



French conservation programs of sheep and goats in a Mediterranean context: a SWOT analysis

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Rare small ruminants breeds in the French Mediterranean area

- 7 breeds (incl. 2 goat breeds):

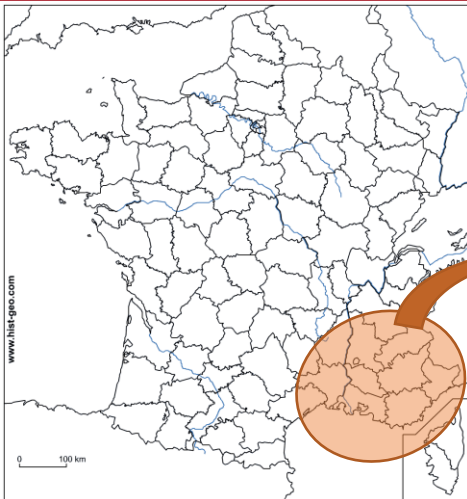


: Brigasque*, Caussenarde des Garrigues, Mourerous, Raïole, Rouge du Roussillon



: Provençale*, Rove

- 2 dairy breeds (*), 3 meat breeds, 1 dual purpose (Rove goat)
- Population numbers between 1,400 (Brigasque) and 9,000 (Rove) / Growing numbers



**Conservation programs
led by the breeders'
associations with the
help of IDELE (genetic
variability
management)**



**Average number of
animals per flock:**

Dairy breeds : 50

Meat breeds: 200

***Provence hills
Summer time***



SWOT Analysis

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats
 - ✓ Economic aspects
 - ✓ Environmental aspects
 - ✓ Social aspects

Cf. Marta-Costa A., Costa H. (2011)



Strengths

- ❑ **Feeding from shrub vegetation**
- ❑ **Foraging over wide areas**
- ❑ **Walking ability on difficult paths**
- ❑ **“Easy to care”**



Environmental outcomes

- Prevent scrub encroachment
 - ✓ Reduce risk of wildfires
 - ✓ Higher natural biodiversity
 - ✓ Decrease disease-causing tick populations
- Low animal stocker per ha
 - ✓ Reduce level of pollution(s) / farming system
 - ✓ Grazing system = carbon sink



Weaknesses

- 
- Low productivity**
 - Production not adapted to the global market**
 - Difficulty to create collective actions**
 - Rare breeds = not a marketing asset**
 - Poor characterization and data: pedigree / molecular / products**

© C. Danchin, IDELE – Rouge du Roussillon

Social outcomes

Income *versus* work load



+



+



+



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=





Opportunities

- **Consumers willing to pay for products provided by :**
 - **extensive farming**
 - **pasture-fed**
 - **local products****= all provided by rare breeds farming**
- **Tourism linked with traditional events (transhumance...)**

Economic outcomes

PDO products or Labels

“Brousse du Rove” / Agneau de Sisteron

Niche products: wool (carpets / local valorization)



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Rove



© OS ROSE

**Mourerous + 2 other
local sheep breeds**



Threats

❑ Diseases outbreak

❑ New sanitary regulations / not fit for small farmers

**❑ New CAP regulations linked to environmental measures
without in depth knowledge of rare breeds foraging abilities**



Research questions / Farmers training needed

- ✓ **“Low input system” + “low production” => Production versus costs ?**
- ✓ **Breeds characterization : DNA analysis / wool, milk and meat characterization**
- ✓ **Better characterization of the ecosystem services provided**
- ✓ **“Easy to care” + “local supply chain” => income versus working time ?**
- ✓ **Strengthening local supply chain**
- ✓ **Marketing strategy: more choice in meat (sheep and goat)**
- ✓ **Farmers training into entrepreneurship (marketing, sales plans, stay connected with market trends...)**

A photograph of a goat with curved horns standing in a field of tall grass and red flowers. In the background, there is a large blue lake and rolling hills under a clear sky. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the top part of the image, containing the text 'Thank you for your attention'.

Thank you for your attention

Questions ?

***With special thanks to A.
Lauvie (INRA) and F.
Launay (Idele) for their help***