

Innovation for Sustainable Sheep and Goat Production in Europe





iSAGE TRAINING COURSE Innovations to improve the sustainability in the sheep and goat sector 10-13 December 2019, Zaragoza (Spain)

Impact of climate change, predictive models and strategies for adaptation on sheep and goat systems







# **Outline:**

- 1. General overview of climate change (CC)
- 2. General effects of CC on sheep and goat systems
- 3. Regional implications and adaptation strategies
- 4. Development of methods/models to predict impact of climate change







# Impacts of climate change in the Mediterranean region



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#### A. Changes in temperature: Hotter

A. In the Mediterranean region, average annual temperatures are now approximately
 **1.5°C higher** than during the preindustrial period (1880-1899) and well above current global warming trends (+1.1°C) (MedECC, 2019)









#### A. Changes in temperature: Hotter

 In the Mediterranean region, without additional mitigation regional temperature increase will be 2.2°C in 2040 possibly exceeding 3.8°C in some regions in 2100 (MedECC, 2019)

Temperature change RCP4.5 in 2081-2100: June-August









#### A. Changes in temperature: Heat waves

• High temperature events and heat waves (periods of excessively hot weather) are likely to become more frequent and/or extreme (MedECC, 2019)

A third of the world now faces deadly heatwaves as result of climate change

Study shows risks have climbed steadily since 1980, and the number of people in danger will grow to 48% by 2100 even if emissions are drastically reduced



So heatwaves, our options are now between bid or temble," says the lead researcher behind the new study. Phonograph: Garard Adlands PhyCarty Images

Nearly a third of the world's population is now exposed to climatic conditions that produce deadly heatwaves, as the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere makes it "almost inevitable" that vast areas of the planet will face rising fatalities from high temperatures, new research has found.

Climate change has escalated the heatwave risk across the globe, the study states, with nearly helf of the world's consulation cat to suffer periods of deadly heat her



20 mai 2019 20100 Maroc

La vague de chaleur que connaît actuellement une bonne partie du Maroc va durer au moins jusqu'à dimanche, vient de prévenir la Direction de la météorologie nationale (DMN) dans un bulletin spécial.

II est zind question de températures dépassant les 40 degrés de jeud à dimanche. Le sera le ce par seemple à Assa-Zag, Sminin, Tela, Zagoio, Bén Metler, Chichaoua, Marrikech, Settat, Keleat-Sraghta, Equit Ben Salah, Yousoufia, Khouriga, Larache, Oueszane, Sidi Kacem, Sidi Silmane eu encore lamacterit.







#### **B.** Changes in rainfall patterns: Precipitation

• Climate models indicate a trend towards reduced rainfall in coming decades in the region of southern Europe/Mediterranean. For each degree of global warming, mean rainfall will likely decrease about 4% in much of the region (MedECC, 2019)









#### **B.** Changes in rainfall patterns: Droughts

• Frequency and intensity of droughts have already increased significantly in the Mediterranean since 1950 (MedECC, 2019)

#### 'Day zero' water crises: Spain, Morocco, India and Iraq at risk as reservoirs shrink

A new early warning satellite system reveals countries where shrinking reservoirs could lead to the taps completely drying up



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Al Massira reservesir; Morocco / Source: Al4SA/Landsat

The Guardian, 2017 iSAGE Workshop , 10-13 Dec 2019, Zaragoza, Spain





#### **Changes in rainfall patterns: Droughts** Β.

Frequency and intensity of droughts have already increased significantly in the Mediterranean since 1950 (MedECC, 2019)

#### Balada de auxilio de unas ovejas por la seguía

Un rebaño trashumante que no encuentra pastos en Extremadura pide asilo en Mad



ESTHER BANCHEZ Comunidad de Modrid - 23 NOV 2017 - 00-04 CET



La intensa seguía que padece España ha obligado al rebaño de 1.300 ovejas que

El País, 2017

La Comuniclad as

aludes en la sierr

APUNTATI



La Tribuna de Cuenca, 2017 iSAGE Workshop, 10-13 Dec 2019, Zaragoza, Spain







#### B. Changes in rainfall patterns: Heavy rainfall events

• Heavy rainfall events are likely to intensify by 10-20% in all seasons except for summer (MedECC, 2019)

#### Floods in Calabria, Italy

21 NOVEMBER: 2013 BY BICHARD DAVIES IN EUROPE

f # 8 @

As mentioned in our update report on the floods in Sardinia, other area of Italy have also been experiencing sever weather. One of the worst hit areas has been Calabria, in particularly around Catanzaro, Crotone and Vibo Valentia.



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Floods in the streets of Calabria, Italy. Photo: twitter.com/Ladymistakes1

#### Inondation au sud du Maroc : au moins 7 morts

Mercredi 28 Août 2019 modifié le Jeudi 29 Août 2019 - 09:59

La crue subite d'une rivière a fait au moins sept morts mercredi dans le village de Tizert, dans la région de Taroudant (sud du Maroc), a-t-on appris auprès des autorités locales.





Inondation au sud du Maroc : au mains 7 morts (Photo d'illustration)

Atlasinfo.fr, 2019

Floodlist.com, 2019

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#### **Other consequences:**

 Increased risk of fires due to drought and heat waves but also to changes in land management (MedECC, 2019)

#### Europe's extreme June heat clearly linked to climate change, research shows

Heatwaves that saw deadly forest fires in Portugal and soaring temperatures in England were made up to 10 times more likely by global warming, say scientists



Firefighters try to extinguish a forest wildfire in Colmeal in central Portugal on 21 June. Photograph: Francisco. Leong/AFP/Getty Images

Human-caused climate change dramatically increased the likelihood of the

The guardian, 2018

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#### **Other consequences:**

- Increased risk of fires due to drought and heat waves but also to changes in land management (MedECC, 2019)
- Increased **risk of erosion** due to couple effect of heavy rainfall events and fires





Panagos et al., 2015





#### **Other consequences:**

- Increased risk of fires due to drought and heat waves but also to changes in land management (MedECC, 2019)
- Increased risk of erosion due to couple effect of heavy rainfall events and fires
- **Desertification**: warming and drought is expected to increase aridity and subsequent desertification of many Mediterranean land ecosystems



Mural Resources Conservation Service, Plan Blou, Times Asias of the World

MedECC, 2019









# Solutions to face climate change:

## **Climate change mitigation and adaptation**









# General effects of climate change on sheep and goat systems













# Effects of climate change on forage production







 Increase in CO<sub>2</sub> may promote greater production in grasslands (10-20%).



**Figure I** Variability in the annual herbage dry matter (DM) yield response of temperate pastures to elevated  $CO_2$  (600–700 ppm) under optimal nutrient supply, displayed as ranges (whiskers), 25th percentile to the 75th percentile (boxes) and the median line. Created using 44 annual means from control and elevated  $CO_2$  treatments from Newton *et al.* (1994), Casella *et al.* (1996), Soussana *et al.* (1996), Hebeisen *et al.* (1997) and Schneider *et al.* (2004).

Lee et al., 2013



Fig. 2. Effect of doubled ambient CO<sub>2</sub> on above-ground biomass production plotted against above-ground biomass production at the current CO<sub>2</sub> concentration for different pasture and rangeland systems: (a) percentage effect; (b) absolute effect. Numbers refer to studies listed in Table 1: (1) M. Jones, unpublished; (3) Hebeisen et al. (1997); (5) Tuba et al. (1998); (6) Casella et al. (1996); (8) Newton et al. (1994), Clark et al. (1997); (13) J. Morgan, unpublished; (14) Owensby et al. (1999).

#### Campbell et al., 2010

#### bc<sup>3</sup> BASQUE CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANC Klima Addicta Rengai

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 Increase in CO<sub>2</sub> may promote greater production in grasslands (10-20%). Differences among plant functional groups.





Dellar et al, 2018





- Higher temperature (warming) tend to enhance plant growth.
   Beyond the optimum temperature, starts to decrease.
- Wheat (south), Ryegrass(north), Mountain regions implications



**Figure 3.1** The 'classical' responses of net photosynthesis of leaves (A) to temperature (cf. Larcher, 1969, 2003). (a) Typical response curves for a temperate plant species measured at different light



Körner et al., 2006





• Reduced water availability decrease production





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 Overall effect depends on complex interacting processes between CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature and water availability in the soilwater-plant system









 Overall effect depends on complex interacting processes between CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature and water availability in the soilwater-plant system







 Overall effect depends on complex interacting processes between CO<sub>2</sub>, temperature and water availability in the soilwater-plant system







# Effects of climate change at the animal level







#### -Heat stress: Animal thermoregulatory responses

- Physiological (sweating, panting)
- Hormonal (cortisol, thyroid gland activity)
- Behavioural (increase water intake, decrease feed intake)









#### -Heat stress: Animal thermoregulatory responses



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#### -Heat stress: Animal thermoregulatory responses



Heat stress effect on Respiration rate

Pardo et al. (in prep)



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-Heat stress: How to measure the heat load exposure?







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-Heat stress: How to measure the heat load exposure?

- Temperature?
- Temperature-humidity index (THI):

 $THI = (Tdb({}^{\text{o}}C) - ((0.55 - 0.55 \cdot RH) \cdot (Tdb({}^{\text{o}}C) - 14.4))$ 

Kelly and Bond 1959









-Heat stress: How to measure the heat load exposure? Temperature-humidity index (THI):

Temperature	% Relative Humidity																				
°C	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
21	17	18	18	18	18	18	18	19	19	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	21
22	18	18	18	18	19	19	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	21	22	22	22
23	18	19	19	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	23	23	23
24	19	19	19	20	20	20	20	21	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	23	23	23	23	24	24
25	19	19	20	20	20	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	23	23	23	24	24	24	24	25	25
26	20	20	20	21	21	21	22	22	22	22	23	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25	26	26
27	20	20	21	21	21	22	22	22	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25	26	26	26	27	27
28	21	21	21	22	22	22	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	25	26	26	27	27	27	28	28
29	21	21	22	22	23	23	23	24	24	25	25	25	26	26	27	27	27	28	28	29	29
30	21	22	22	23	23	24	24	24	25	25	26	26	27	27	27	28	28	29	29	30	30
31	22	22	23	23	24	24	25	25	26	26	26	27	27	28	28	29	29	30	30	31	31
32	22	23	23	24	24	25	25	26	26	27	27	28	28	29	29	30	30	31	31	32	32
33	23	23	24	24	25	25	26	26	27	27	28	28	29	29	30	30	31	31	32	32	33
34	23	24	24	25	25	26	26	27	28	28	29	29	30	30	31	31	32	32	33	33	34
35	24	24	25	25	26	27	27	28	28	29	29	30	30	31	32	32	33	33	34	34	35
36	24	25	25	26	26	27	28	28	29	29	30	31	31	32	32	33	34	34	35	35	36
37	25	25	26	26	27	28	28	29	30	30	31	31	32	33	33	34	35	35	36	36	37
38	25	26	26	27	28	28	29	30	30	31	32	32	33	33	34	35	35	36	37	37	38
39	25	26	27	27	28	29	30	30	31	32	32	33	34	34	35	36	36	37	38	38	39
40	26	27	27	28	29	29	30	31	32	32	33	34	34	35	36	36	37	38	39	39	40
41	26	27	28	29	29	30	31	31	32	33	34	34	35	36	37	37	38	39	40	40	41
42	27	28	28	29	30	31	31	32	33	34	34	35	36	37	37	38	39	40	40	41	42
43	27	28	29	30	30	31	32	33	34	34	35	36	37	37	38	39	40	41	41	42	43
44	28	29	29	30	31	32	33	33	34	35	36	37	37	38	39	40	41	42	42	43	44
45	28	29	30	31	32	32	33	34	35	36	37	37	38	39	40	.i4Ac	Ξ¢43Λ	1042k	sh <del>13</del> n	4 <b>4</b> 0	_145 [



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#### -Heat stress: How to measure the heat load exposure?

- Temperature?
- Temperature-humidity index (THI)
- Black globe temperature
- Other approaches: Temp, %RH, radiation, wind...









## -Productivity and product quality (milk+meat)

 Sheep and goat subject to heat stress often show reduction in feed intake and impaired productivity









## -Productivity and product quality (milk+meat)

- Sheep and goat subject to heat stress often show reduction in feed intake and impaired productivity: Meat
- Lamb impaired growth rate











## -Productivity and product quality (milk+meat)

- Sheep and goat subject to heat stress often show reduction in feed intake and impaired productivity: Meat
- Lamb impaired growth rate
- **Meat quality:** abnormal odour and taste, greater water holding capacity and susceptible to spoilage by microorganism











# -Productivity and product quality (milk+meat)

- Sheep and goat subject to heat stress often show reduction in feed intake and impaired productivity
- Reduction in milk yield (I/d)
- Milk quality: reduction of protein, total fat and fatty acid profile, reduction of coagulating properties









# Effects of CC on small ruminants: -Productivity and product quality (milk+meat)

• Depends on breed:

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# *Effects of CC on small ruminants: Reproduction*

- Heat stress affects negatively fertility:
  - Females: impacts ovarian function, duration of gestation, conception rate and birth weight of lambs.
  - Males: reduced quantity and quality of sperm, changes in sexual activity.





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Sejian et al., 2017



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# *Effects of CC on small ruminants: Animal health & welfare*

• Warmer conditions may increase the incidence of infectious diseases (gastrointestinal nematode, udder health)





Parasite life cycle. Illustration: Robert Armstrong, An Illustrated Guide to Sheep and Goat Production







# Regional implications and climate change adaptation strategies





# Regional implications for small ruminant production systems in Europe:

• Climate change impacts will vary among the different European sub-



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Figure - General trends of several climate variables for European sub-regions. Indices represent changes for 2071-2100 with respect to 1971-2000 based on RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 scenarios (Pardo et al 2017 based on Jacob et al, 2014).



# Regional implications for small ruminant production systems in Europe:

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FOR CLIMATE CHANGE Gima Aldaketa Ikengai

Climate influences distribution of vegetation and small ruminant systems across Europe



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# Regional impacts of climate change:

## E) Southern (Mediterranean) region

- Reduction in forage yields due to less rainfall and risk of drought projection
- Grazing season is expected to be shortened. Grazing activity will suffer from irregular patterns due to extreme events.
- Encroachment (increase of shrubs)
- Soil erosion and degradation
- Heat stress in animals: more frequency and length of heat waves







#### General adaptation strategies for forage production to face CC

- Increase pasture diversity:
  - to enhance resilience under variable climatic conditions
  - to adapt to potential shortages of protein sources (mixed legume-grass)
- Reduce tillage:
  - soil moisture conservation
  - long-term productivity (increase soil organic matter)
- Improved plant breeding (long-term):
  - developing varieties that can survive long drought periods and recover rapidly following autumn rains (e.g. tall fescue, cocksfoot and Lucerne varieties)







#### Adaptation measures: Flexible grazing and alternative feed resources:

- Crop residues: Post-harvest cereals, olive leaves
- Underutilized feedstuffs from agro-industry by-products
  - Olive cake
  - Citrus pulp
  - Tomato by-products
  - Other vegetables and fruits (e.g. cucumbers, pomegranate)









Adaptation measures: Flexible grazing and alternative feeds:

- Integrated approaches:
  - soil and water protection (cover crops)







Adaptation measures: Flexible grazing and alternative feeds:

- Integrated approaches:
  - soil and water protection (cover crops)
  - different feeds aligned to different seasonal constraints (agro-forestry)
    - In winter grass growth preferably beneath tree canopy
    - In early summer grasses dry later beneath canopy because the shelter/buffering effect of trees on temperature



#### Pasture under trees in winter











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Adaptation measures: Flexible grazing and alternative feeds:

- Integrated approaches:
  - soil and water protection (cover crops)
  - different feeds aligned to different seasonal constraints (agro-forestry)
  - fire-risk protection (grazing management)







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#### Adaptation measures to cope with heat stress:

- Prevention/mitigation of heat stress conditions

   Indoors: stock density, barn orientation/dimensions, ventilation, spraying
   Outdoors: provide protection with trees or artificial shelters
- Feeding/Nutritional management:

-shifting meals to late afternoon or evening, increasing number of meals -low fibre diets (decrease forage:concentrate), increase energy density, supplements (fat-rich feeds, whole flaxseed)











#### Adaptation measures to cope with heat stress:

Animal breeding:

-Breeds from tropical/arid areas are more resilient due to low body mass and metabolism: tend to minimize water and maintenance requirements -Artificial selection to increase milk yield has shown to reduce heat tolerance -Goats with loose skin, long legs, floppy ears tend to be most heat tolerant -Light coloured







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# Development of methods/models to predict impact of change





# Development of models to capture the impact of climate change on small ruminant systems:





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#### -Heat stress: Animal thermoregulatory responses

- Physiological (sweating, panting)
- Behavioural (increase water intake, decrease feed intake)
- Hormonal (cortisol, thyroid gland activity)









## Development of models on animal performance: Semi-mechanistic model:

Effect on energy requirements

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#### Development of models on animal performance: Semi-mechanistic model:



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Figure 14 - Estimated vs measured reduction (%) of FPCM of dairy small ruminants under heat stress (Datasets from Abdalla et al 1993; Hamzaoui et al 2014; Leibovich et al 2011)

0 -10 of dairy small ruminants Leibovich et al 2011) (Datasets from Ames and Brink, 19 200 150



Figure 15 – Estimated (line) vs measured average daily gain of growing lambs under heat stress (Datasets from Ames and Brink, 1977)



Figure 16 – Estimated vs measured average daily gain of growing lambs under heat stress (Datasets from Ames and Brink, 1977)

# Testing the modelling approach (lamb growth)



- Breed: rasa Aragonesa
- Location: Zaragoza (Spain) (June-July 2017)
- Effect of heat on Lamb growth (born in May)
- Period of study: from weaning (13.9 kg LW) to slaughter (22 kg LW)
- Number of ewes: 550, 650 lambs sold/yr (40% born in May)

#### Diet composition (wean to slaughter)

		GE	DE	ME
				MJ/kg
FEED	%	MJ/kg DM	MJ/kg DM	DM
Barley	33.6%	18.4	14.8	12.4
Maize	27.3%	18.7	16.1	13.6
Soybean Meal	23.6%	19.7	18.2	13.6
Wheat	6.4%	18.2	15.6	13.1
straw	9.0%	18.2	8	6.5



# *Effect of heat on Lamb growth & DM Intake*

Lamb growth reduction and DM intake (%)



450 g DM extra/lamb 228 kg extra concentrates



# Extremes (heat and cold wave)

Born in May (Heat stress)

Born in January (Cold stress)



# Testing the modelling approach (impact on milk& adaptation)



- Breed: Manchega (Spain)
- Effect of heat on milk productivity on Summer period
- Housed

#### **Diet composition**

FEED		GE	DE	ME
	%	MJ/kg DM	MJ/kg DM	MJ/kg DM
Alfalfa hay	90%	18.2	10.6	8.4
Corn	10%	18.7	16.1	13.6

#### 4 scenarios

- No HS
- HS (non-adapted)
- HS (adapted-diet)
- HS (Adapted-spraying)



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# *Effect of heat on milk production* & *DM intake*





#### HS (non-adapted)

Aprox. 13% reduction in milk, 0.12 kgDM extra/L milk

#### HS (adapt-diet)

More dense diet: more soybean meal Aprox. 2% reduction in milk,

#### HS (adapt-spraying)

Small positive effect, aprox. 10% reduction in milk







#### **Adaptation measures:**

• Mediterranean systems traditionally had to adapt





#### Impacts of climate change on sheep and goat systems



# Thank you!

#### **iSAGE Training Course**

10-13 December, Zaragoza, Spain

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