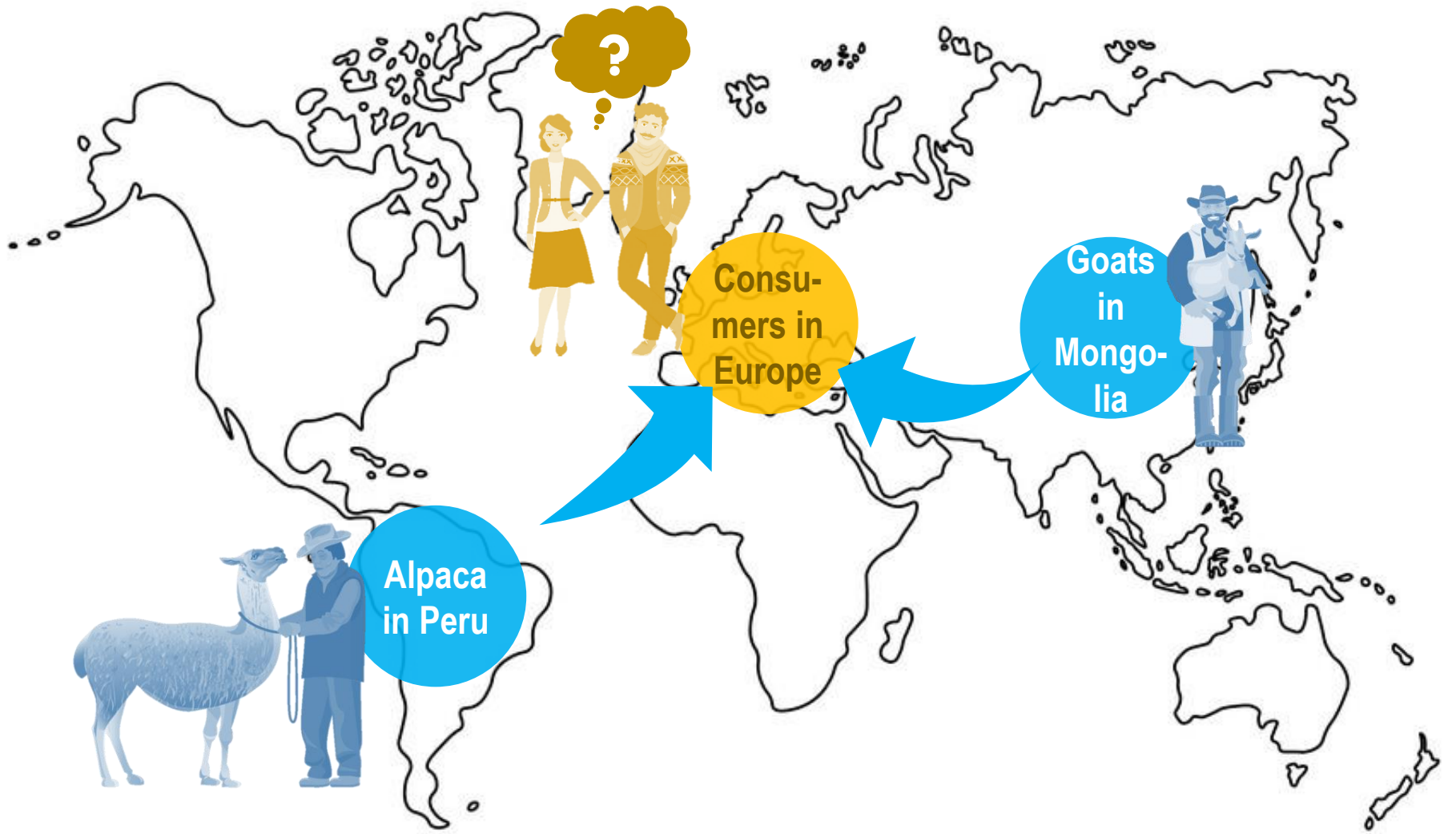


How to assess sustainability of animal fibre production? A case study on Cashmere in Mongolia

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Eco-labelling schemes








Sustainability assessment




- Four dimensions of sustainability: ecology, economics, social, governance
- Standardized assessment tools for European production context
- Tools to assess pastoral production systems

Aim of the study

- How is the production system of Cashmere goats organized in Mongolia?
 - How do farmers and local experts perceive sustainability issues in the Cashmere production system?
 - What are critical areas of sustainability of Mongolian Cashmere production?
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- A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consisting of several overlapping, wavy, orange-colored shapes that create a sense of movement and depth.

Material and Methods

- A total of 38 interviews with farmers in four regions, covering the four dimensions of sustainability
 - Expert interviews
 - Workshops with farmers
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- A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide consists of a horizontal line and a large, flowing orange wave shape that spans the width of the slide.

Production system

- Farmers raise goats all year round on pasture in mixed herds.
- Almost no additional feed
- Most farmers move around with their herds 4-5 times per year
- Cashmere is combed once in spring
- Cashmere is an important source of cash income

Farmers' and experts' perceptions and critical issues of sustainability



- Overgrazing and pasture management
- Genetic improvement
- Water resources
- Fluctuations of price



Other critical topics of sustainability



- Knowledge for new technologies and management strategies
 - Lack of female workforce
 - Low amounts of savings to balance disasters
 - Little cooperation between farmers
 - Pollution by people and mining industry
 - Lack of good healthcare
 - Climate change
 - Reduced plant diversity
 - Increase of weeds on the pasture
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Conclusions

- A general positive perception for the future of Cashmere production in Mongolia, although some critical topics identified.
- Farmers and experts have overlapping opinion on critical topics.



Thank you for your attention!
