ResKuh - development of tools, diagnoses and recommendations for better herd management

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Background and Aim

Background:
• Livestock systems are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change:
  ✓ Significantly contribution to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), (i.e. CO₂, CH₄, NH₃).
  ✓ Concurrence with other production systems regarding the resource-use.

Aim:
✓ To enhance the resilience ("Res") of the dairy ("Kuh" in German) sector in the Upper Rhine region concerning resource management and farm sustainability.
✓ To optimize the pasture and water management besides the management of animal health, energy and GHG, taking into consideration the cultural landscape of the area.

The project: "Resource optimization and development of sustainable livestock systems in the Upper Rhine region," is a European project co-funded through Interreg.
Working Groups - Challenges

**Animal welfare**
- cows suffer from heat stress, with multi-layered negative effects (e.g. lower production)

**Pasture management**
- global warming with more intense and more frequent dry periods

**Energy management**
- farms need to lower their energy consumption as energy resources are limited and expensive

**Water management**
- low groundwater level
- increase of water shortage, especially on pasture

**Reduction of GHG emissions**
- new EU Climate Law aims for a net reduction of 55% compared to 1990 and climate neutrality by the middle of the century.
- livestock farming contributes to the global GHG emissions

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Expected Results

- Identification of tools to measure and analyze heat tolerance, resource efficiency, and environmental impact of dairy herds
- Development of methods, references & recommendations in the five working groups and research fields
- Fact sheets, advise and workshops for farmers to adapt dairy farm management regarding the challenges posed by climate change and resource availability
- Improve the sustainability of dairy farms in the Upper Rhine region across borders
Thank you for your attention!