Sm@ll Ruminant Technologies Platform
Research programme to share knowledge and improve uptake of new digital technologies in sheep and goat farming

Sm@RT
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LANGUAGE: EN - **DATE:** 12/12/2022

Sm@RT Platform Newsletter

www.smartplatform.network

Welcome to the Sm@RT newsletter!

Sm@RT – Small Ruminant Technologies – is a research programme to share knowledge and improve uptake of new digital technologies in sheep and goat farming.

This EU-funded project, led by Scotland's Rural College, brings together a network of researchers, farmers & advisors from France, Ireland, Estonia, Italy, Hungary, Norway, UK and Israel, who will improve awareness amongst those working in the farming industry of newly available PLF tools, demonstrating their potential and possible return of investment.

Why is Sm@RT important?

Sheep and goat farming is important to the rural economy of Europe and many other countries across the world, especially in areas that are unsuitable for other farming production systems, as small ruminants are efficient convertors of poor-quality grazing into high quality protein. In Europe only, there are nearly 98 million sheep and goats.
Recent advances in new tools called precision livestock farming (PLF) and digital technologies to improve farm practices, have been developed for sectors such as the dairy industry to improve farm efficiency. However, the development and uptake of any such tools has been slower in the small ruminant industry. There is therefore a need to

improve awareness and knowledge transfer on the potential of these technology applications and return on investment. (click here for more details on Sm@RT).

An approach based on digifarms and innovative farms network

Sm@RT uses an original interactive networking approach, relying on well-equipped demonstration farms ('digifarms') and innovative commercial farms to foster exchanges with the small ruminant industry. This iterative step-by-step approach implicates relevant actors at the right level in the knowledge exchange process, thus boosting dissemination in a trusting environment and creating a dynamic to motivate IT companies to propose suitable PLF and digital technologies solutions tailored for the sheep and goat sectors. (click here for more details on Digifarms)

First international workshop in France

Sm@RT relies on a series of national and transnational workshops to encourage farmers, advisors and researchers involved in the sheep and goat sectors to exchange on their needs and uses of on-farm innovative technologies, and to demonstrate how it can help them for their farm management. Although the first events were held online due to Covid 19, the first face-to-face international workshop was held in France in July 2022. The event was very successful and fruitful discussions and practical demonstration activities were held during the 2 days. (click here for a short video on the event)

Follow us and join us!

The network is open to all countries, so please contact us if you wish to join in the events.

Subscribe to this newsletter and follow us on our social media to hear about our latest activities, discover practical guidelines on how to use on-farm innovative technologies, and hear about farmers' testimonies on how innovative technologies have helped them for this farm management.

Sm@RT is on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube (H2O2OSmaRT), and on LinkedIn

Check out our website – www.smartplatform.network