



Approaches to innovation and research for the sustainability of sheep and goat production systems

Zaragoza (Spain), 21-23 May 2018

European and Mediterranean sheep and goat sectors are valuable because they produce goods from otherwise unused resources and deliver important environmental services. Sheep and goats are sometimes the main industry for many marginal rural areas supporting local communities and infrastructure. These sectors, however, are facing an uncertain future because of a general lack of competitiveness and attractiveness for new generations, due to poor technical and economic results and severe social and environmental challenges. Innovative solutions are needed to overcome these challenges to make sheep and goat industries more sustainable and profitable. These innovations need to improve production techniques, labour organisation, equipment and infrastructures and collective programmes for selection or health campaigns, as well as for the marketing of products.

The iSAGE 3-day Summer School will provide postgraduate students and early career scientists with an overview of main areas of research and innovation in sheep and goats in Europe, so as to widen their comprehension on the aspects in which science is contributing to the sustainability of the small ruminant sector. Lectures, open discussions with experts and industry stakeholders, and a field visit to a real example of an innovative production system will enrich their understanding on the actual stakes and challenges with which the sector is confronted and on how science and innovations can help the industry to cope with them.

Venue: Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ-CIHEAM) Zaragoza (Spain)

Dates: 21-23 May 2018

Registration deadline: 27 March 2018

Organisation

This course is organised by the H2020 project *Innovation for Sustainable Sheep and Goat Production in Europe* (iSAGE) through the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ-CIHEAM).

Target Audience

The Summer School is designed for **PhD and MSc students and early career scientists** from European and non-European Mediterranean countries. Participants should be involved in small ruminant research in different scientific disciplines (nutrition, genetics and breeding, physiology and reproduction, animal welfare, production systems, marketing, socio-economy...). The **number of students is limited to 30** so early registration is recommended. Candidates selection is aimed to ensure gender balance and geographical representation.



Practical information

Costs and accommodation

All participants in the iSAGE Summer School are exempt from registration fees.

Accommodation facilities are proposed in the Hall of Residence on the Aula Dei Campus (single room, half-board) for 29,65 €/night.

Other accommodation possibilities in the city of Zaragoza can be found on the website of the Summer School.

Registration

You are invited to submit your registration before **27 March 2018**.

Please register on our website:

<http://projects.iamz.ciheam.org/isagesummerschool/>

Acceptance at the Summer School includes course materials, field trip and lunches.

Financial support

Candidates from European and Mediterranean non-European countries may receive financial support for the cost of travel and/or full board accommodation in the Hall of Residence on the Aula Dei Campus.

Programme

- Introduction to sheep and goat livestock systems in Europe; challenges and opportunities.
- Defining and assessing sustainability in sheep and goat systems.
- Assessing markets, consumer needs and developing new products.
- Impact of climate change and development of methods/models to predict impact of change.
- Innovations in sheep and goats systems.
- Genetic approaches to improve sustainability and meet consumer needs.
- Participatory research to increase adoption of innovations for sheep and goats.
- Round table with stakeholders. Small ruminant productions systems in Europe.
- Field visit to a meat sheep production system in Aragon.

(The detailed programme will be published soon on the website)

For further information please visit our website:

<http://projects.iamz.ciheam.org/isagesummerschool/>

Or contact us at isage@iamz.ciheam.org or by phone at +34 976 716 000



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