FAIRshare
DIGITAL TOOLS FOR FARM ADVISORS

2018-2023

31 partners

€ 6,99M

Findable, Available, Interoperable, Reusable and Shareable

FAIRShare aims to improve farmer engagement with digital technologies through sharing, adapting and enabling more use of digital advisory tools and services (DATS)

Practice abstract n°76

Update PA41: Fostering a more climate friendly milk cow farming through the use of optimized feed

FAIRshare

Fostering a more climate friendly milk cow farming through the use of optimized feed

n°76

Context

New European policies and society in general demand that farmers create as little negative environmental impact as possible with their activities. One important of this demand is the minimization of polluting gases in the breeding of dairy cows. amount of polluting gases production output following the feed. The tool "SMART milking - SMART melken" developed by ILVO allows farmers to simulate different kinds of feeds and estimate the amount of polluting gases and the production output following the feed. In this way, farmers and advisors can assess how feed combinations affect both the environment and business results.

Lessons learnt

We learned that working together with the tool provider (in our case ILVO) can be really helpful for the implementation of the use case. Beyond the technical expertise there is also domain expertise available, which was really helpful to understand the background of the data sheets and feed portion recommendations.

The second lesson we learned was that tools that are produced within a project only evolve if there is additional funding. So the tool that we used was static in the knowledge it provided.

The third lesson was that some of the feed combinations recommended by the tool (3 out of 7) were not yet available on the market. However those were the combinations which reduced the climate footprint (especially methane gas) with stable production outputs. While these are encouraging prospects for the future, advisors cannot recommend them curently to the farmers as they cannot be practically used.

Consortium