SUCCESS STORY

D4Dairy

Digitalisation, Data integration, Detection and Decision support in Dairying

Programme: COMET – Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies

Programme line: COMET-Project

Type of project: D4Dairy, 1.10.2018 - 30.9.2022, strategic, multi-firm

D4DAIRY UNITES PARTNERS TO IMPLEMENT DIGITALIZATION IN THE MILK VALUE CHAIN

IN THE D4DAIRY PROJECT, KEY PARTNERS ALONG THE MILK VALUE CHAIN ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH DIGITAL MANAGEMENT SUPPORT FOR DAIRY FARMS AND THUS FURTHER IMPROVE ANIMAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND PRODUCT QUALITY. AFTER THE FIRST YEAR OF THE PROJECT, THE FIRST SUCCESSES CAN ALREADY BE RECORDED.

The D4Dairy project brings together domestic and foreign universities, competence centers and research institutions, as well as companies along the milk value chain, such as farmers, breeding organisations, milk processors, animal health services, stakeholders, and national and international technology providers for sensors, feeding, climate measurement and data processing.

The aim is to gain new insights into topics relevant to the dairy chain, such as measures to reduce antibiotic resistance, big data analyses for predicting disease markers, disease detection with milk MIR spectral data, influence of stable climate on animal health and welfare, occurrence of mycotoxins and their influence on fertility as well as the use of new data sources for breeding. By means of data integration a digital support of the management at the dairy farm shall be built up and thus besides facilitation of work a further improvement of animal health, animal welfare, product quality and sustainability shall be achieved.

After the first project year, the first successes have already been recorded.
SUCCESS STORY

In order to be able to deal with the various research questions, the prerequisite is that a common data set is available based on dairy farms with a high degree of automation and thus with different data. Based on a survey of the various equipment, potential pilot farms were identified.

It has been possible to create the framework conditions for data exchange, such as the clarification of legal questions concerning data protection and data exchange and the agreement of all partners on a data exchange concept.

One hundred innovative dairy farms could be found, which are interested in the project and ready to provide their data for working on the scientific questions.

The data, which is transferred mostly automatically, is managed in a data exchange platform especially developed for D4Dairy according to the latest technical findings. The results of the research then flow into tools to support farmers in their decisions. The first interfaces required for automated data exchange were set up between the partners.

Large robotic milking companies were gained as additional cooperation partners to work on genetic questions.

The biggest success story, however, is certainly the good and committed cooperation between the many often very different partners in the dairy chain. This ensures that research is geared to practical needs, that the results are widely discussed, that they are aimed in the right direction and that they work towards the greatest possible practical suitability.

Project coordination (Story)
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This success story was provided by the consortium leader/centre management and by the mentioned project partners for the purpose of being published on the FFG website. Further information on COMET: www.ffg.at/comet