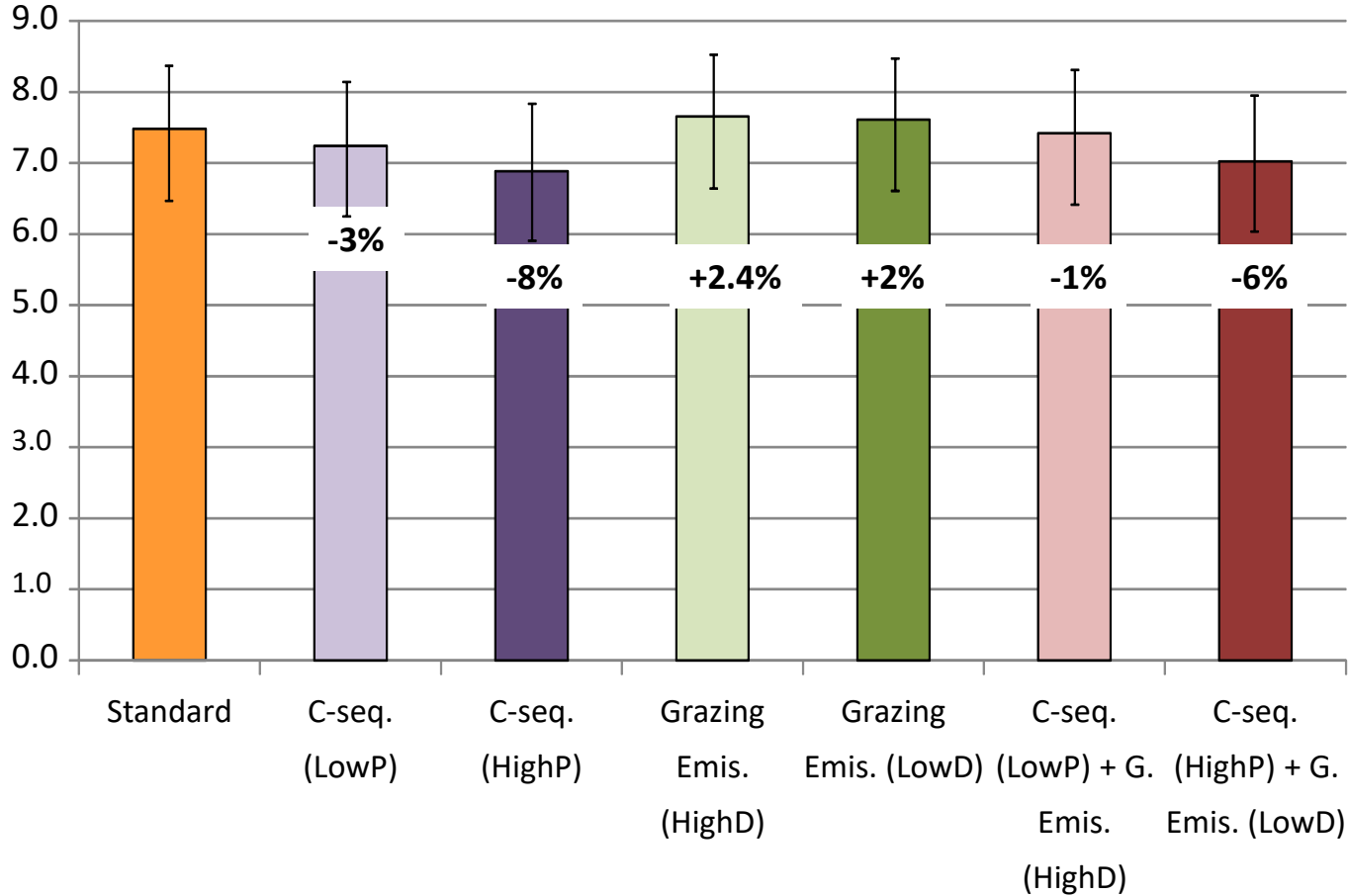


### Italy:

**Higher Crude Protein content of Feeds  
Soybean meal → higher CED of feeds**



## Global warming potential, kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq / kg LW



**France: C sequestration poorly compensates  
Herbage intake low → poor effect of emissions from grazing**



## Hotspots

### 1<sup>st</sup> Animal performance

- Lower feed supply and better FCR
- Natural resources

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Feed composition

- Reduction of dietary CP
- Nutrients from grass
- Low potential of protein deposition

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Environmental impact of feeds

- Local feed ingredients
- Transport

## C Sequestration and emissions from grazing

### 1<sup>st</sup> Low potential of reduction from C sequestration

- high uncertainty

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Emissions from intake of natural resources

- uncertainty

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Development of emission factor for grazing monogastric animals and better digestibility value of pasture

## Thank you for your attention !



**Many thanks to the farmers surveyed in the 3 countries and to the companies that shared their data**