

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



RESILIENCE OF DAIRY FARMING: THE FARMERS' POINT OF VIEW



LYON 30/8/2023

Castellan Elisabeth, IDELE, France
Bausson Catherine, CA Normandie, France
Brocard Valérie, IDELE, France



Plan

- Projects about resilience
- Definition of resilience: from theory to practical
- A tool built to raise awareness
- Discussions about strategies and practices
- Spreading the word



Several projects about resilience and dairy farmers



This project has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (101012019) under grant agreement No 96504



Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

MINISTÈRE
DE L'ALIMENTATION,
DE L'AGRICULTURE
ET DE LA PÊCHE



EuroDairy (2016-2018)

- Europe
- Monitoring, Farmers exchange

ASAE (2020-2022)

- Hauts-de-France
- Focus on strategy, social expectations

R4D (2022-2024)

- Europe
- Farmers exchanges about best practices

Groups of French Dairy Farmers involved:

- Are open minded
- Show a diversity of system and strategies
- Are both core contributors throughout the different projects and new faces



Resilience: from theory to practice

Robust and Resilient dairy farms cope with volatile economic & environmental challenges (EIP Focus group)



To maintain/preserve the structure, functions or identity in front of disruption. (Olivier Therond INRAE)

Resilience: from theory to practical



Capacity to adapt and maintain sustainability of the farm through social, economic, and environmental factors



Quotes from the farmers

“Resilience is a word I never used, and never heard of. However, this word is a key factor of my success.

You have to know how to manage the farm development and to have a real strategy. You have to set a cap and do what’s necessary to achieve it and to succeed.”

By Jean-Michel Fournier, farmer in north of France

A video with farmers testimonies to explain resilience from their point of view: <https://youtu.be/htF7544jtMc>

A tool to raise awareness about resilience

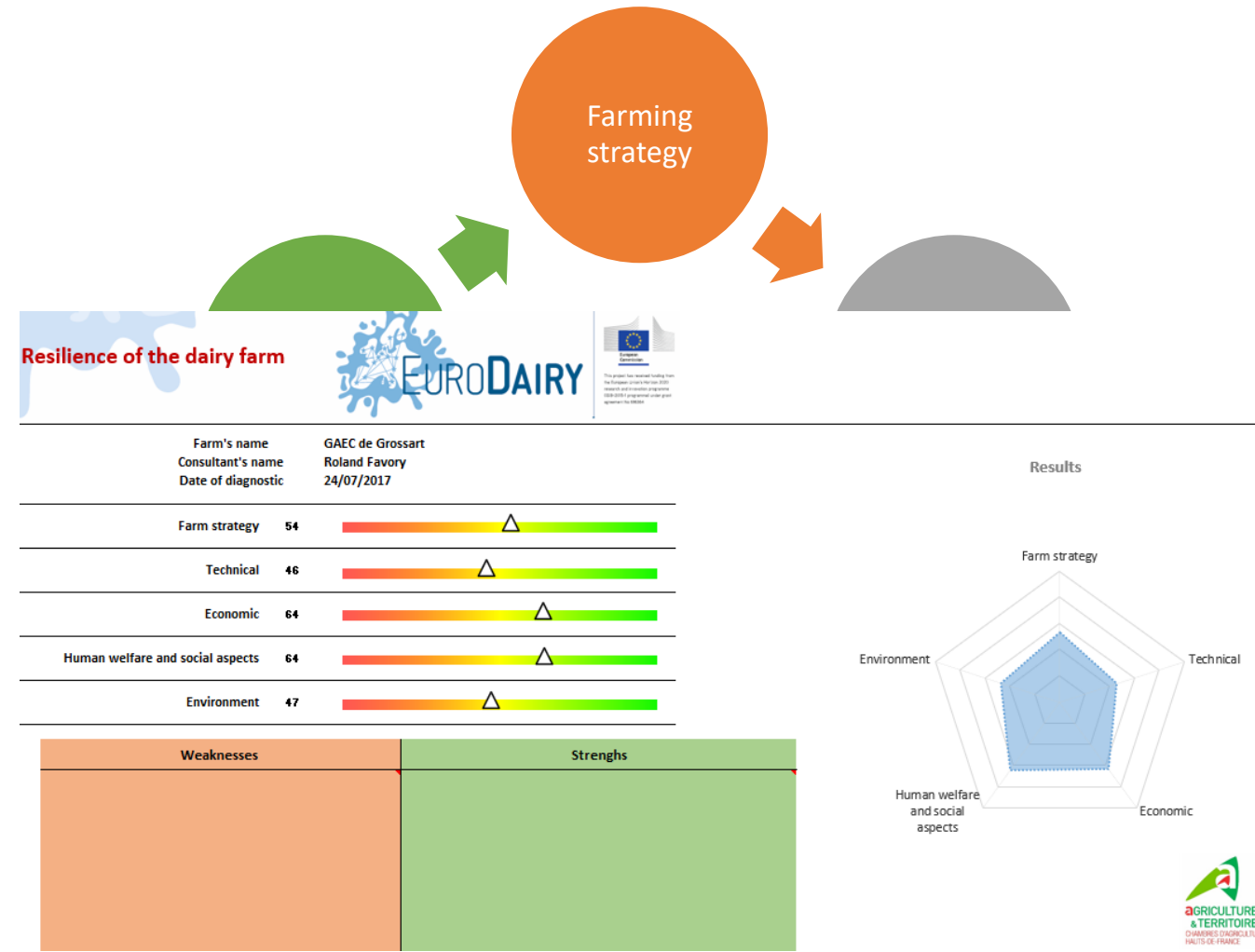
Tool built with dairy farmers (choice of topics, indicators) in order to have a concrete tool which is user-friendly for the farmers

Guidelines :

- Quick to realise: 2h on the farm to collect data and present the results
- Clear: visual results
- Simple: no data to recalculate
- Complete with the 5 topics
- Adapted with regional data for the scoring

Each topic is ranked on a total of 100. Score for each criterium within each topic was given with a mix of experts and farmers points of views.

No resilience score → The goal is to have a thinking process on the farm with the different questions.



A tool to raise awareness about resilience

- Exemple of one topic



Farming strategy

n°	Maximum score	Category			
2.1	10 10		How do you see your farm in ten years ?	the farmer has a view of 10 years (clear objectives at medium e	The vision is the way to the goal! Possible answers : same partners, identified succession, expansion, new enterprise, new systems, get more free time, earning an income, I don't know, not possible,...
2.2	10 10		Is there a strategy for the future of the farm business?	direct answer, clearly explained	If technical answer, ask for the purpose of these technical choices. Warning : do not evaluate the relevance of the strategy (could be "traped" by the Part Economy
2.3	5 10	Medium and long-term strategy	Is there an action plan ? Are there ways to check if the objectives are reached ?	Defined actions, but no timescales or monitoring	Action plan : coordinated implementation of the actions. Example : goal to "decrease age at first calving"; how ? (nutrition,...) Negative:if copy a concept or an idea from somebody else
2.4	15 30		Is there a sharing of the objectives between the partners and/or spouses ?	Diferent objectives but discussion to find a compromise, or no	
2.5	2,5 5		Is there a sharing about the objectives with the employees ?	employee informed about the strategy	If spouses = employees then just skip this question.

Discussions of strategies or practices



Diversification with a collective farmers shop (R4D workshop, March 2023)

Diversity of practices : topping, hay quality with barn drying, mixed protein-cereal forages, suckling cows with calves, human resources, lean management...



Agroforestry (R4D, French NDA meeting, March 2022)

Diversity of strategies: diversification, organic farming, work simplification, gradual investment...



Use of an exoskeleton (R4D workshop, March 2023)



Human resources management (Eurodairy)



Topping (R4D, exchange between farmers on Whats app)



Mixed protein-cereal crop (R4D)

Spreading the word *To Agricultural education*

- Understand resilience and the diversity of solutions (Eurodairy)
 - Farmer-adviser intervention in agricultural school (2h period)
 - To explain resilience with the video
 - To organize workshop on the solutions to improve resilience on 3 topics (technical & economics, environment, social)
 - Farmer testimony
- Analyse farmer strategy on practical cases (ASAE)
 - Work in advance with teachers to give framework and resources
 - Work in class to understand resilience and strategy
 - Farm visit with questions to ask the farmer about his strategy, actions and choices
 - Synthesis in class
- In the planning stage with educational institution (R4D)
 - Organize support about resilience to use in class and to spread to teachers



Stimulate young farmers and apprentice exchange between partners
Involve agricultural schools in R&D projects

Conclusion

- Resilience is not only theoretical, but farmers also welcome this topic.

The exchanges during the different projects helped me to reflect and analyse the decisions I have to make.

Amaury Smets, dairy farmer in Quesnoy, France



Jean-Michel Fournier, dairy farmer in Bethencourt sur Mer, France

I am handing over the farm to my son. All the discussion about resilience allowed me to take a step back and consider my whole career. They motivated me to write my memoirs and to explain my strategy and my choices.

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



Thank you for your attention

Contact: elisabeth.castellan@idele.fr

www.resilience4dairy.eu

