Press release

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HoloRuminant will explain the role of ruminant-associated microbiomes and their interactions

HoloRuminant is a Horizon 2020 project launched on 1st October 2021, the project will run until 30 September 2026. The project gathers 25 different partners across 17 countries including 10 research institutions and 11 universities. The project is coordinated by Diego Morgavi from INRAE.

HoloRuminant will expand our understanding of ruminant-associated microbiomes to fill knowledge gaps and develop tools for their interpretation. Ruminant-associated microbiomes play a key role in health, welfare and environmental efficiency in ruminant production systems. However, the interconnection between the animal and its different microbiomes have never been studied in an integrated way.

With its holistic multi-omics approach, HoloRuminant project will study the multiple interactions of the ruminant-associated microbiomes with the host animal in early life and throughout fundamental life events. HoloRuminant aims to decipher the characteristics and functions of livestock microbial ecosystems from different body sites, their heritability and their influence on the host's production, health and/or welfare (e.g., efficiency, disease resistance and resilience to changing environmental conditions).

By engaging actors from the livestock value chain, HoloRuminant will evaluate the socio-economic impact and acceptability of the innovations proposed among stakeholders and the public. HoloRuminant will advance our understanding of the ruminant microbiomes and contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and an improved health and welfare of farmed ruminants towards sustainable food production. All in all, HoloRuminant will address the microbiome-knowledge challenge for sustainability and resilience, whilst fostering innovation.

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