



Sustainability of livestock farms in the Alpine area (Aosta Valley, Italy)

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Objectives

This work focuses on the sustainability of dairy farms in the Aosta Valley, (Italy). As occurred on the whole Alps chain, the situation of Aosta Valley dairy farms is become critical in the last twenty years. Three different areas were taken into account: earning capacity, environmental role and the rural set-up of dairy farms.

Poster n°21 - Session n°1



Main results

The results, according to the aims of the project, consider three areas:

- Economic - Low productivity and low profitability due to high investment costs, were the key outcomes of the economic findings.
- Environmental - The study can show the important role which livestock farms had, and still have, in keeping the territory well-managed and preserved. 90% of farms access agro-environmental measures and 99% respect good farming practices guidelines. A big part of them works with little or no mechanization, but this nonetheless ensures the management of certain areas which would otherwise be abandoned.
- Social - A lack in ability encountered on livestock farms to ensure continuity concerning their own businesses. The farmers are on average 50 years old; 28% are less than 40 and 60% have a low level of education. 13% of the farms is run by a woman.