

Innovations

**Profitability
&
cow health and
longevity**



A multi-generation farm, the dairy herd has grown over the years from 3 cows to 200 head

Farming milestones



2014

dairy barn modernisation, milking system fishbone 2x7

The herd

- 300 cattle heads
- 93 dairy cows
- Breeds : HF
- 100 dairy heifers
- Calving period: seasonal - resulting from the natural calving cycle (pasture)
- Age at first calving: 24 months
- Dairy grazing system

Agricultural Area

- **230 ha**
- 180 ha perm. grassland
- 10 ha temp. grassland
- 40 ha maize silage
- **100 % forage area**
- 200 ha rented

Workforces

- 2 family labour unit (FTE)
- 1200 h/year temporary workforce

Areas of interest

- Longevity and cow health
- Economics of milk production

Main buildings and equipments

- Freestall housing
- Fishbone milking system 2x7
- TMR feeding system
- Calves in boxes

Production / Technical results

- 1 000 000 liters of milk produced (99% sold)
- 4,2 % fat & 3,4 % protein content
- 6 500 l of milk /cow /year
- **Focus on cow longevity**



Farmer’s strategy for a “resilient” system

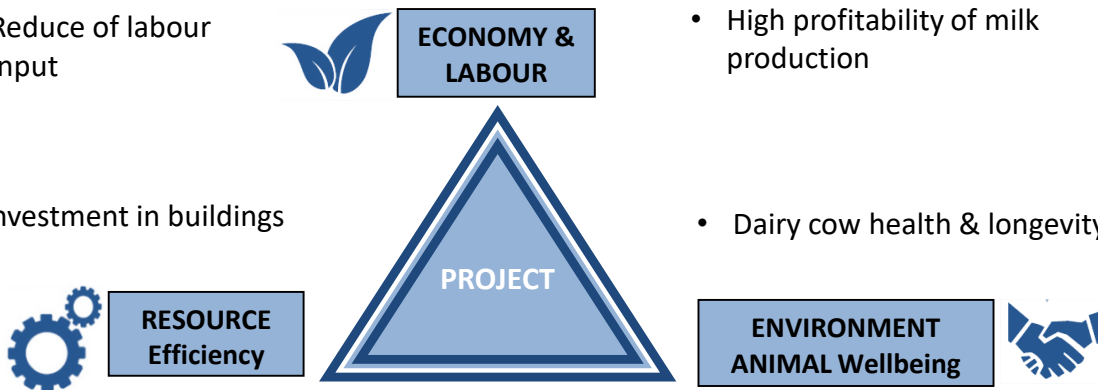
- Financial comfort - ability to repay loans from current operations
- Savings - opportunities to create a financial buffer for times of crisis

Aspirations / Needs for the future

- Improving buildings
- Maintenance of the land in good condition
- Less environmental impact

Improvement project - objectives

- Reduce of labour input
- Investment in buildings
- High profitability of milk production
- Dairy cow health & longevity



Partners



“Resilience 4 Dairy” is a European project involving 15 European countries and 18 partners. R4D is a thematic network on innovations and aims to support EU dairy farming in these regions where dairy farming is a main economic activity.



R4D pilot farmers are involved in a National Dairy Akis group where needs, solutions and knowledge are exchanged with other farmers, advisors and scientists on their way to build a resilient system. More information <https://resilience4dairy.eu/>