



Organic pig production in mixed free-range systems: the ROAM-FREE project

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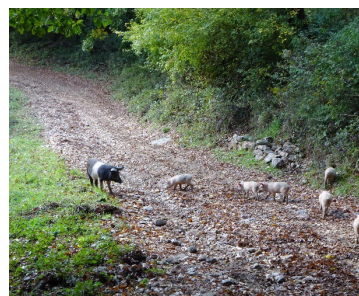
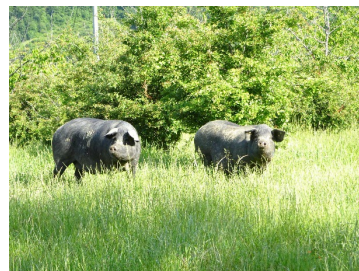
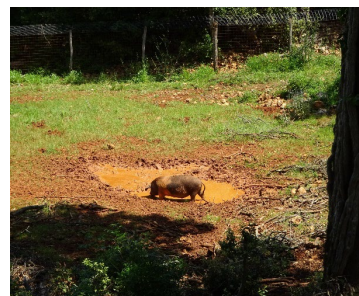
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Robust animals in sustainable mixed free-range systems

Roam-Free project



START

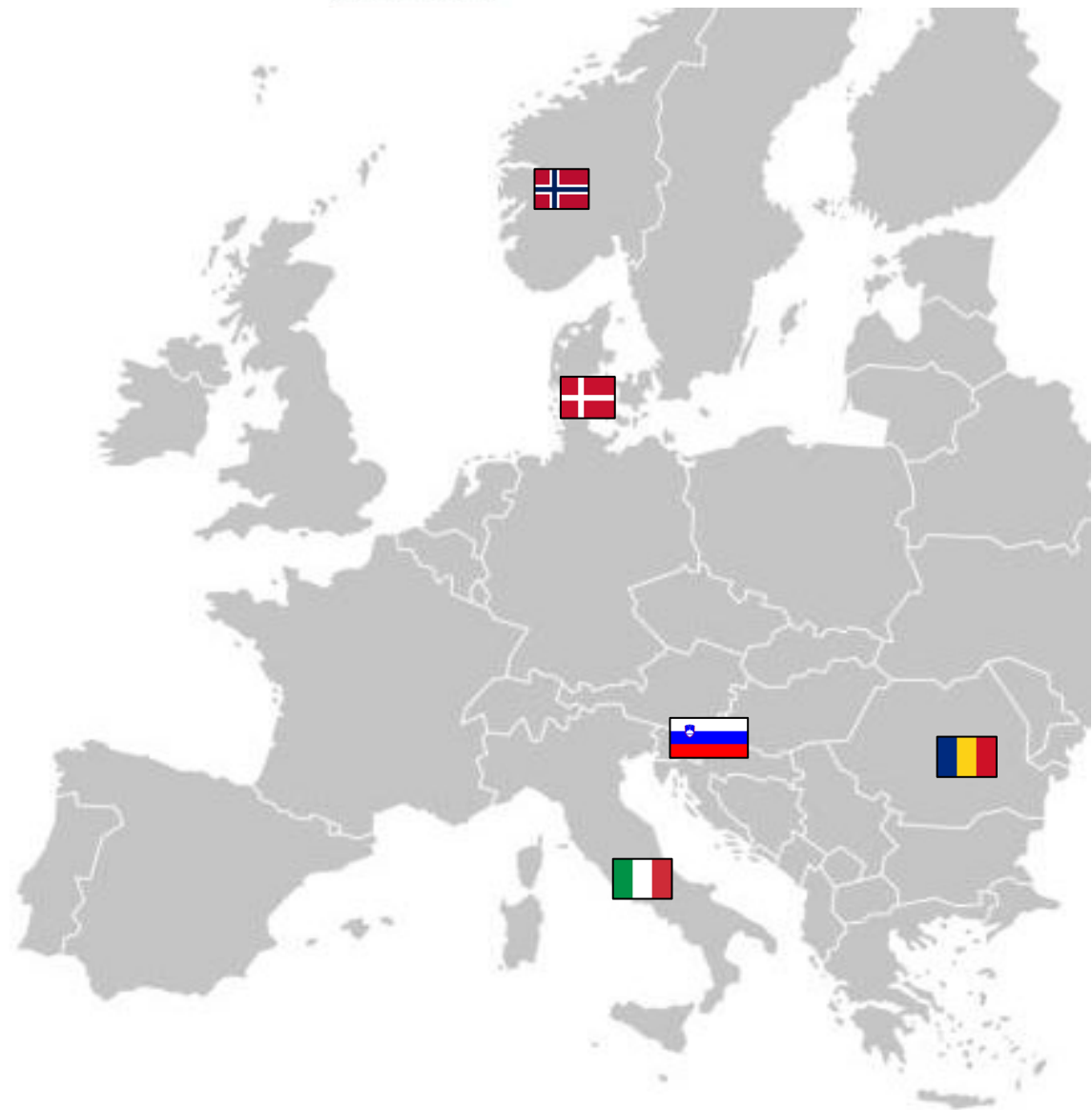
2021

2025

END

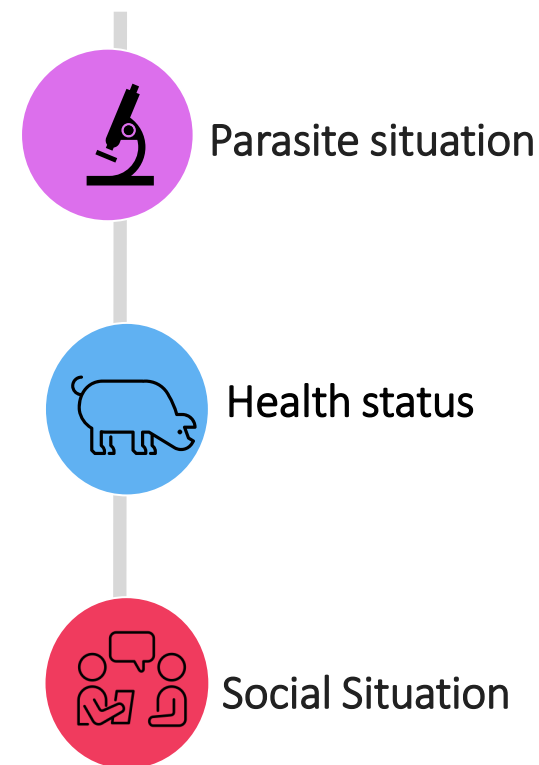


Introduction: Roam-Free partners



Introduction: Aim

- Give value to free-range pig farming
- Evaluating the **health status** of animals



Materials and Methods: FARMS

25 Mixed Farms



Pigs with cattle or sheep on pasture - 17



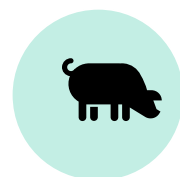
Pigs only, on pasture with 30% tree cover - 2



Pigs only, on pasture and arable land with cash crops - 6



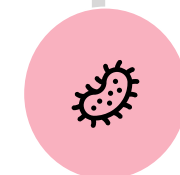
Materials and Methods: PARASITIES



Total samples: 927



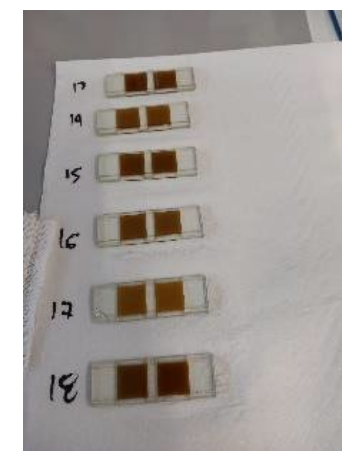
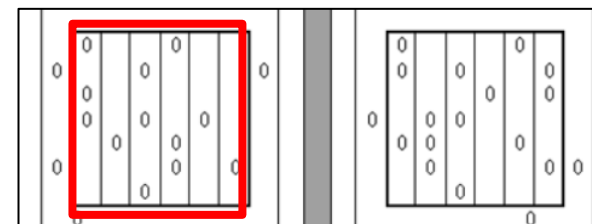
Mac Master technique



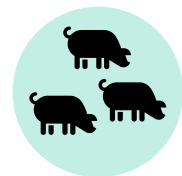
Qualitative results



Mac Master camera



Materials and Methods: HEALTH STATUS



Farm visit



PIGLOW app



Welfare assessment



Materials and Methods: SOCIAL SITUATION



Farm and animals



Works



Economic and
social feedback



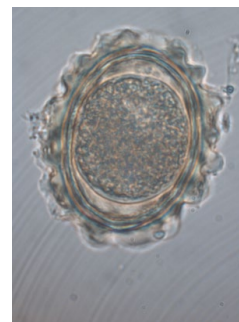
Results: PARASITIES in all Farms

- ❑ All Farms were infected with *Strongyloides*, *Ascaris suum*, and *Trichuris suis*
- ❑ Infections from *Strongyloides* are particularly high in boar and lactating sows.
- ❑ Lactating sows also show a high prevalence of *Ascaris*.
- ❑ Young piglets show significant levels of *Trichuris*.

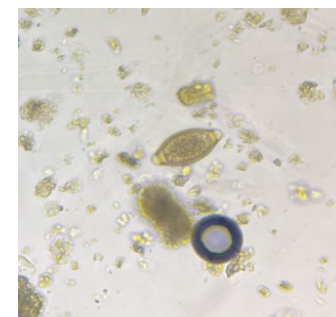
Strongyloides



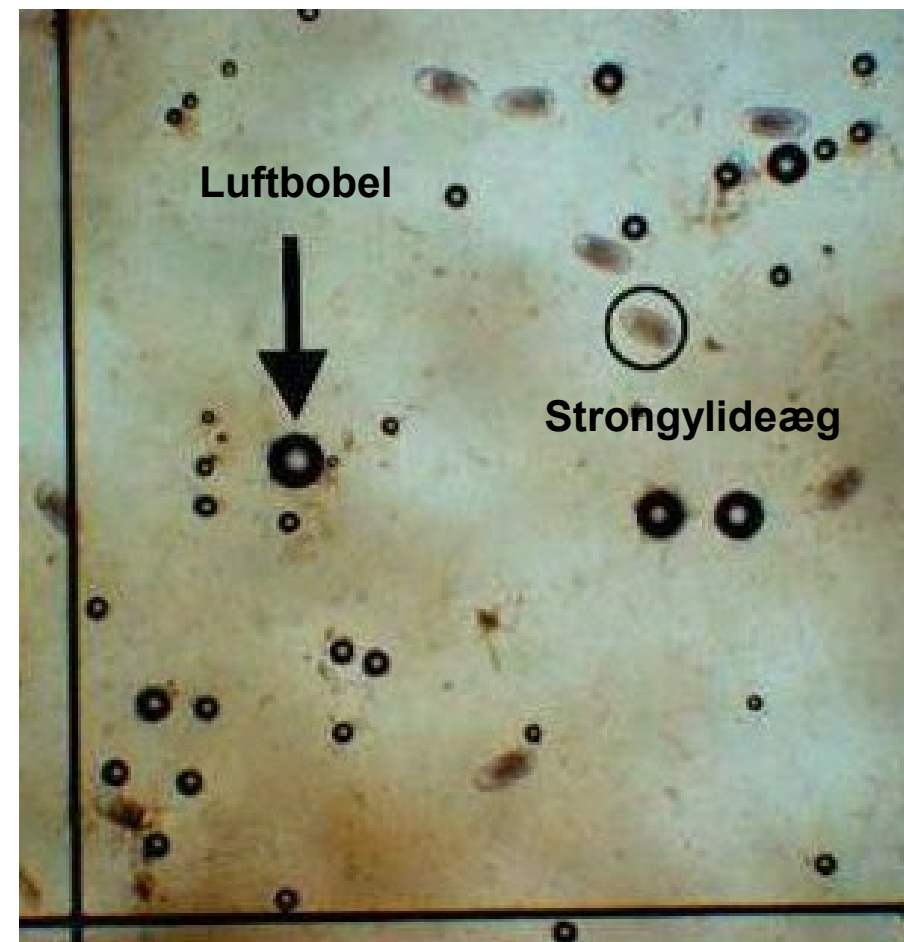
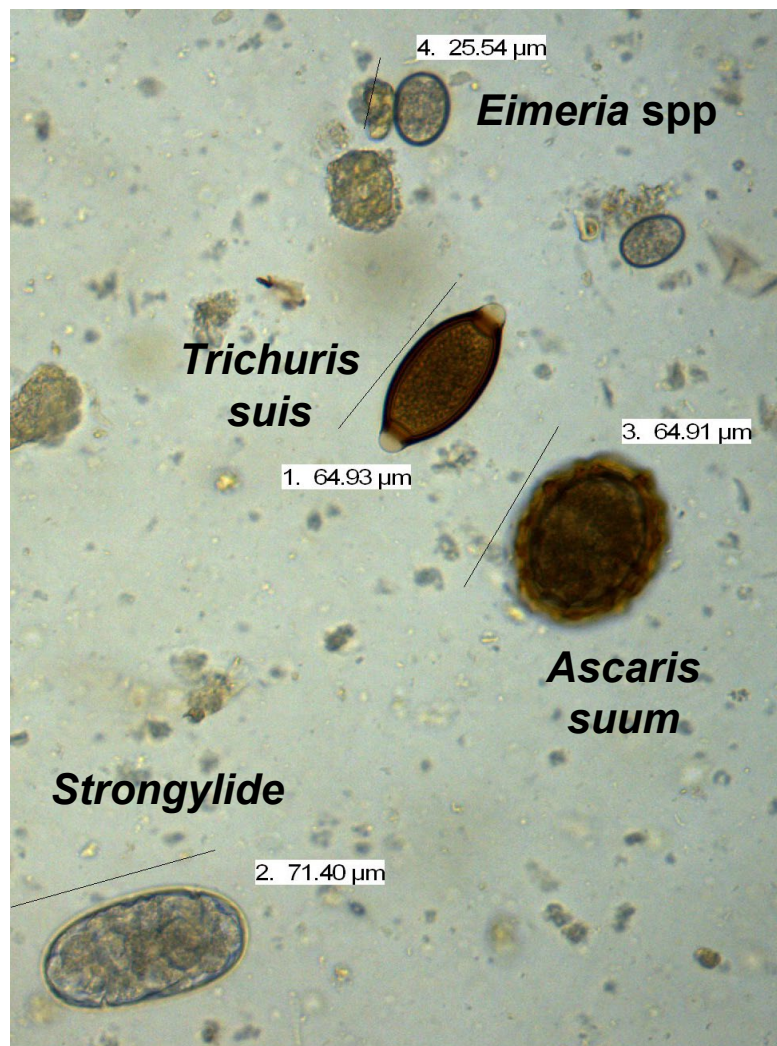
Ascaris suum



Trichuris suis

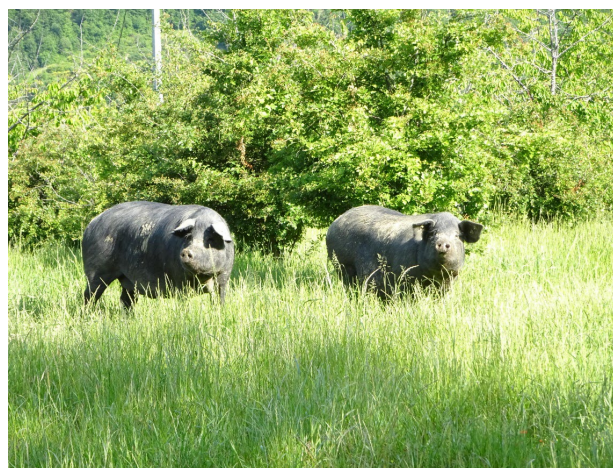
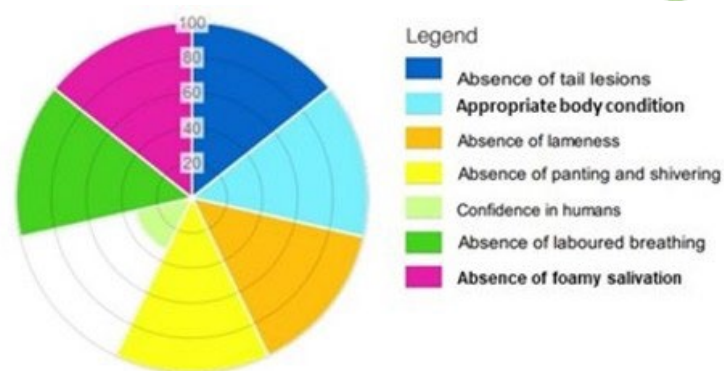


McMaster method





Results: HEALTH STATUS in all Farms



- ✓ Absence of tail lesions
- ✓ Appropriate body condition
- ✓ Absence of lameness
- ✓ Absence of panting and shivering
- ✓ Absence of laboured breathing
- ✓ Absence of foamy salivation
- ✓ Absence of stereotypies

Peculiarities

Confidence in humans

Burns on the skin



Results:

SOCIAL SITUATION in all Farms

Social results

Personal well-being

Territory

Nature contact



Undervalued final product

A lot of manpower

ASF Control

Daily control of the territory

Discussion

PARASITIES



- Prevalence of *Strongyloides*, *Ascaris*, and *Trichuris*.
- Variable → age groups → focused management strategies
- Overall, these results underline the importance of **regular monitoring** and **focused management** practices to **reduce the parasite load in organic farms**.

Discussion PARASITIES



The scientific literature suggests that the prevalences of different parasites can vary widely depending on **local conditions** and **management practices**. It is not uncommon for studies conducted in different contexts or with different methodologies to report varied results.

(Li, 2020 and 2022)

Discussion

HEALTH STATUS



- Even though the animals have parasites, they still **show good health status**.
- This shows the **robustness** of pigs raised in organic conditions and the success of the management practices.
- The **PIGLOW** app confirmed that **all groups of animals are healthy and behaving well**, with only a few having minor issues, like mild sunburns.

Discussion

SOCIAL SITUATION



The interviews with farmers highlighted both **positive** and **negative** aspects: while working outdoors and being close to nature **improves their well-being**, they also face challenges such as the **high manpower** demands and the **low economic value placed on organic products**, making it hard to maintain the economic sustainability of the farm.

Conclusion

- **Management practices**, such as regular pasture rotation, improved hygiene, parasite monitoring, and continuous observation of animal welfare, are **essential to maintaining a healthy environment**.
- **Farm management specific**, also adapting to the farmer's objectives.



THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION

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