

Feed-a-Gene



Newsletter #4

June 2019

Adapting the **feed**, the **animal** and the **feeding techniques** to improve the efficiency and sustainability of monogastric livestock production systems

Editorial

Dear readers,

We are proud to present the fourth newsletter of the Feed-a-Gene project funded through the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union. As our project is less than one year from its end, it has by now produced a large amount of results. This newsletter offers a comprehensive vision of the progress done during the last 12 months as it was presented during the 4th annual meeting held on 14-16 May 2019 in Budapest, Hungary.

The **final meeting of Feed-a-Gene** will take place in January 2020 in Rennes, France. This event will be the perfect opportunity for stakeholders to discover the results and technologies produced by Feed-a-Gene, and to be prepared to transform these outputs into working innovations. We certainly hope to see you in Rennes next year!

Jaap van Milgen (INRA)
Feed-a-Gene project coordinator



The Feed-a-Gene Project has received funding from the European Union's H2020 Programme under grant agreement no 633531



Fourth Feed-a-Gene Annual meeting

Budapest, Hungary



The fourth annual meeting of the Feed-a-Gene project took place on 14-16 May in Budapest, Hungary. It was organized by the staff of Kaposvár University, one of the project partners. The meeting was attended by 56 people.

The fourth annual meeting of the Feed-a-Gene programme was organized by Kaposvár University in Budapest. During this meeting, Feed-a-Gene partners presented the work done so far, shared their results and planned activities for the next year. All attendees appreciated the organization of the meeting by Veronika Halas and her team at Kaposvár University .

Feed-a-Gene project coordinator Jaap van Milgen and project manager Vincent Troillard would like to thank all the people at Kaposvár University who made this meeting possible and enjoyable.

A year of results

During the meeting, researchers presented 21 oral communications, more than twice the number presented in the last annual meeting. Feed-a-Gene has produced more than 150 publications, including 21 peer-reviewed papers, and public deliverables that are now available on-line. A progress report is provided in pages 6-12.

Feed-a-Gene is now entering its last year and all the work packages are producing results. Some of those results, such as precision feeding systems and decision support tools are in the demonstration phase and in some cases in the preindustrial phase.





Dr. Nicolas Friggens (INRA AgroParisTech) presented SmartCow (www.smartcow.eu), a H2020 European project (2018-2022) that integrates key European cattle research infrastructures to promote their use and development and thereby help the European cattle sector face the challenge of sustainable production. Covering all the relevant scientific fields and the diversity of cattle types and production systems, SmartCow will

provide the research communities with easy access to 11 major research infrastructures from 7 countries, in order to develop innovative and ethical solutions for efficient use of animal and feed resources that promote animal welfare and healthy livestock, as well as sustainable competitiveness.

Ontologies for livestock: a tool for knowledge sharing and phenotypic data exploitation

Linh Chi Nguyen and Catherine Hurtaud (INRA) presented the concept of ontology. An ontology is a formal way of representing knowledge in which concepts in a particular field of knowledge are described both by their meaning and their relationship to each other. Of particular interest for Feed-a-Gene is ATOL (Animal Trait Ontology for Livestock, www.atol-ontology.com), a multi-species and multi-disciplinary ontology of characteristics defining phenotypes of livestock in their environment that is developed and maintained by INRA.



From top to bottom, left to right:



- ▶ Galina Dukhta (KU)
- ▶ Jaap van Milgen (INRA)
- ▶ H el ene Gilbert (INRA)
- ▶ Sandrine Espagnol (IFIP)
- ▶ Jes us Pomar (UdL)
- ▶ Veronika Halas (KU)
- ▶ Feed-a-Gene Annual meeting in Budapest



Linh Chi Nguyen and Catherine Hurtaud (INRA)



Joint Feed-a-Gene/SAPHIR stakeholder sessions

Three joint Feed-a-Gene/SAPHIR meetings took place in 2018. Those meetings were an occasion for researchers and stakeholders working in animal genetics, nutrition and health to discuss and share perspectives.

Multidisciplinary approaches for improving sustainable livestock production

This stakeholder session was held on 30 August 2018 at the EAAP annual meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Its objective was to address and discuss the challenges and opportunities in multidisciplinary research in livestock production. As there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution, how can different actors and stakeholders make collectively best use of disciplinary knowledge and levers to make livestock production more sustainable? This session was attended by about 150 people. It featured 18 communications and two discussion panels, one about research needs and one about stakeholders needs. The videos of the Feed-a-Gene communications and of the panel discussions can be watched on the [Feed-a-Gene’s YouTube channel](#).

Millions of data! Too many or too few for livestock farms of tomorrow

This stakeholder session was held in French on 11 September 2018 in Rennes, France, during the SPACE Agricultural Trade Show. Attended by 100 people, most of them French stakeholders, it featured 5 communications by INRA researchers. Its objective was to discuss the use of “big data” to improve animal performance and animal health in livestock farms. The presentations are available on the [Feed-a-Gene website](#).

Novel tools for healthier and efficient livestock: from research to application

This stakeholder session was held on 14 October 2018 in Hanover, Germany, during the EuroTier Trade Show. It featured 8 communications and a plenary session. The videos of the communications by K. E. Bach Knudsen (Aarhus University), A. Jansman (WUR), and V. Heuzé (AFZ) can be watched on the [Feed-a-Gene’s YouTube channel](#).



- ▶ EAAP: Jaap van Milgen and Marie-Hélène Pinard-van der Laan (INRA)
- ▶ EAAP: Camille Bellet (U. Liverpool), Marianne Cerf (INRA), Claire Rogel-Gaillard (INRA), Dominiek Maas (U. Ghent), Hieu Nguyen Ba (INRA), Mathilde Le Sciellour (INRA)
- ▶ SPACE: stakeholder session
- ▶ EuroTier: Feed-a-Gene / SAPHIR booth

Other sessions

FeedUtiliGene: a Decision Support System for monogastric production systems

FeedUtiliGene was presented during a demonstration (11 October 2018, Budapest). It integrates different models for pigs and poultry:

- ▶ Digestion, digestibility of nutrients in feeds ingredients and diets
- ▶ Metabolic utilization and partitioning of nutrients
- ▶ Robustness of animals as a response to perturbations
- ▶ Individual variation

Technical session on feed efficiency in rabbit production

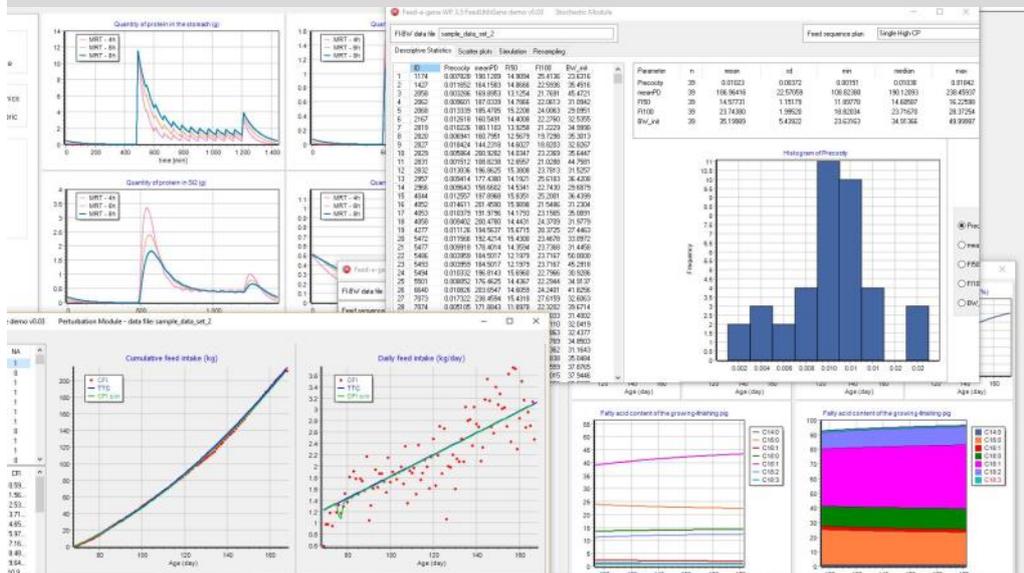
This session organised by IRTA (10 October 2018, Caldes de Montbui, Spain), aimed to inform and discuss the factors that affect feed efficiency, its economic importance, the mechanisms for its estimation and the advances made for its improvement. The audience consisted of Spanish rabbit farmers and extension services.

Precision feeding for growing pigs: how does it work?

During the SPACE trade show (10-13 September 2018, Rennes, France), INRA researchers presented the system of precision feeding for growing pigs developed by Feed-a-Gene. [A video made by INRA and IFIP](#) was shown on the INRA booth.



During the FeedUtiliGene demonstration, participants were able to install and test a preliminary version of the software and to interact with the researchers responsible for the creation of the biological models and of the software. FeedUtiliGene is available upon request at: halas.veronika@ke.hu



Screenshots of FeedUtiliGene

Progress reports for the Feed-a-Gene project

Alternative feed ingredients and real-time characterisation (WP1)

WP leader: Knud Erik Bach Knudsen,
knuderik.bachknudsen@anis.au.dk

Production of novel feed protein from rapeseed and European grown soybeans

- ▶ A novel process for rapeseed meal improved detoxification and increased protein content from 44 to 53-57% of DM. Compared to a conventional process, desolventizing required similar energy but was less damaging to proteins.

Production of novel feed protein from green biomass

- ▶ In 2016-2017, the protein content of green biomass produced was lower

than that of soybean meal, due to high ash content and inefficient protein precipitation.

- ▶ In 2017-2018, a better harvesting procedure and precipitation by heat rather than by fermentation increased protein concentration and quality.
- ▶ *In vitro* protein digestion of green biomass was comparable to or higher than that of soybean meal.
- ▶ Enzyme treatment during protein extraction enhanced hydrolysis in ryegrass and red clover.

Novel feed-processing technology to upgrade alternative feed ingredients

- ▶ The fine fraction of rapeseed meal resulting from fractionation was significantly richer in protein and contained less dietary fibre.
- ▶ No over-processing occurred during fractionation.

Nutritional evaluation of novel feed ingredients

- ▶ In pigs, European soybean meals obtained by extrusion-pressing or flaking-cooking-pressing without dehulling have a higher standardized ileal digestibility (SID) of amino acids than a high-quality commercial meal.
- ▶ When using non-dehulled beans, SID of amino acids and protein is lower than for the control soybean meal, which may be attributed to a relatively high trypsin inhibitor activity.
- ▶ SID of green protein materials (rye grass, red clover and lucerne) was lower than that of soybean meal. The protein concentration and digestibility of protein needs to be improved to make it an attractive alternative source of protein for pigs.
- ▶ The fine fraction of rapeseed meal resulting from fractionation had higher energy and nutrient digestibilities and resulted in a significantly higher performance (daily weight gain, feed conversion ratio) without affecting the feed intake.
- ▶ The net energy of several protein sources (corn germ meal, corn gluten feed, solvent-extracted peanut meal, dehulled sunflower meal, soybean meal, expeller-pressed rapeseed meal, solvent-extracted rapeseed meal, canola meal, cottonseed meal) was determined by indirect calorimetry.



Green protein (AU)

Improvements in nutritive value by use of novel enzymes

- ▶ In broilers, inclusion of rapeseed meal reduced performance during the growing period only. There were no effects of enzyme supplementation on performance or on digesta viscosity. Inclusion of proteases and NSPases resulted in lower DM digestibility at the end of the grower phase.
- ▶ In pigs, xylanase supplementation improved daily weight gain and feed intake, and increased nutrient and energy digestibilities. It increased the acetic acid concentration in the ileum and the caecum and decreased the concentration of the lactate, iso-butyric acid and n-pentanoic acid in the colon.

New methodologies for characterisation of nutrient composition and value

- ▶ Predictive calibrations for amino acids and protein have been tested for 791 feed samples. NIR predictions of amino acids are better than estimates from protein regression. Feed mixtures are the more difficult group to predict. Models offer good accuracy and are valid for a large range of sample types.
- ▶ Predictive models for *in vivo* and *in vitro* digestibilities have been developed and tested. For the digestibility of energy, the NIR

prediction was better than a commonly used *in vitro* method.

- ▶ Processing of green protein and rapeseed meal affected the rate and/or maximum degree of protein hydrolysis but no substantial damage on lysine was observed.

Identification of feed efficiency traits related to individual diversity (WP2)

WP leader: Alfons Jansman
alfons.jansman@wur.nl

Individual feed intake and feeding behaviour in broilers and rabbits - New phenotypes to improve feed efficiency

- ▶ Data of body weight and feed intake of broilers at each visit of birds to the feeding station were collected. The algorithm of calculation of individual feed intake per visit has been established and is currently being adjusted.
- ▶ For rabbits, a device has been developed to measure individual feed intake in collective cages and is in use in further research. Traits related to feed efficiency are being studied and explored in relation to feeding behaviour.



Broiler feeding station (INRA)

New traits and technologies for measuring and improving digestive efficiency and gut health in pigs, poultry and rabbits

- ▶ In piglets, dietary organic acids and essential oils could improve the gastrointestinal environment, including nutrient digestion, microbiota composition, and activity of digestive enzymes.
- ▶ In pigs, predictions of OM, DM, N and energy digestibilities from faecal NIRS spectra were excellent (R^2 from 86 to 90%).
- ▶ In pigs, 16S rRNA microbiota information failed to predict feed efficiency.
- ▶ In rabbits, caecal microbiota explains part of the phenotypic variance of performance traits, but prediction of animal performance did not improve when microbial data were included in the model.

Nutrient metabolism related traits to improve feed efficiency

- ▶ In pigs, birthweight and protein deposition potential both affected absolute retention of body protein in the grower phase. N efficiency is however only influenced by protein



Coarse (left) and fine (right) fractions of rapeseed meal (Bühler)

deposition potential, not by birthweight.

- ▶ Young pigs with a better performance and digestive efficiency had a lower protein turnover and lower fat incorporation rates compared to older pigs. Rates of both protein and fat differed between genotypes and seemed to depend on the dietary condition.
- ▶ Pigs with a higher growth performance had a lower amino acid turnover and less fat deposition in muscle and liver. Dietary protein level altered fat metabolism.
- ▶ Individuals with a low feed efficiency had a different fermentation profile, lower microbiota biodiversity, and showed an increase of *Bacteroidetes* and a higher *Bacteroidetes / Firmicutes* ratio.
- ▶ In piglets, predictive biomarkers for digestive efficiency (fermentation metabolites, diversity index in the caecal ecosystem, specific microbiota taxa) all correlated negatively with high digestive efficiency.

Behaviour and welfare related traits influencing feed efficiency

- ▶ Results point to a relatively low correlation between behavioural data and feed efficiency traits.
- ▶ Video recording associated to deep learning was able to track individual pigs in group-housed systems with good precision. 3D cameras could obtain reliable estimates of sitting/standing behaviour.

Metabolomics to identify new traits for improvement of feed efficiency

- ▶ In pigs, urine analysis made it possible to discriminate between dietary protein regimes and between breeding value for protein deposition. Several metabolites were responsible for the separation of low and high protein deposition.
- ▶ In chickens, the ileal, caecal, and serum metabolome explained a large part of the variability of digestive efficiency. Absorbance of serum at 492 nm is strongly correlated to digestive efficiency.
- ▶ In pigs, blood biomarkers measured at an early stage were good indicators of feed efficiency.

Modelling feed use mechanisms and animal response to nutrient supply and environmental challenges (WP3)

WP leader: Veronika Halas
veronika.halas@ke.hu

Digestive utilisation of feed and nutrients

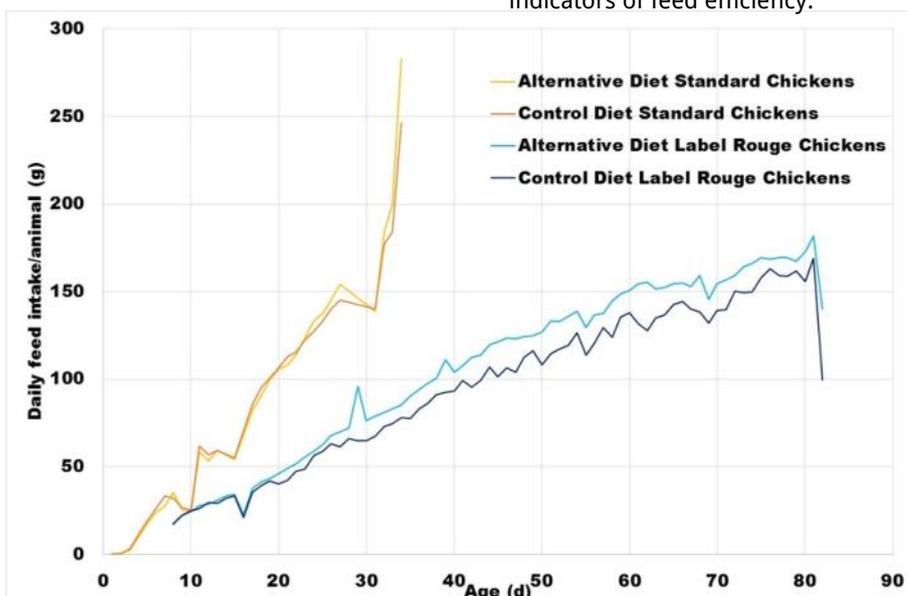
- ▶ The digestive model now integrates a more detailed representation of the mechanisms of phosphorus and calcium digestibility, and is being included in the model developed in MATLAB.

Metabolic utilisation of feed and nutrients

- ▶ The pig model is able to design daily tailored feeds for precision feeding.
- ▶ The broiler model was used to evaluate different feeding strategies.
- ▶ The first version of the layer model predicts the effect of the digestible nutrient supply, including energy, amino acids, Ca and P, on egg production, and it estimates the SID amino acid, digestible Ca and P requirement of laying hens.

Accounting for environmental variability, system disturbance and robustness

- ▶ Applying the perturbation model to mycotoxin data indicate that the procedure can detect precisely the period when pigs were perturbed by mycotoxins.



Age vs. daily feed intake in standard and Label Rouge broilers fed standard or alternative diets (INRA)

Accounting for variation among individuals in nutrient digestion and metabolism processes

- ▶ A new modelling approach for characterising variability in egg production and sow reproductive performance was developed and tested. A general method was developed to relate feed intake and body weight and efficiency of feed utilisation over time using any specified time resolution.

Delivery of a Decision Support Tool

- ▶ A version of the FeedUtiliGene Decision Support Software (DSS) containing all models has been completed.
- ▶ This version was demonstrated during a dedicated workshop and was positively evaluated by the participants.

Management systems for precision feeding to increase resilience to fluctuating environments (WP4)

WP leader: Jesús Pomar
pomar@eagrof.udl.es

Building and validation of precision feeding system prototypes

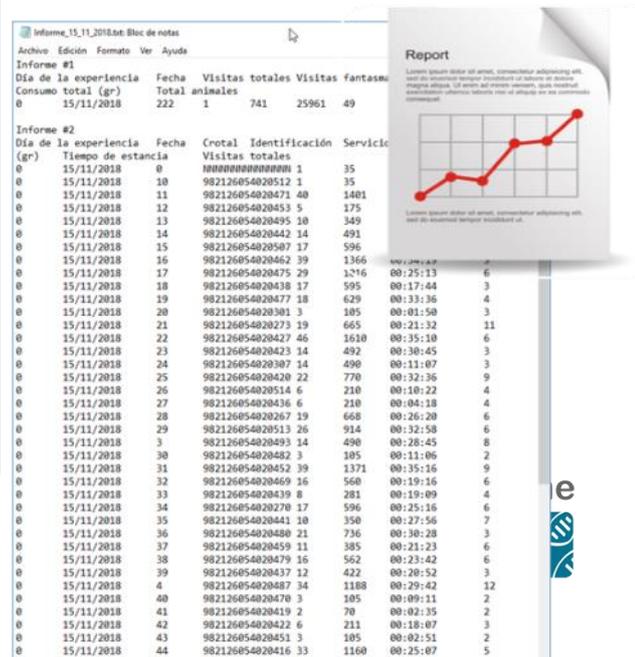
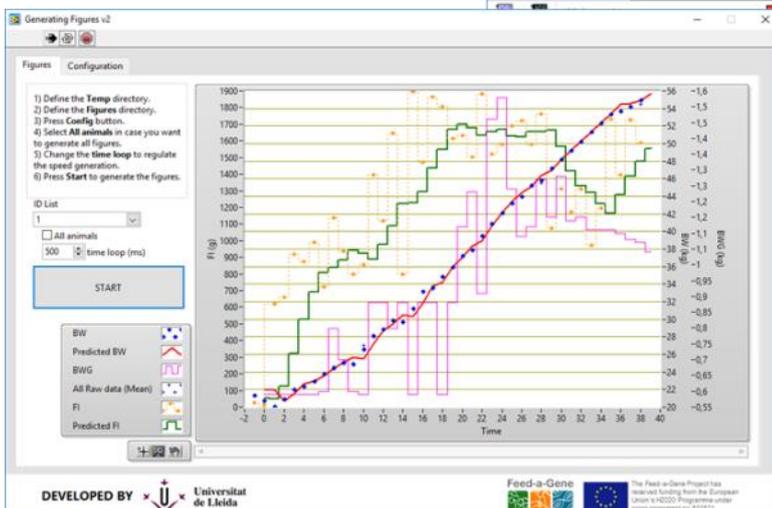
- ▶ For growing pigs, the functional integration of the precision feeders and DSS was accomplished and some improvements were proposed.
- ▶ The pre-commercial precision feeding system was delivered for demonstration purposes at a commercial farm in Italy and for validation purposes at WUR.

- ▶ The DSS was able to calculate the daily formulation for each animal in the farm. Preliminary results suggest that low birthweight pigs may benefit from precision feeding.
- ▶ In broilers, experimental results were used to validate the DSS (performance, body composition).
- ▶ A first model to estimate daily nutritional requirement for energy, proteins, calcium, and phosphorus in laying hens is now available.

Demonstration activities

- ▶ A precision feeding system for growing pigs fed *ad libitum* has been developed and installed in a commercial pig farm in the Parma region. The software prototype integrates the controlling module, data management, and the DSS.
- ▶ A room equipped with a precision feeder prototype for growing pigs under restricted feeding is ready in the IFIP facilities for demonstration purposes.

Screenshots of the precision feeding system developed for growing pigs (INRA, UdL, IFIP, Exafan, Gran Suino, WUR)





Installation of the precision feeding system in a farm in Parma

Use of new traits in animal selection (WP5)

WP leader: H el ene Gilbert
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Genetics of components of feed efficiency and robustness indicators

- ▶ New traits for feed efficiency in growing animals (individual feed records, digestive efficiency, haematological measurements, serum absorbance) have moderate to high heritabilities and can be used for selection.
- ▶ In sows, feeding records had different heritabilities depending on the breed, and certainly on animal management.
- ▶ Differentially expressed genes after a challenge depended on the line of pigs, whereas genes were similar in layer lines.

Genetic relationships between the gut microbiota and feed efficiency

- ▶ Significant chromosomal regions were identified for individual growth, feed intake, and feed efficiency.

- ▶ The heritability estimates and significant signals detected for microbiota OTUs in pigs and rabbits validated a host control of fractions of the gut microbiota in rabbits, suggesting possible selection of some OTU abundance.

Statistical-genetic modelling of feed efficiency and robustness features

- ▶ Group measurements of feed efficiency were genetically uncorrelated with production traits. Response to selection on longitudinal ADG using indirect genetic effects showed different dynamics with time.
- ▶ Multitrait double hierarchical generalized linear models analyses suggested the existence of global robustness across traits. Prediction accuracies and biases were low for longitudinal records.

Selection strategies to account for crossbred and genomic data for a sustainable selection for feed efficiency

- ▶ When selection was placed on FCR itself, it decreased by 7.1%, from 2.52 to 2.34 (kg/kg). Other traits that reduced FCR were: dry matter digestibility, daily feed intake,

average daily gain, eating time per day, nitrogen excreted, group daily feed intake, lesion counts, *Alloprevotella*, joint lesions, and growth rate with social effect.

Demonstration of the value of social interactions and crossbred information in selection to improve feed efficiency

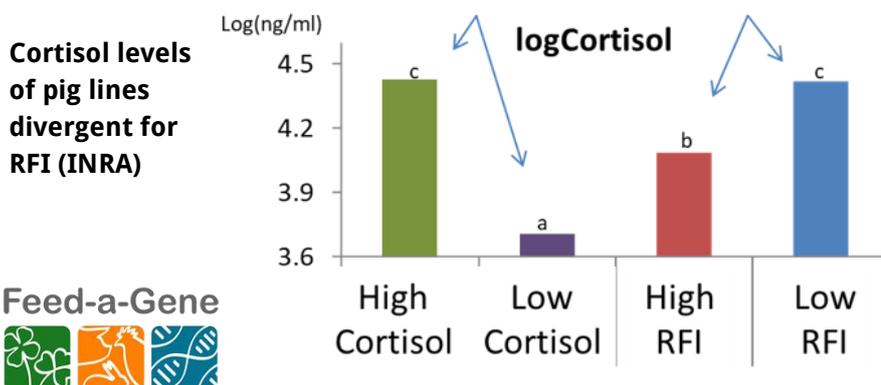
- ▶ In pigs, breeding values for indirect genetic effects (social effects) have been accumulated for testing their relationships with feed efficiency and behaviour.
- ▶ In rabbits, promising heritability estimations were obtained, but it is too early to conclude about the response to selection.

Sustainability assessment of production systems (WP6)

WP leader: Guy Garrod
guy.garrod@newcastle.ac.uk

Life Cycle Assessment of proposed management systems

- ▶ Two innovative feeding strategies were assessed: (1) the use of new European protein sources to replace Brazilian soybean meal associated with deforestation and (2) individual precision feeding strategies.
- ▶ Different formulation scenarios were defined to estimate the potential of using innovative feed



ingredients to reduce the environmental impact of pig and broiler production.

- ▶ Feed formulation was carried out for all scenarios in conventional pigs using four price contexts in France, Netherlands, Germany, and Spain.
- ▶ 14 scenarios for broiler production were investigated. LCA for those scenarios was conducted.

On-farm evaluation of proposed management systems

- ▶ Preliminary results of baseline analysis for pig growing/finishing production have been obtained.

Evaluation of consumer and farmer attitudes

- ▶ A survey was designed to estimate values associated with the externality attributes of animal products, and to investigate the consumer acceptability of feed technologies. The survey was undertaken in the UK and Spain.
- ▶ An interview schedule was designed to investigate the attitudes of farmers in the UK and Spain to the introduction of novel feeding strategies.

Dissemination, training and technology transfer (WP7)

Stakeholder events

In addition to the 3 joint Feed-a-Gene/SAPHIR meetings described previously, 3 other events were organized:

- ▶ Hands-on demonstration of the FeedUtiliGene DSS (Budapest, Hungary).
- ▶ Demonstration of the precision feeding system for growing pigs (SPACE, Rennes, France).
- ▶ Stakeholder workshop on feed efficiency in rabbits (Caldes de Montbui, Spain).

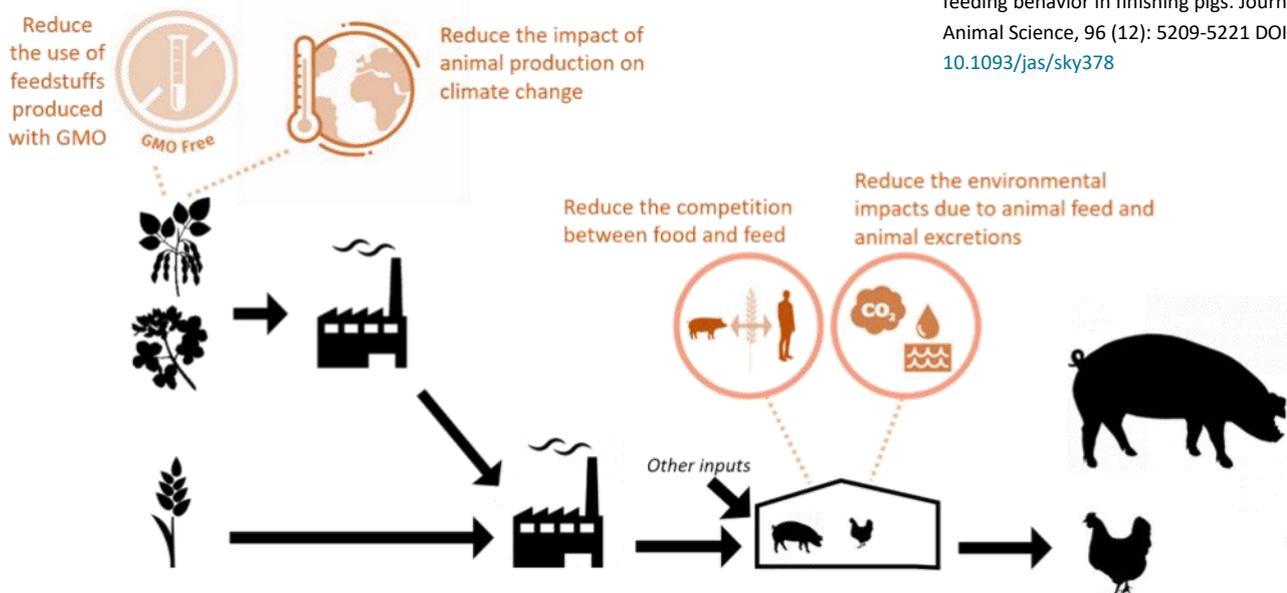
Other events

- ▶ Researchers participated in many other international and national events, including EPC (Croatia), JRP (France), Feed Additive Global (Netherlands), PSA Latin America (Brazil), PAGC (USA), ASESCU (Spain), Animal Microbiome Congress (Paris), PREGA (Hungary), DPC (Australia), AASV (Australia)

Publications

Feed-a-Gene researchers have made more than 150 publications, including 21 peer-reviewed papers. Here are the 14 papers published since May 2018.

- ▶ Formoso-Raferty N., Cervantes I., Sánchez J.P., Gutiérrez J.P., Bodin L., 2019. Effect of feed restriction on the environmental variability of birth weight in divergently selected lines of mice. *Genetics Selection Evolution*, 51: 27 DOI: [10.1186/s12711-019-0471-9](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12711-019-0471-9)
- ▶ Tusell L., Gilbert H., Vitezica Z.G., Mercat M.J., Legarra A., Larzul C., 2019. Dissecting total genetic variance into additive and dominance components of purebred and crossbred pig traits. *Journal of Animal Science*, 23 May 2019 DOI: [10.1017/S1751731119001046](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1751731119001046)
- ▶ Piles M., Sánchez J.P., 2018. Using group records of feed intake to select for feed efficiency in rabbit. *Journal of Animal Breeding and Genetics* DOI: [10.1111/jbg.12395](https://doi.org/10.1111/jbg.12395)
- ▶ Garreau H., Ruesche J., Gilbert H., Balmisse E., Benitez F., Richard F., David I., Drouilhet L., Zemb O., 2018. Estimating direct genetic and maternal effects affecting rabbit growth and feed efficiency with a factorial design. *Journal of Animal Breeding and Genetics*, 2019, 00:1-6 DOI: [10.1111/jbg.12380](https://doi.org/10.1111/jbg.12380)
- ▶ Dukhta G., van Milgen J., Kövér G., Halas V., 2018. A growth model to predict body weight and body composition of broilers. *Acta Agraria Debreceniensis*, 75: 17-24
- ▶ Serviento A.M., Brossard L., Renaudeau D., 2018. An acute challenge with a deoxynivalenol-contaminated diet has short- and long-term effects on performance and feeding behavior in finishing pigs. *Journal of Animal Science*, 96 (12): 5209-5221 DOI: [10.1093/jas/sky378](https://doi.org/10.1093/jas/sky378)



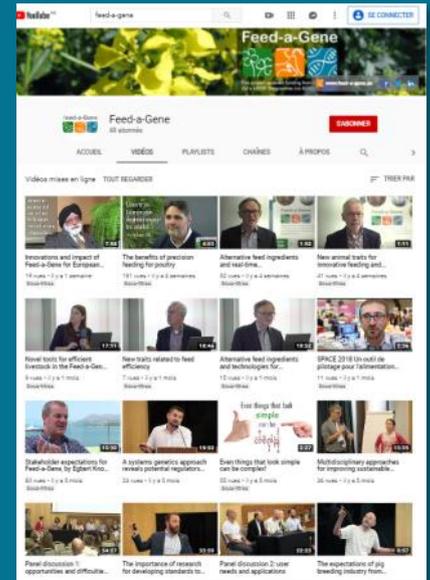
Environmental challenges addressed in Feed-a-Gene

- Van Grevenhof E.M., Vandenplas J., Calus M.P.L., 2018. Genomic prediction for crossbred performance using metafounders. *Journal of Animal Science* DOI: [10.1093/jas/sky433](https://doi.org/10.1093/jas/sky433)
- Seradj A. R., Balcells J., Morazan H., Alvarez-Rodriguez J., Babot D., De la Fuente G., 2018. The impact of reducing dietary crude protein and increasing total dietary fiber on hindgut fermentation, the methanogen community and gas emission in growing pigs. *Animal Feed Science and Technology*, 245: 54-66 DOI: [10.1016/j.anifeedsci.2018.09.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anifeedsci.2018.09.005)
- Le Sciellour M., Labussière E., Zemb O., Renaudeau D., 2018. Effect of dietary fiber content on nutrient digestibility and fecal microbiota composition in growing-finishing pigs. *PLOS One*, 13 (10): e0206159 DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0206159](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0206159)
- Beauclercq S., Lefèvre A., Nadal-Desbarats L., Germain K., Praud C., Emond P., Le Bihan-Duval E., Mignon-Grasteau S., 2018. Does lipidomic serum analysis help in the assessment of digestive efficiency in chickens?. *Poultry Science*, 16 October 2018 DOI: [10.3382/ps/pey483](https://doi.org/10.3382/ps/pey483)
- Velasco-Galilea M., Piles M., Viñas M., Rafel O., González-Rodríguez O., Guivernau M., Sánchez, J.P., 2018. Rabbit microbiota changes throughout the intestinal tract. *Frontiers in Microbiology*, 13 September 2018 DOI: [10.3389/fmicb.2018.02144](https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2018.02144)
- Tallentire C.W., Mackenzie S.G., Kyriazakis, I., 2018. Can novel ingredients replace soybeans and reduce the environmental burdens of European livestock systems in the future?. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 187: 338-347 DOI: [10.1016/j.jclepro.2018.03.212](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2018.03.212)
- Ragab M., Piles M., Quintanilla R., Sánchez J.P., 2018. Indirect genetic effect model using feeding behaviour traits to define the degree of interaction between mates: an implementation in pigs growth rate. *Animal*, 12 (7): 1-9 DOI: [10.1017/S1751731118001192](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1751731118001192)
- David I., Sánchez J.P., Piles M., 2018. Longitudinal analysis of direct and indirect effects on the average daily gain in growing rabbits using a structured antedependence model. *Genetics Selection Evolution*, 50: 25 DOI: [10.1186/s12711-018-0395-9](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12711-018-0395-9)



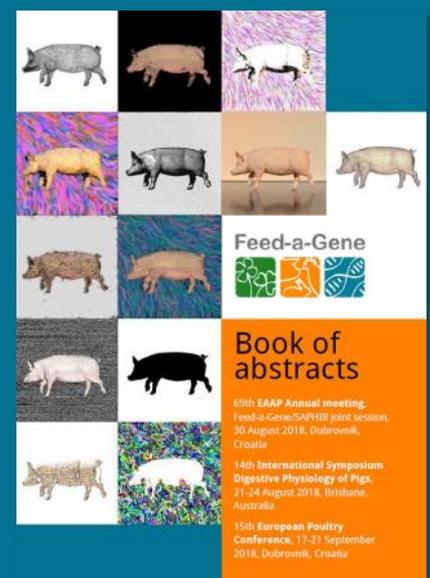
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SAB recommendations: focus on reaching stakeholders and policy makers

The stakeholder advisory board (SAB) praised the project for its management, the positive attitude of its research teams and its promising results.

- ▶ Its main recommendation is to focus on creating and delivering communication material that will integrate seamlessly the results of the different work packages. The messages should be tailored to specific groups of stakeholders.
- ▶ For stakeholders including farmers and industry: factsheets, practice abstracts, articles for trade magazines, webinars, press releases.
- ▶ For policy makers: policy briefs. Some policy briefs could focus on recommendations for follow-up activities (Innovation Actions) and research projects (Research and Innovation Actions, FP9).

SAB members: Jan Venneman (EFFAB), Harinder Makkar



Upcoming conferences

Feed-a-Gene researchers will present communications in the following conferences in 2019.

ISAG 2019

37th International Society for Animal Genetics Conference, 7-12 July 2019, Lleida, Spain

ASAS-CSAS 2019

Annual meeting & Trade show, 8-11 July 2019, Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas, USA

70th EAAP Annual meeting

70th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science, 26-30 August 2019, Ghent, Belgium



ISEP 2019

6th International Symposium on Energy and Protein Metabolism and Nutrition, 9-12 September 2019, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil

MODNUT 2019

9th Workshop on Modelling Nutrient Digestion and Utilization in Farm Animals, 14-16 September 2019, Ubatuba, Brazil

WIANF

3rd World Conference on Innovative Animal Nutrition and Feeding, 9-11 October 2019, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary

ESPG 2019

11th European symposium on Poultry Genetics, 23-25 October 2019, Prague, Czech Republic

AAABG 2019

Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics, 27 October - 1 November 2019, University of New England, Armidale, NSW, Australia

Future Feed-a-Gene events

- ▶ On-farm demonstration of precision feeding for pigs: open days for farmers and extension services, Mid-2019, Parma region, Italy
- ▶ Protein autonomy, more and better: presentation of new feeds and feed processing technologies, October 2019, FEFAC annual meeting, Denmark
- ▶ Meeting with policy makers, 6th November 2019, Brussels, Belgium, Animal Task Force meeting

Feed-a-Gene final meeting January 2020, Rennes, France

During this event, stakeholders will be able to interact with Feed-a-Gene researchers

- ▶ Presentation of the results and technologies developed through the Feed-a-Gene programme
- ▶ Live demonstrations: decision support tools, precision feeders
- ▶ Workshops: "From Feed-a-Gene results to innovation" on applicability and exploitation of Feed-a-Gene results

Registration will be open soon!



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Photo credits

Pages 1: Patrick Carré (OLEAD). 2-5: Gilles Tran (AFZ) & Valérie Heuzé (AFZ). 6: Helle Nygaard Lærke (AU). 7: INRA Tours; Bülher. 10: Exafan. 13: Gilles Tran (AFZ). 14: Edouard Hue; Valérie Heuzé (AFZ)

Conception and design

Association française de zootechnie

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