



RESILIENCE FOR DAIRY FARMING

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SUMMARY

Seventeen institutes and agencies, along with one hundred and twenty pilot farms across fourteen European Union countries, collaborate to discover solutions within the dairy sector. Their focus includes technical efficiency, environmental concerns, animal welfare, socially responsible production systems, and economic efficiency coupled with social resilience. Instead of a top-down approach from science to practice, their methodology adopts a bottom-up strategy. They gather and organize solutions that have already demonstrated practical significance, compiling them into informative factsheets intended for distribution within the farming community. This project is supported by the EU, its homepage can be found at: <https://resilience4dairy.eu/>

The farmers have pinpointed the following requirements to enhance technical efficiency: novel tools for early disease detection, preemptive measures, inventive feeding systems, and forward-thinking technologies for silage production and management. In terms of environmental and animal welfare considerations, the farmers underscore the necessity for enhancing calf and cow welfare conditions, establishing effective communication and transparency in agricultural practices for the general public's understanding of agriculture's societal role. Moreover, they highlight energy efficiency, the adoption of renewable energy sources, and the development of innovative and animal-friendly housing. Within the realm of economic efficiency and social resilience, the most crucial needs encompass achieving a proper work-life balance, ensuring fair compensation/returns, fostering flexibility, accessing reliable sources of information, facilitating knowledge transfer and training, and utilizing economic tools to aid on-farm decision-making.

Keywords: economic, social, environmental resilience, dairy.