MedGoat

Bridging tradition and innovation in Mediterranean goat farming

WELCOME

MEDGOAT addresses **climate change**, **water scarcity** and **feed resource** challenges in Mediterranean goat farming. It focuses on local breed adaptation, genetic diversity and alternative feed resources, with the goal of developing **practical solutions** for sustainable Mediterranean goat production.

France Italy Morocco Portugal Spain Tunisia

12
partners from 6 countries

€2M+
total budget, €1.3M from PRIMA

2023 – 2027
Sept 2023 to Sept 2027

SPOTLIGHT

WP7 · COMING SOON

The MEDGOAT knowledge platform

An online platform gathering **good practices**, local breed profiles and project results for farmers, researchers and extension services. On 26 October 2026, MEDGOAT and the Direction of the Tunisian **Office de l'Elevage et des Pâturages (OEP)** agreed that the platform will be hosted on the OEP website. It will facilitate **knowledge exchange** and translate research findings into **practical recommendations** for farmers and stakeholders.



COMING UP · 28–30 APRIL 2027 · BENGALURU, INDIA

Dr. Latifa Najar is invited to present MEDGOAT results at the **International Goat Conclave 2027** and to chair a session for a special competition for **women researchers** in goat science.

CONSORTIUM



Visiting a goat farm in Morocco

1st Annual Meeting & Steering Committee

Kenitra, Morocco · 10–11 June 2026

The partners met in **Kenitra**. Discussions focused on **scientific progress**, coordination of ongoing activities and the next steps towards achieving the project's objectives.

MEDGOAT PARTNERS

PROGRESS ACROSS THE WORK PACKAGES

WP2 Local goat diversity & heat stress

With OEP, farm surveys across Tunisia documented breeds, feeding and responses to climate variability. **250 ear-cartilage samples** from female goats (Béja, Kébili, Tataouine) will undergo **genomic characterization**, combined with survey data by INRAE and INRAT.

WP3 Traditional & innovative feeds

WP3 characterises traditional and novel feeds, focusing on local by-products. LPAM presented first results on citrus peel, coffee and date seed by-products; CSIC is testing ***in vitro* ruminal fermentation and methane** of alternative feedstuffs.

WP4 Socio-economic assessment

Completed: sustainability of goat vs cattle and sheep systems (77th EAAP; 20th JRSS in December; under review); impacts of shifting from cattle to goats under climate change (to be submitted). **Ongoing:** field survey in Tunisia on the most **eco-efficient** goat practices.

WP5 Climate-smart management

Completed: water restriction and salinity trials (INRAT, Tunisia, publications in preparation); betaine and sugar beet feeding trials (CSIC). **Ongoing:** two cactus feeding trials in growing goats (INRAT) and sugar beet supplementation in lactating goats (CSIC). **Pasture management in Morocco:** field activities in the Middle Atlas (ANOC, IAV Hassan II) on pasture resources and their role in sustainable goat production.

WP6 One Health

UMIL and CSIC apply omics approaches to samples from the WP5 trials, characterising gut microbiota and plasma metabolome changes in goat kids fed **dried sugar beet meal**. Ibn Tofail University studies the **health benefits of goat milk**: obesity and ovarian metabolic syndrome studies completed, diabetes studies starting, four goat cheeses under evaluation.

New publication *Translational Animal Science* · in press

Replacing corn grain with dried sugar beet meal in the diet of finishing male goats: effects on feed efficiency and gastrointestinal microbiota

The study assesses **dried sugar beet meal** as an alternative feed resource for goats. **New:** collaboration with **ISARA Lyon** (France) on goat meat quality from the sugar beet trials, publication in preparation.

SCIENTIFIC DISSEMINATION & EVENTS

76th EAAP
Innsbruck · 2025
Gut microbiota of kids fed **sugar beet**.

IC2SE 2026
Hammamet · 2026
Functional polysaccharides from **by-products**.

77th EAAP
Hamburg · 2026
Plasma metabolome of kids fed **sugar beet**.

SEOC 2026
Cádiz · 2026
Betaine for heat-stressed adult goats.

ATSN 2026
Tunis · 2026
Date seed-fortified functional cakes.

ATSBM 2026
Hammamet · 2026
Essential oils from **citrus peel** by-products.

MEDGOAT actively shares its research findings with the international scientific community, promoting innovative approaches to sustainable goat production. **Next:** three LPAM researchers at **ICECC26**, Egypt (December).



AWARD

Dr. Nahla Mejri (LPAM) received the Best Oral Communication Award at ATSN 2026.



INSERM · INRAT

16S DNA extraction at INRAT on samples from the cactus *in vivo* trials, for **microbiota** and One Health studies.

Stay in touch
www.medgoat.eu
contact@medgoat.eu

Partner countries
France · Italy · Morocco · Portugal · Spain · Tunisia

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