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Session 28 – montagne@agrocampus-ouest.fr

Erasmus intensive teaching programme *Sustainable pig production in the European Union*

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Main characteristics of the programme

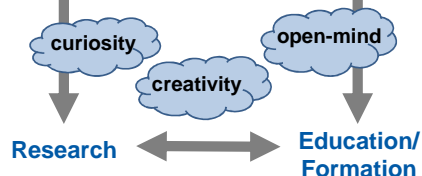
2 weeks training period, Agrocampus Ouest, France
~ 20 students (MSc, BSc, PhD) in 2009, 2010 (2011)
organised by a consortium of 11 universities



Aims and scopes of the programme

Development of sustainable farming systems for pig production in the EU

- New knowledge / knowledge integration
- New techniques and strategies
- Tools to assess sustainability



Objectives of the programme Sustainable pig production in the European Union

- to make students **sensitive to the scopes and difficulties** and to provide them **knowledge and tools** to understand the concept and to evaluate the sustainability of pig farming systems
- to promote fruitful **exchanges between students / lecturers** from different universities on this subject

Pedagogic aspects

Lectures and tutorial classes – 40%

Lecturers from the different universities



- **Presentation of the concept(s) of sustainability**
- **Main dimensions of sustainability**
Economic, environmental and social aspects
- **Example of alternative systems**
Parma ham PDO, organic pig
- **Tools to study and evaluate sustainability**
Life cycle analysis, modelling, multi-criteria analysis

Pedagogic aspects – Workshops 60%

A. Presentation of pig production systems across the EU



B. Practical exercise to assess sustainability on a farm



Conclusive role-playing game :
imagine a sustainable pig farm



Student's perception of sustainability relating to pig production

Method

For you, what does « sustainability in pig production » mean ?
Give 5 keywords (maximum)

42 students 19 BSc, 19 MSc, 3 PhD
25 years old (21-31)
9 nationalities

pre-programme

6 students not able to answer
32 answers
150 keywords /210 (42 x5)

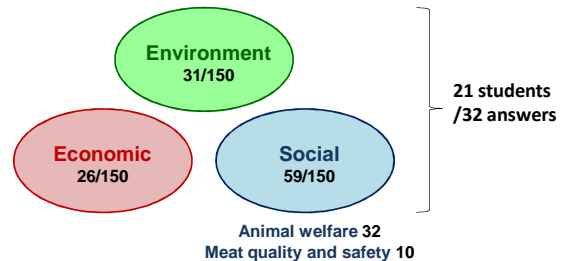
post-programme

42 answers
198 keywords/210

Student's perception of sustainability relating to pig production

Pre-programme

Most of the keywords refer to the three pillars of sustainability
(United Nations World summit, 2005)

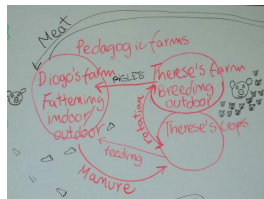


Student's perception of sustainability relating to pig production

Post-programme

More difference between students, more diversity in the 42 answers

- **Global approach**, balance/optimisation of the three aspects 21/42
- **Dynamic aspects**, adaptation, flexibility,... 10/42
- **Dialogue and cooperation** between farmers, consumers, society 10/42
- **International differences**, importance of cultural background 7/42



Teacher's perception of the programme

- **Federative thematic** permitting to bring together different students (culture, personal opinion, different expectations,...)
- **Students diversity** : difficult but interesting !
- **The main aim** that is to promote discussion and to initiate or help to personal reflexion is achieved
- **Students came to get knowledge and solutions...**
...they come back home with a lot of questions !

To conclude

This training period has been shown to be:

- an enriching part of the student's curriculum and of personal reflexion
- a small step in the construction of the European Higher Education Area (Bologna declaration, 1999)

To go on

- Organisation the last session 2011
- Analyse the results of the survey on the 3 sessions
- Same survey with the participants of the session 28 of the EAAP 2010 congress ?