

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Mediterranean and Tropical Livestock
Systems (SELMET)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Montpellier SupAgro

Centre de Coopération Internationale
en Recherche Agronomique pour le
Développement - CIRAD

Institut national de recherche pour
l'agriculture, l'alimentation et
l'environnement - INRAE

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2019-2020
GROUP A



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Nelly Dupin, Acting
President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Christine Fourichon, Chairwoman of the
committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 November 2014,

¹ The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

² The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the experts committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

Tables in this document were filled with data submitted by the supervising body on behalf the unit.

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Mediterranean and Tropical Livestock Systems
Unit acronym:	SELMET
Current label and N°:	UMR SELMET, CIRAD n°112, INRAE n°868, MSA n°7312.
ID RNSR:	199419708C
Application type:	Restructuration
Head of the unit (2015-2020):	Mr Alexandre ICKOWICZ
Project leader (2021-2025):	Mr Guillaume DUTEURTRE
Number of teams and/or themes:	3

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:	Ms Christine FOURICHON, Oniris- École nationale vétérinaire, agroalimentaire et de l'alimentation, Nantes
Experts:	Ms Isabelle BALTENWECK, International Livestock Research Institute, Kenya Mr Alberto BERNUES, Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentaria de Aragón, Espagne Mr Christophe CASSEN, CNRS, Nogent sur Marne (supporting personnel) Mr Cheikh LY, École Inter-États des Sciences et Médecine Vétérinaires (EISMV), Sénégal Ms Lucile MONTAGNE, Agrocampus Ouest, Rennes (representative of CNECA) Ms Monique POULOT, Université Paris Nanterre (representative of INRAE CSS)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Jean-François HOCQUETTE

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING BODIES

Mr Pascal BONNET, CIRAD
Mr Benoît DEDIEU, INRAE
Mr Xavier FERNANDEZ, INRAE
Ms Carole SINFORT, Montpellier SupAgro

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

SELMET was created in 2011 as a joint research unit of CIRAD, INRA (now INRAE) and Montpellier SupAgro (MSA). It resulted from merging two former units working on livestock farming in hot regions and developing countries, in diverse fields and disciplines. Since its creation, SELMET has been organised in three scientific themes: Animal-Resources-Environment (ARE), Alternative Farming Systems (ALTER), and Dynamics of Livestock and Sectors in The Territories (DEFIT). An important particular feature is the multi-site organisation of the unit. Its main location is in Montpellier where it stands on two campuses (Baillarguet where CIRAD agents are located and La Gaillarde where INRAE and MSA agents are located). Almost half of CIRAD staff are located overseas, either in La Réunion or in foreign countries (Sénégal, Burkina Faso, Brazil, Vietnam, Madagascar). Overseas locations are placed in platforms in partnerships where staff from other CIRAD units and staff from local or international research or higher education organisations are located. With this multiple site location, and considering the fields studied for its research, the unit presents its activities as structured around 5 strategic intervention zones (Mediterranean Basin, West Africa, Indian Ocean, Amazonia, South East Asia).

Management team

The head of the unit nominated in 2015 is Alexandre Ickowicz. He is seconded by Charles-Henri Moulin as deputy head of the unit. For the 2021-2025 project, the proposed management team is composed of Guillaume Duteurtre as head of unit, seconded by Charles-Henri Moulin as deputy head of the unit.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE1, SHS1, SHS3

SVE1_3 Biotechnologies, sciences environnementales, biologie synthétique, agronomie

SHS1_1 Économie

SHS3_1 Géographie

SVE1_2 Évolution, écologie, biologie des populations

THEMATICS

The research activity of the UMR SELMET concerns pastoral and mixed ruminant family farming systems (combining crop and livestock farming) in the Mediterranean and tropical regions. The central research activity concerns "Alternative management of livestock agroecosystems to meet the challenges of ecological intensification and ecosystem services".

SELMET works on alternative management of livestock agroecosystems and their responses to the challenges of ecological intensification and global change in Mediterranean and tropical regions. Many projects focus on family pastoral and agropastoral ruminant systems. The unit addresses disciplinary and interdisciplinary research questions at different scales. The animals and the agronomic resources are mainly considered in animal science (nutrition, reproduction) and agronomy (forage crops, pasture management). Livestock farming system approaches address livestock management and innovative practices. Livestock farming at the territorial scale considers the farming system, socio-economics and geography perspectives. The final aim is to determine the possible role of these systems in the overall responses to the challenges of food security, environment preservation, economy and social cohesion.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Mediterranean and Tropical Livestock Systems (SELMET)		
Active staff	Number 06/30/2019	Number 01/01/2021
Full professors and similar positions	1	1
Assistant professors and similar positions	3	3
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	2	2
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	4	5
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	29	30
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	23	23
Permanent staff	62	64
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs (except PhD students)	2	
PhD Students	35	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	27	
Non-permanent staff	64	
Total	126	64

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The unit has become a mature UMR which developed from a founding project common to CIRAD, INRA and Montpellier SupAgro from 2011-2014 to a growing project from 2014 to 2019. The scientific orientation is sound and innovative.

The unit is producing a large variety of outputs of interest for different target audiences: new knowledge resulting from research, data-bases, tools, educational support and training. The diversity of the dissemination channels permits a large outreach of the results. The high number of outputs reflects a strong dynamics of the unit. It is very productive especially when taking into account teaching and consultancy workload for most of its scientists besides their research duties. The unit contributes to advances in knowledge in its different disciplines, and to multidisciplinary research. It is strongly engaged in international partnership and well funded.

The participation of SELMET in public outreach outlets is high. It has very good collaborations with international organisations and participation in multi-stakeholders fora, in particular the Global Alliance for Sustainable Livestock. SELMET has a very good positioning and recognized leadership in West Africa and in La Réunion through research results but also outreach, networking and support to advocacy and donors' agenda. In the Mediterranean area, the unit has also developed interesting links with industry and technical livestock institutes, by being at the origin and the co-leader of the UMT (Unité mixte technologique) Pasto on Pastoral Farms in French Mediterranean regions.

SELMET is strongly engaged in PhD supervision. The unit actively contributes to doctoral training of candidates registered either in France or in foreign countries. PhD students find the support they need to get trained, to conduct their research, and are highly encouraged to present, discuss and publish their results. The employment of past PhD students is excellent. The unit contributes to training in different master programmes and is very attractive for students interested in tropical and Mediterranean livestock systems.

Overall, the internal organization and governance of SELMET reflects a strong engagement of the management team and results in a very positive atmosphere and team spirit.

The scientific project for the future benefits a favourable environment regarding 1) the thematic and its related domain (sustainability of livestock family farming systems and value chains in Mediterranean and tropical contexts); 2) the team skills and origin (diversity of disciplinary, 3 institutions); the contribution of the unit to the local dynamic in its main sites; 3) the national and international networks and partnership; 4) the distinctive position and the renown reputation of the unit. The strategy of the unit is ambitious. The project presents an important level of interdisciplinarity and integration between several scales of organization (farming systems, territories, food chains). The geopartnership strategy is an asset for the UMR in order to maintain its reputation and leadership in the French Mediterranean and tropical settings. The engagement to enhance collective reflexion to build the new project is commendable. The management and scientific structure is quite complex and the administrative burden rather high, although the unit considers the matrix organization as a pivotal lever to foster integration and interdisciplinarity in order to achieve results. The committee recommends to further clarify responsibilities and articulation between the three scientific themes and the five transversal themes that have been structured. Furthermore, some aspects need to be defined in more details for a common strategy and operational plans (e.g., publications, partnership, integration of results).

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