



Sustainable PARAsite Control
in Grazing Ruminants

**Lighting the Path to
Sustainable Parasite Control**

HORIZON - CSA Project 101134842



Ruminant farming is critically important in maintaining the viability of rural communities and ensuring food security. Because grazing ruminants are permanently exposed to helminth parasites, efficient worm control is a requirement to guarantee their health, welfare and productivity. Worm control is largely based on preventive use of anthelmintic drugs, but excessive use of anthelmintics has led to anthelmintic resistance, which has become a global threat for effective parasite control. To mitigate anthelmintic resistance in ruminants, sustainable worm control strategies should be adopted.

The overall goal of SPARC is to establish an active multi-actor network across Europe to increase the performance and the resilience of ruminant livestock farms by widely disseminating best practices, tools and solutions on sustainable worm control that improve **1** animal health and welfare on the farms; **2** economic performance, and **3** the environmental sustainability of the sector.

The SPARC Community of Practice of farmers, farm advisors and veterinarians will identify needs, practices, barriers and drivers for adoption of sustainable worm control practices, develop a list of good practices in different production systems and regions and demonstrate them on pilot farms.

National and international stakeholder networks will share sustainable worm control practices among farmers, across borders and production systems. Dissemination of experiences and results will be facilitated by a Knowledge Exchange Platform on the SPARC website, hosting testimonies, case studies, videos, practice abstracts and decision support tools, available in local languages. SPARC activities and results will be communicated on social media and in professional journals.

Overall, SPARC will initiate a lasting European-wide multi-actor community that develops solutions together to curb anthelmintic resistance, aiding in the green transition of European agriculture.

- 15** participants located in 10 countries
- 4** production systems: beef cattle, dairy cattle, meat sheep/goats, dairy sheep/goats
- 6** work packages

Duration: 1 February 2024 - 31 January 2027

The SPARC activities are organized in 6 Work Packages

WP1 Creation of networks

1. create national sector level networks of stakeholders involved in sustainable parasite control
2. establish regional and local subnetworks of stakeholders
3. establish and maintain relationships with other relevant networks

WP2 Identification of needs, good practices, stimulating measures

1. identify the needs of farmers, veterinarians, and other stakeholders to achieve sustainable worm control practices in small ruminants and cattle in different epidemiological and management settings
2. translate those needs to good practices for sustainable worm control
3. validate the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of the suggested good practices

WP3 Validation, demonstration of good practices

1. demonstrate sustainable worm control practices in different settings
2. improve adoption of sustainable worm control practices using stimulating measures and to adapt sustainable worm control practices based on feedback from end-users
3. validate the feasibility, effectiveness and economic return of sustainable worm control practices

WP4 Creation of tools, materials, Knowledge Exchange Platform

1. create a knowledge exchange platform dedicated to sustainable worm control practices
2. develop technical communication/dissemination material for best practices to stakeholders
3. generate a data hub and a WebGIS on helminth infections, anthelmintic resistance and worm control practices

WP5 Dissemination, communication, exploitation

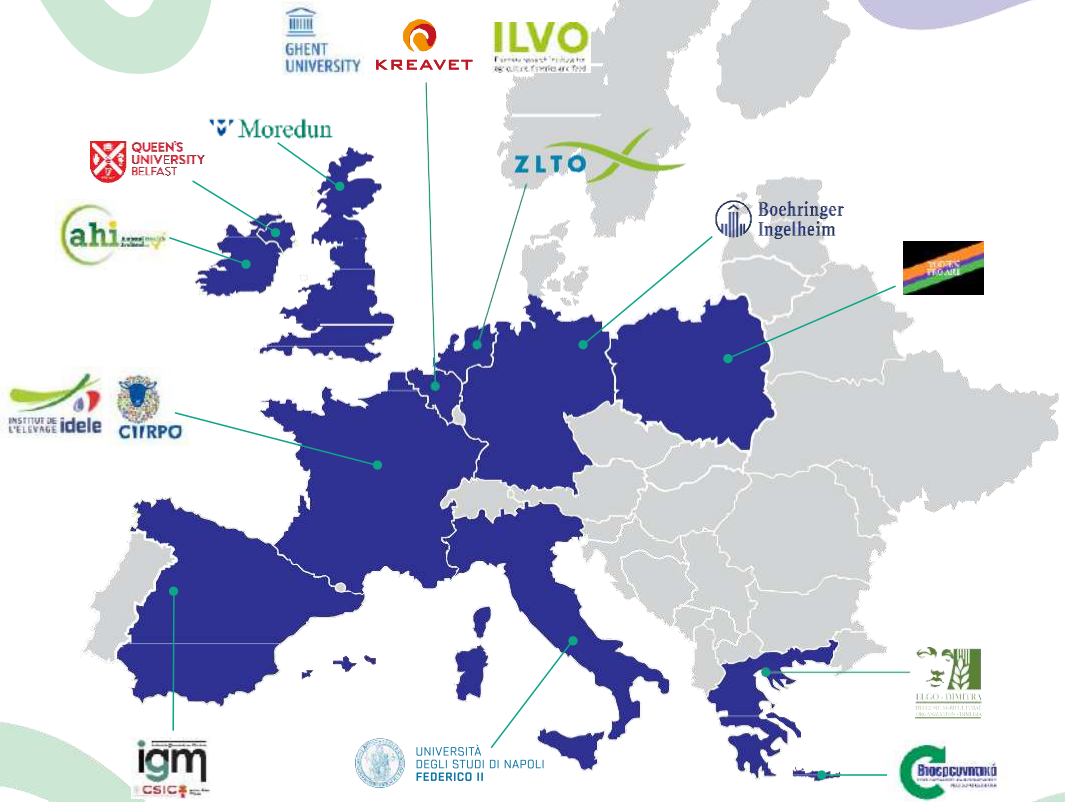
1. disseminate the best practical solutions and boosting their uptake
2. create a website to host SPARC Knowledge Exchange Platform and promote the utilization of all tools
3. ensure the network activities are sustained in a continuous way after the completion of SPARC

WP6 Project management

Aiming to efficiently manage SPARC




MAP OF PARTICIPANTS



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