

# Shaping the Future Towards Responsible and Balanced Breeding



**EAAP, September 2024, Florence**  
**Geena Cartick**

With EFFAB and FABRE TP chairs for the breeders'  
perspective

# Animal Breeding and Genetics

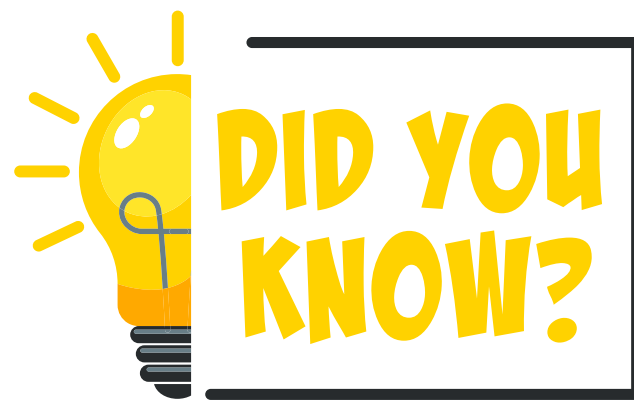
## Why is it even more relevant nowadays?

- Growing societal concerns about animal welfare and environmental impact.
  - Need for ethical and sustainable breeding practices.

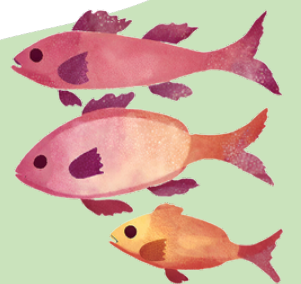


# Animal Breeding

Animal breeding is **selectively** crossing domestic animals with **desirable traits** to produce **better offspring**.



Selective breeding draws from fields like **genetics**, **statistics**, **husbandry**, and **reproductive physiology** and it has been practiced for **more than 10,000 years**



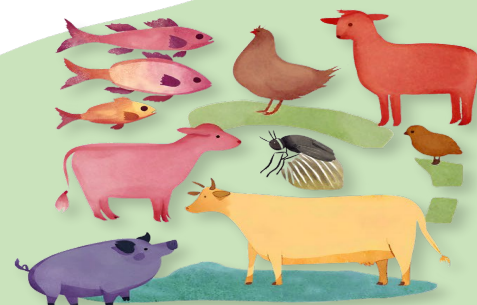
**Genetics** serves as the essential starting point at **every breeding scheme's core**.

- Breeders supply farmers with **robust, resilient, and healthy breeding animals (including germinal products)**.

- **Key Benefits:**

- **Food Security:** Ensures a stable and sufficient food supply.
- **Animal Health and Welfare:** Promotes the well-being of animals.
- **Sustainability:** Supports long-term agricultural practices.

**Healthy, safe, and nutritious  
animal products reach your plate**



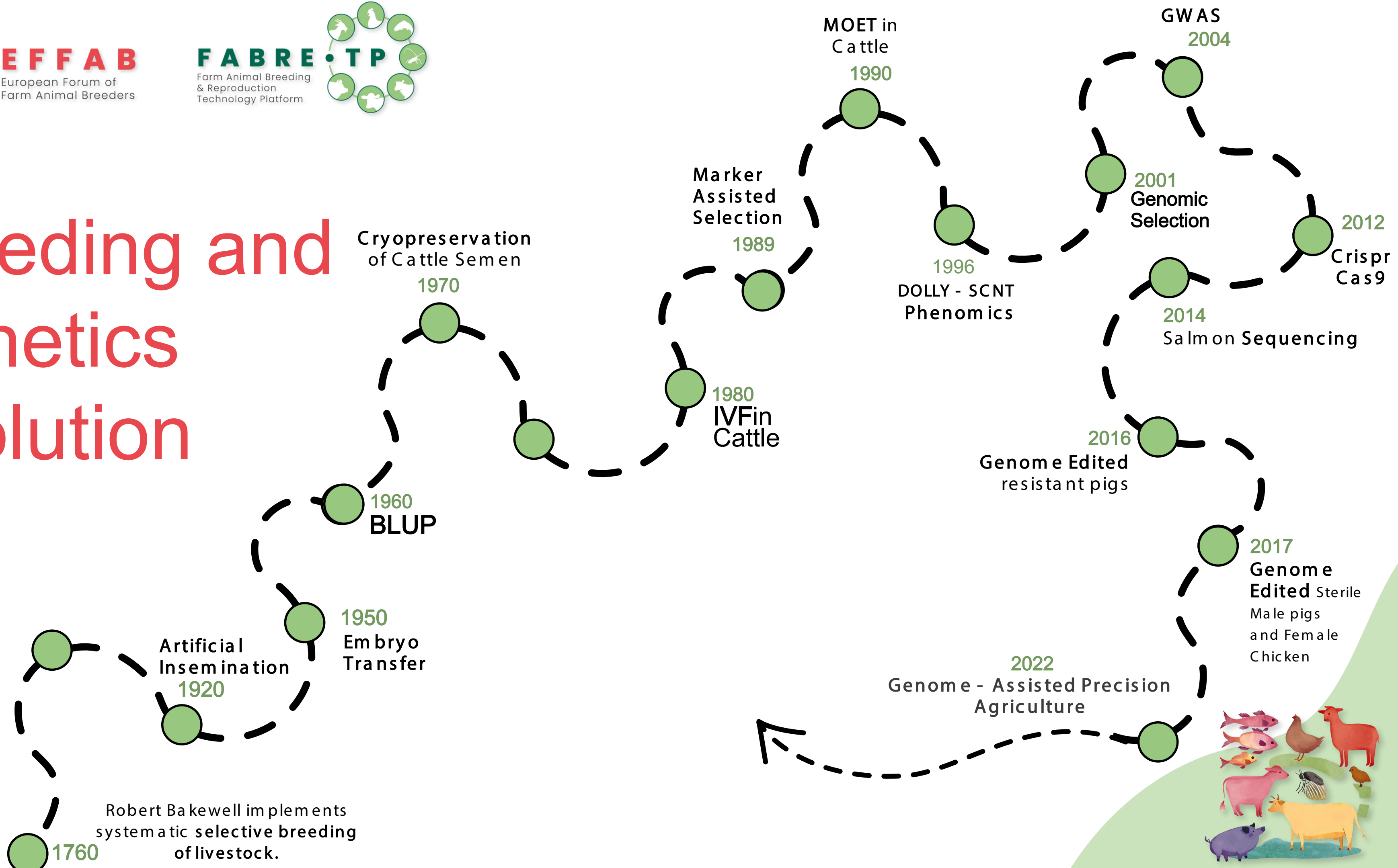
# Animal Breeding and Genetics

- Helps to ensure European and Global food security
- To improve the sustainability of animal farming

HOW ?



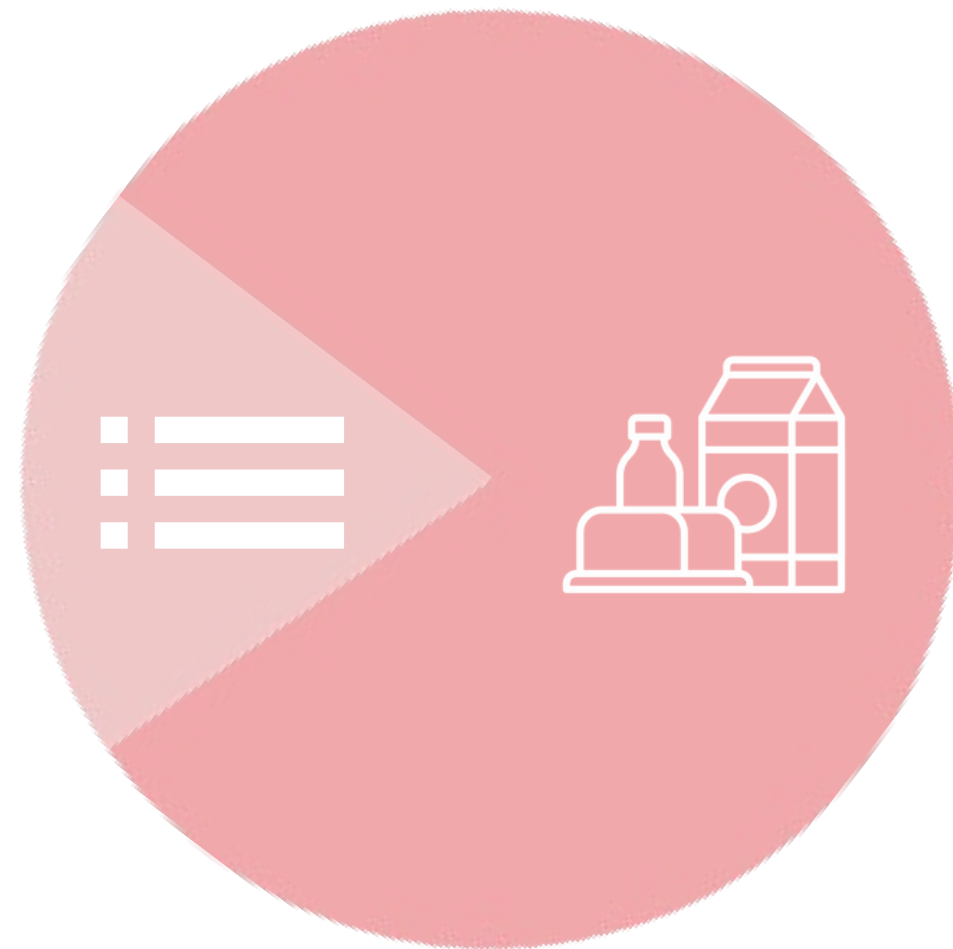
# Breeding and Genetics Evolution



1970's - 1980's

2000's – Today

Other  
traits



Production  
Traits

Improved  
animal health  
and welfare

Better production  
and quality  
of the products

Ensured  
food security

Better use  
of resources



Reduction of  
environmental impact

Preserving  
genetic  
diversity



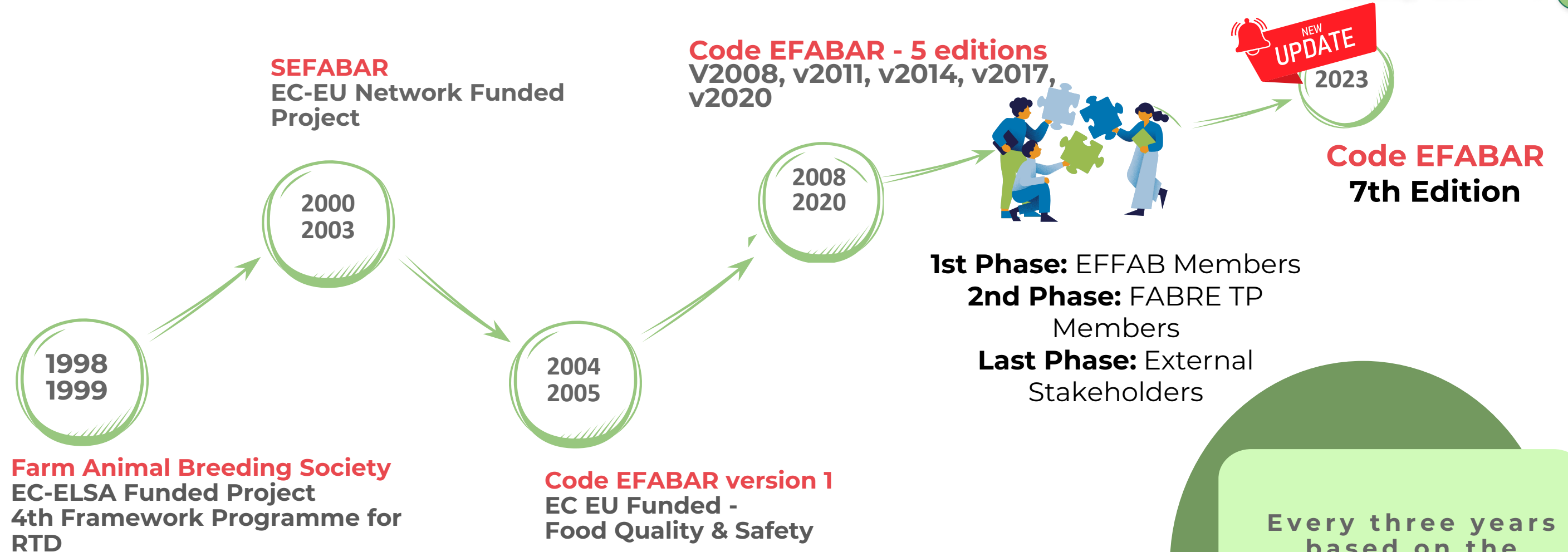
What does it have to do  
with Code EFABAR in all  
of that?



# Evolution of Code EFABAR



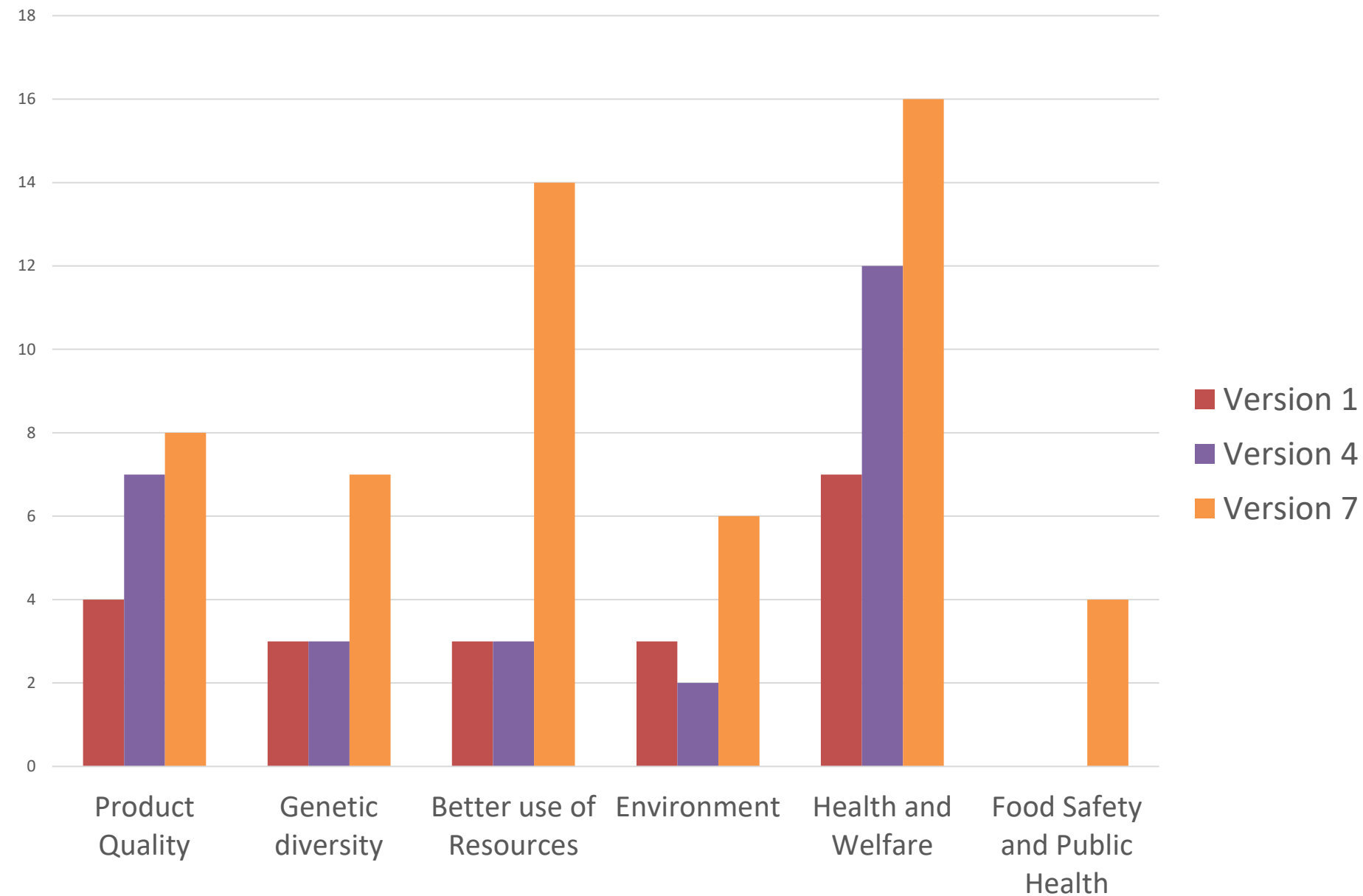
*Initiative of breeding  
companies(EFFAB)*



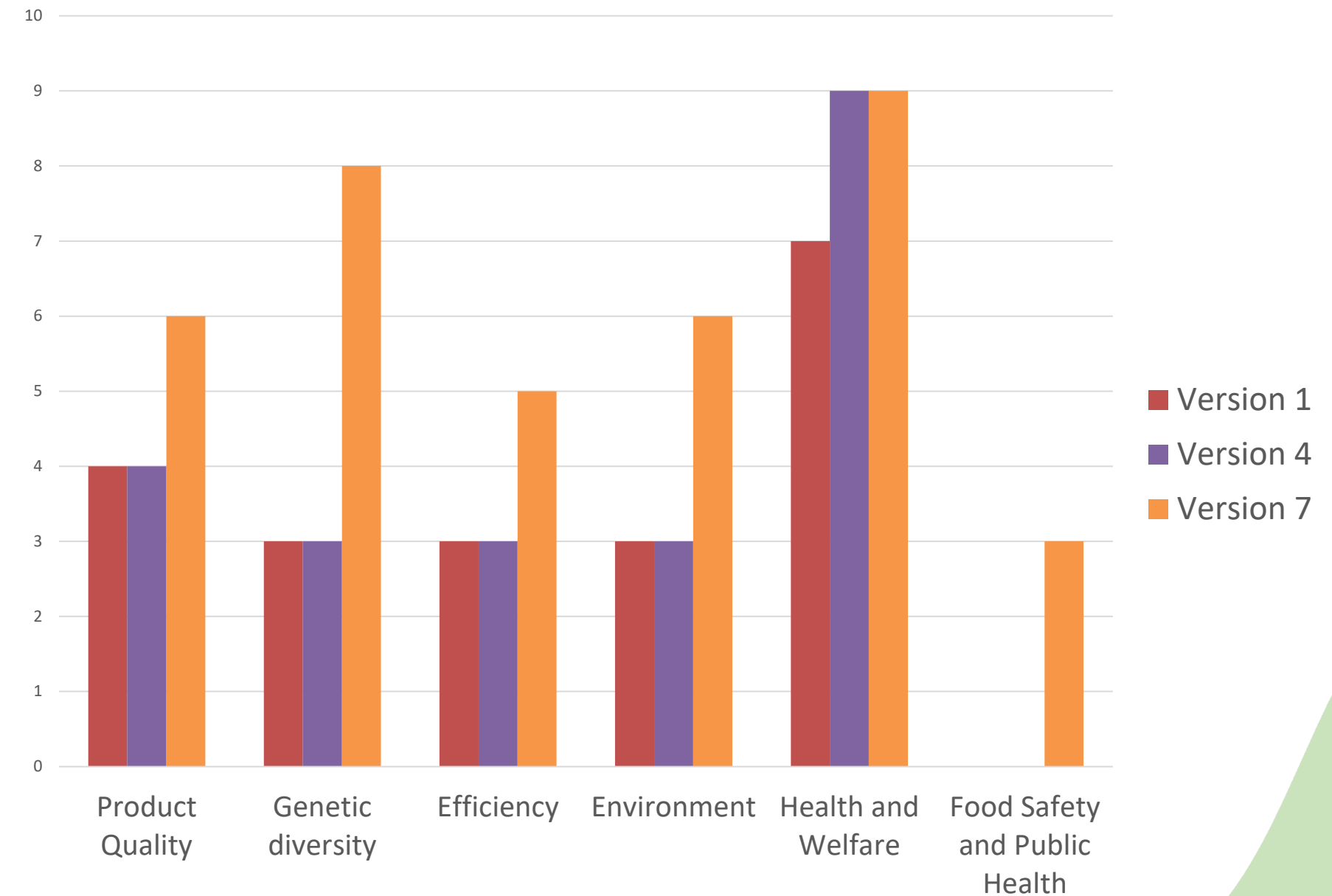
Every three years  
based on the  
current  
environmental,  
societal & political  
challenges



## Ruminant

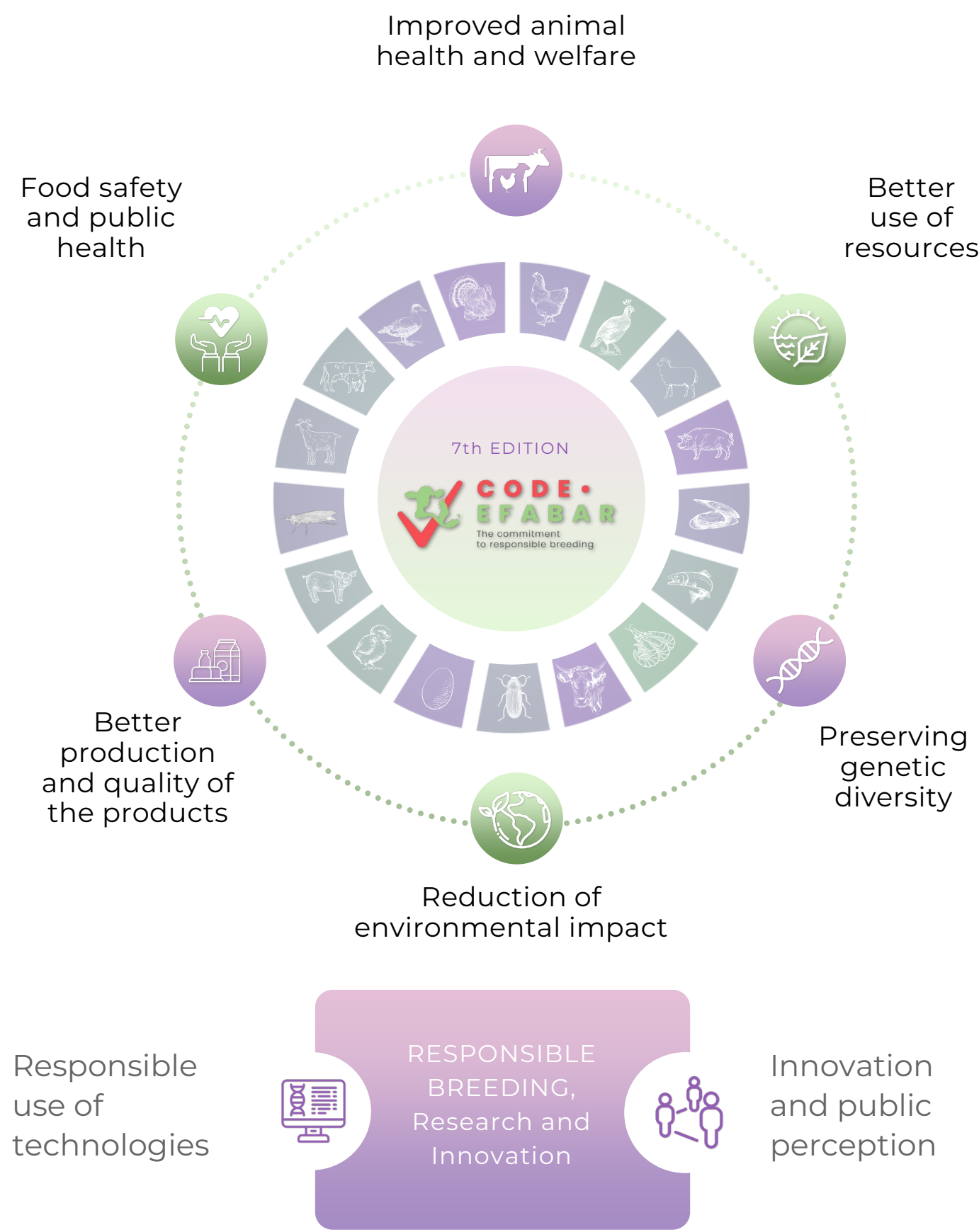


## Aquaculture



*Change in the number of breeding elements included*





Code B  
strateg

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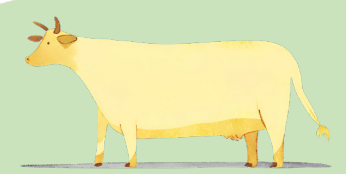
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# Impact on informing policymakers, stakeholders, etc....



## LONG TERM BENEFITS ON SUPPLY CHAIN

Integrating Code EFABAR principles at the breeding level **ensures ethical sourcing and sustainability throughout the supply chain.**

## LONG-TERM BENEFITS ON LEGISLATORS

### Policy Development

- Provides a framework for creating policies that support sustainable and ethical breeding.

### Regulatory Compliance

- Assists in developing regulations that align with international standards.

### Collaboration

- Encourages collaboration with legislators to promote responsible breeding practices and influence policy and regulatory frameworks.



## Commitment to responsible and balanced breeding

It shows how the sector contributes to the achieve Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs) of FAO and the EU Green Deal



## Communication Tool

*Engage in dialogue with policymakers, stakeholders, and civil society about modern and balanced animal breeding programs.  
To document, demonstrate, and propagate the work of the breeding sector*

## Public Trust

Demonstrates a commitment to ethical and sustainable practices, increasing public trust in breeding practices (agri-food production systems)



- **Ensures organisation-wide discussions on**
  - Animal health and welfare during breeding and transportation
  - Improved environmental sustainability
  - Preserving genetic diversity
  - Efficient use of resources
  - Food/feed safety and public health
  - Product Quality
- **Demonstrates the responsible use of technologies**
- **Highlights the ongoing efforts of breeders in the above-mentioned areas**
- **Transparency in the supply chain**



## Continuous Learning and Adaptation

### *Internally and Externally*

- Importance of staying updated with the latest advancements.
- Ongoing education and training in and beyond the sector

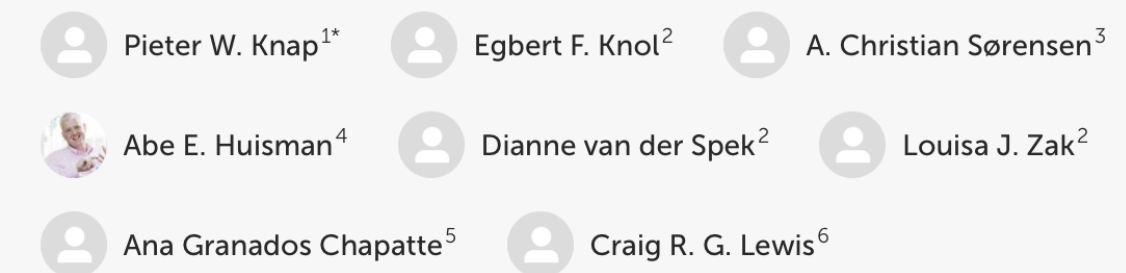
## Collaboration with Research/Public Sector

- Integration of scientific knowledge and practical insights.
- Joint efforts to promote innovation and address societal concerns.
- A hub for breeding knowledge within the legislative space

## Animal Health and Welfare, Diversity, and Environmental Impact

- Code EFABAR demonstrates breeders' commitment to best practices during breeding and transport of animals.
- Breeders go beyond legislative requirements.

### Genetic and phenotypic time trends of litter size, piglet mortality, and birth weight in pigs



<sup>1</sup> Genus-PIC, Schleswig, Germany

<sup>2</sup> Topigs Norsvin, Helvoirt, Netherlands

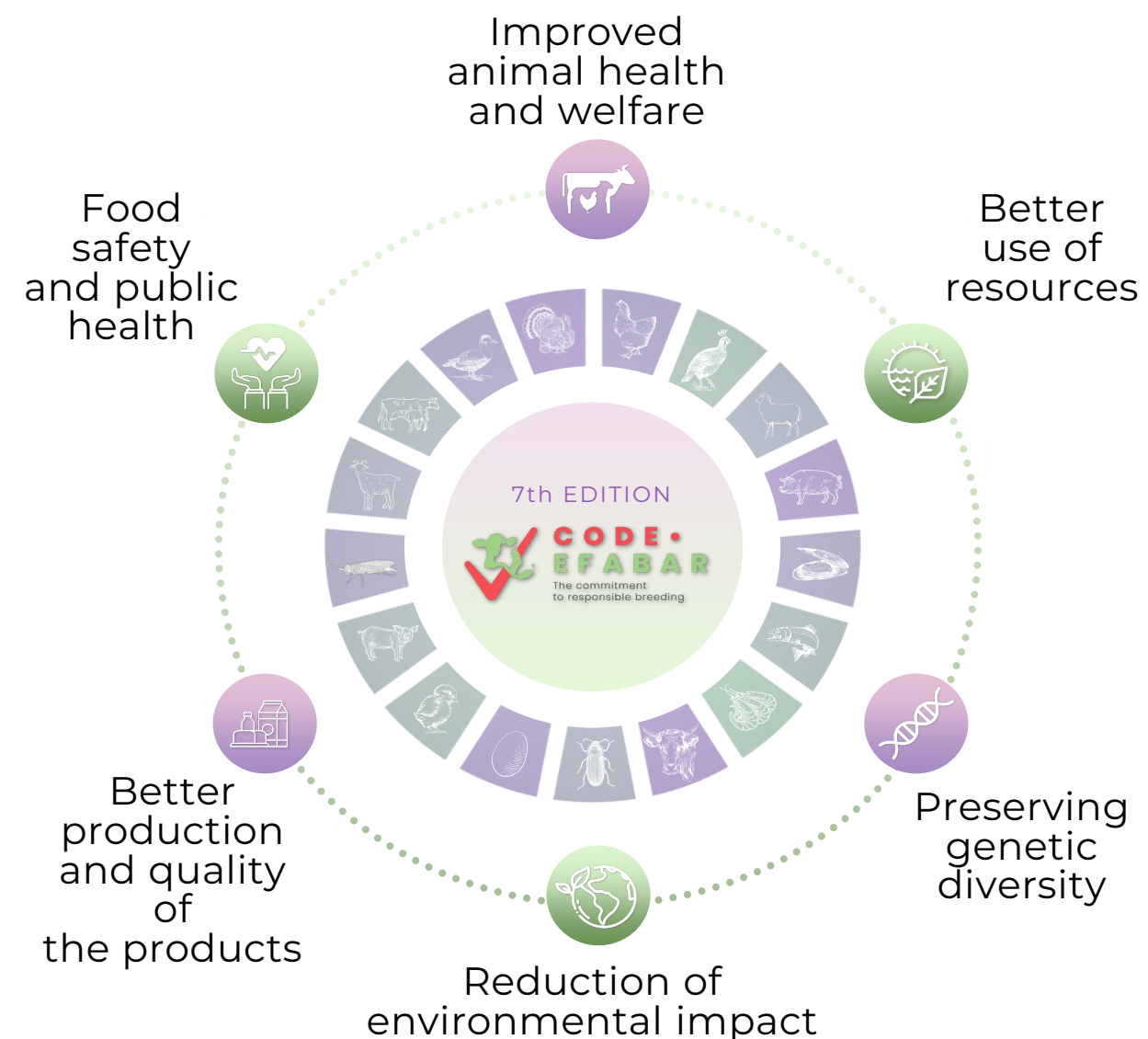
<sup>3</sup> Danish Agriculture & Food Council, Aarhus, Denmark

<sup>4</sup> Hendrix Genetics, Boxmeer, Netherlands

<sup>5</sup> European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders, Brussels, Belgium

<sup>6</sup> Genus-PIC, Sant Cugat del Valles, Spain





**Towards Societal,  
Environmental and Economic  
Sustainability**

## LONG TERM BENEFITS

### RESPONSIBLE AND BALANCED

Our farmers collaborate with breeders who adhere to responsible and balanced breeding practices. This commitment ensures the delivery of healthy and safe milk and meat to consumers.



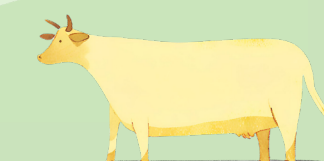
### EMBRACING SUSTAINABILITY

Our farmers implement sustainable farming practices in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These practices contribute the reduction of resource use and to environmental protection.



### UPHOLDING ETHICAL STANDARDS

Ethical treatment of animals is at the heart of our farmers' practices. They provide optimal biosecurity and other measures to ensure high levels of health and welfare for their animals.



# Code EFABAR

## Take Away Messages

- Understanding Genetics is key to responsible and balanced breeding.
- Animal Breeding programs simultaneously improve a group of traits, not only production but also health and welfare.
- Progress is measured and monitored.
- Self-regulation is in place and can be improved.
- Regulations that do not consider the whole picture of balanced breeding will only lead to limitations for breeding populations.
- As long as **balanced** breeding is performed --> Sustainability and Animal Health and Welfare is ensured



Code EFABAR showcases the role of breeding and genetics in the sustainable transformation of the livestock sector.





SCAN ME

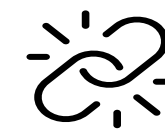
# THANK YOU!

## Any Questions?

[www.responsiblebreeding.eu](http://www.responsiblebreeding.eu)

[www.ffa.info](http://www.ffa.info)

[www.fabretp.eu](http://www.fabretp.eu)



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