

# Development of a Regional Master Programme in Pig Production and Food Security in Caribbean Countries



Visit to a pilot slaughterhouse in Spain.

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

October 2013 – October 2016

## CONSORTIUM

- Universitat de Girona, Spain
- Universität Leipzig, Germany
- Universidad ISA (Instituto Superior de Agricultura), Dominican Republic
- Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña, Dominican Republic
- Universidad Central "Marta Abreu" de las Villas, Cuba
- Université Chrétienne du Nord d'Haiti, Haiti

## PROJECT CONTACT

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## PROJECT WEBSITE

[www.udg.edu/edulinkII/](http://www.udg.edu/edulinkII/)

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A Master course on pig production and food safety has been approved at Universidad ISA (Dominican Republic) and Universidad Central "Marta Abreu" de las Villas (Cuba). Qualifications of academic staff have been upgraded and capacity building for administrative managers has been achieved ensuring a quality programme and a new generation of experts in production and food security domains.

## BACKGROUND

Swine production in the Caribbean is concentrated mainly on small producers utilising backyard production systems with few commercial or technically advanced farms.

In the Dominican Republic, production is facing serious environmental challenges, high production costs and health management challenges. In Cuba, swine production is increasing as a meat source and thus both training and educational programmes are needed to increase knowledge of swine production systems. In Haiti, food security is a major challenge and there is a need to train more professionals competent in livestock production systems.

The project aimed to introduce an interdisciplinary master degree programme in pig production and food safety in the partner Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti and establish close cooperation with the national legal authorities to enhance the quality of education in food security related programmes. The aim of the partner HEIs is to become competent in pig production systems in accordance with EU and international standards and facilitate the mobility of staff and students.

## METHODOLOGY

### SWOT Analysis

Comprehensive analysis of current academic offerings in both Caribbean and EU countries in the field of animal production, livestock and food.

### Training courses

Definition and programming of training courses for teachers and tutors and for academic and administrative managers. Training courses in pig aspects such as health, nutrition, reproduction, welfare, environmental management and also food safety.

### Academic and administrative management

Capacity building for academic and administrative management through provision of manuals based on European administrative management.

### Continuous education courses

Capacity building for continuing education providers. Training in production systems and pig diseases. Development of continuing education modules for external students and stakeholders in the areas of food safety and swine production.

### Curricula development

Development of the Master Programme, including academic planning, learning methodologies, competencies and skills definition and continuous assessment systems.

### Implementation of the Master

Piloting the course in Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

### Dissemination

Necessary to attract students and to ensure the sustainability of the Master Programme, including the development of a web portal, distribution of brochures and media coverage.

### Administrative unit

Inter-university administrative office where companies may announce graduate jobs.

## RESULTS

### → Outputs

#### Capacity building

- 25 academic staff trained in curricula development and management.
- 11 academic staff achieved upgraded qualifications in competence-based curricula development in higher education.
- 2 MSc programmes developed and approved (Cuba and Dominican Republic).
- 12 technical staff trained in aspects of livestock and food safety.
- 4 technical staff achieved upgraded qualifications in managing pig production systems more efficiently.

#### Networking

- Cooperation between universities and livestock sectors has been established.

#### Documents

- Manual entitled 'WP4: Capacity building for ACP management, administration, students and companies' exemplifying European legislation.
- 27 lectures related to nutrition (6), health (6), reproduction (6), animal welfare (3), production systems (3), food safety (2) and environmental management (1).

#### Website

- 1 web portal.

#### Publications

- 2 scientific articles.

#### Visibility

- Participation in AGROCENTRO conference focused on the food sector.

### ↑ Outcomes

- HEIs in Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti able to develop a master programme by adapting the European model.
- Knowledge is acquired in the efficiency, management and development of the food and pig production sectors.

### 🎯 Impacts

#### Usage

- New generation of better-prepared, graduated students will improve the efficiency of the sector.
- Mobility is encouraged when the background and expertise of students are increased. Mobility will expose staff to skills and innovative tools and techniques and will enable them to disseminate their research.
- New networks between Caribbean and European universities will improve and increase the access to PhD studies.
- Better relationships between universities and the private sector will offer more opportunities within the livestock sector.

#### Policy Implications

- Students graduating from the courses will contribute to the livestock and food sectors, which will contribute to the improvement of the efficiency and management of the pig production sector.
- The exchange of information will enable the adaptation, improvement and possible harmonisation of policy and legislation related to the sector within the Caribbean region.

#### Sustainability

- In the Dominican Republic, the Master syllabus should be submitted to the Ministry for accreditation, which will then rely on

the enrolment of a sufficient number of students to sustain the course financially. In contrast, in Cuba once the government approves a Master course, it commits funding.



Launch of master programme at Universidad ISA.

## TESTIMONIAL



**Fausto Solis de los Santos,**  
Professor and researcher,  
Universidad ISA,  
Dominican Republic

"This programme is very relevant for our countries, and specifically for the Dominican Republic, as we lack qualified human resources to manage our pig operations and slaughter houses. This programme will significantly increase the academic level of professionals involved in pig production and food safety in the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean and will contribute to both the national and regional development of the sector."



Edulink participants at 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting coordination in Santiago de los Caballeros (Dominican Republic).

ACP-EU Co-Operation Programmes in the fields of Higher Education and Science, Technology and Research

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