



Resilience for Dairy (R4D) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 101000770

# Behi-Alde S.Coop. Pilot Farm description *Álava - 2021*



# **Innovations**

Socio-economic
Resilience /
Environment/
Technical
Efficiency





#### **Farming milestones**

1970

Setting up the cooperative (experiment) 1986

Involvement in the creation of associations and Aberekin 2000

Milking parlour refurbishment

2022

Rotational grazing (since founded)

1977

Participation in the first milk cooperative for milk collection 1999

Constitution of the Cuma albina 2017

Genotyping

**Agricultural Area** 

#### The herd

1043 Livestock Units (LU)

550 dairy cows

Breeds: Frisian (100%)

· 279 dairy heifers

Calving period : all year round

Age at first calving: 25 months

#### 327 ha AA

- 78 ha perm. grassland
- 190 ha temp. grassland
- 59 ha Maize silage



#### **Workforces**

- 17 labour units (Full Time Equivalent)
- · Good working conditions (free time)
- · Large amount of AA
- Genotyping (A2A2)

#### **Areas of interest**

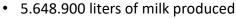
- · Improve milk digestibility
- improve slurry decomposition
- · Improve forage quality
- · Increase free time

## Main buildings and equipments

- 3 facilities for different production cows and heifers
- Boxes for calves
- 3 Milking parlours

Cuma participation (machinery and raft)

# **Production / Technical results**



- 3,99 % fat & 3,25 % protein content
- 10.740 l of milk /cow /year
- Concentrate: 4200 kg/cow





# **Strengths**

- Distribution of AA for rotational grazing
- Trained and formatted farmers
- Generational replacement
- · All cows genotyped



### Weaknesses

- Outdated facilities
- Difficulties in making a renovation investment



# Opportunities

- Possible A2A2 milk premium
- Better options for generational handover (worksharing)



### **Threats**

- Very high summer temperatures
  - Low value of the product in marketing

# Farmer's strategy for a "resilient" system

Genotyping of cows, selecting for the traits of interest.

Regenerative grazing

Use of bacteria for faster slurry decomposition

Participation in the Cuma: lung raft (improved waste management)

# Aspirations / Needs for the future

Implementation of solar panels
Modernise the facilities
Investment in forage machinery

# Improvement project - objectives

- Reduce work load
- Free time





· Save water consumption



RESSOURCE Efficiency



- Keep a good global profitability for a knowledge transfer centre
- Biodiversity conservation and land improvement
- Improve forage self-sufficiency

**ENVIRONMENT**ANIMAL Wellbeing



**Partners** 



**Collaborators** 





"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/