



**EFFAB**

European Forum of  
Farm Animal Breeders

**FABRE • TP**

Farm Animal Breeding  
& Reproduction  
Technology Platform



## Code of Good Practices for Responsible and Balanced Breeding

*European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders  
CDG Milk, Veal, Beef and Pigmeat, 26/11/2024*



# Research institutes & academia

# EFFAB members



# WHAT WE DO?



ENGAGING IN DIALOGUE WITH POLICYMAKERS  
AND STAKEHOLDERS



SUPPORTING AND PROMOTING  
RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL BREEDING  
THROUGH **CODE EFABAR**



PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING  
RESEARCH & INNOVATION



ADVOCATING FOR PROPORTIONATE  
AND SCIENCE-BASED POLICY  
AND LEGISLATION



**REPVET**  
Reproduction Veterinarians



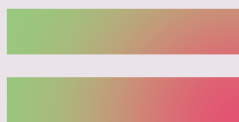
**QUALI  
VETS**  
Optimal quality  
of semen



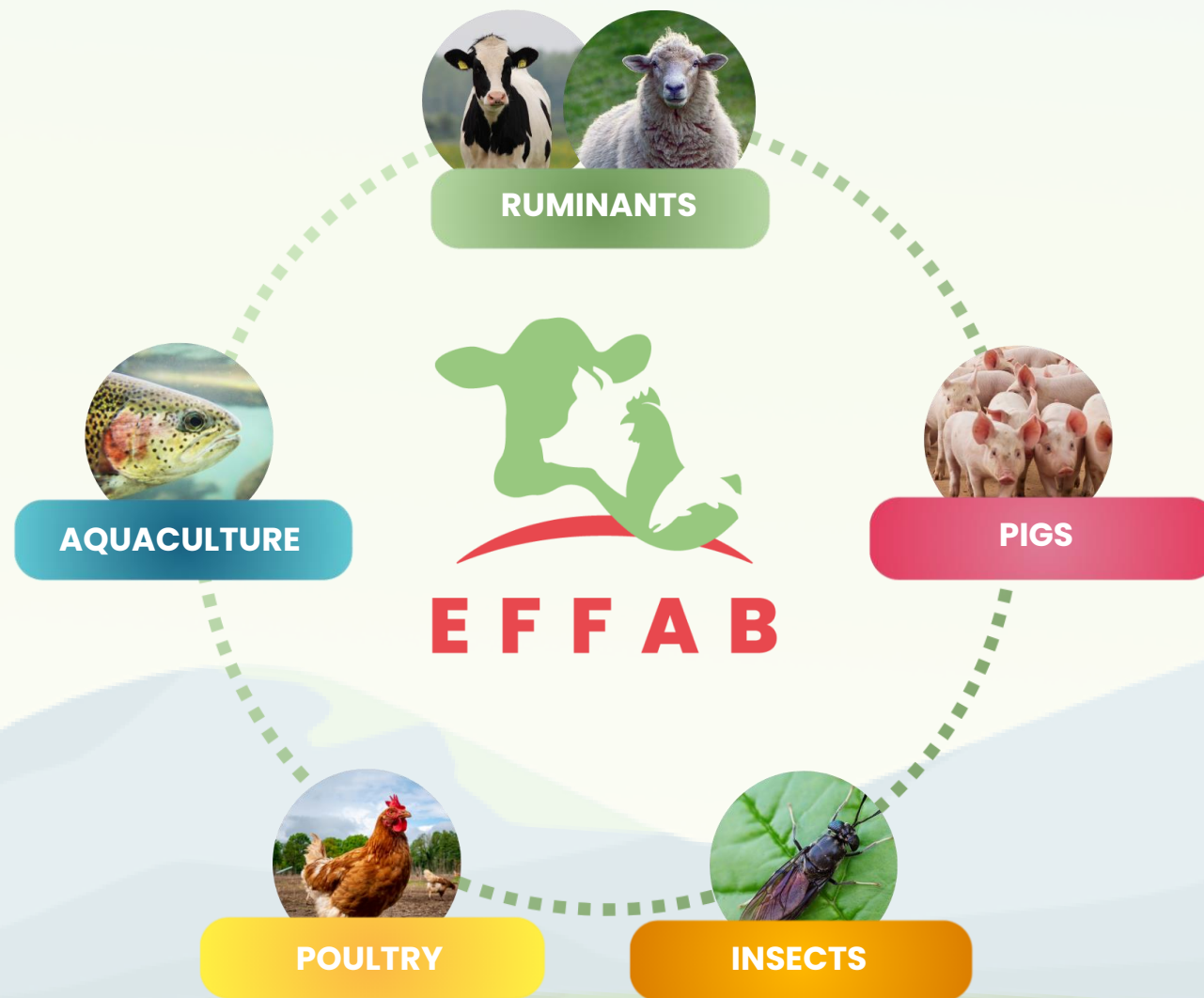


# What is Animal Breeding?

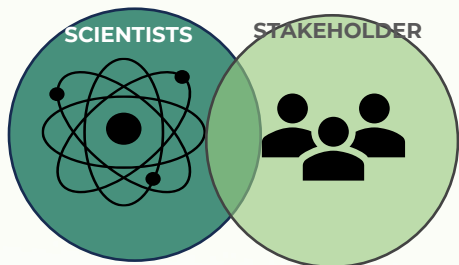
**A BREEDING  
PROGRAM**



**A BALANCED AND  
RESPONSIBLE  
COMBINATION OF  
MANY DIFFERENT  
TRAITS**



# What is Animal Breeding?



**Initiative of breeding companies (EFFAB)**



Every three years based on the current environmental, societal & political challenges

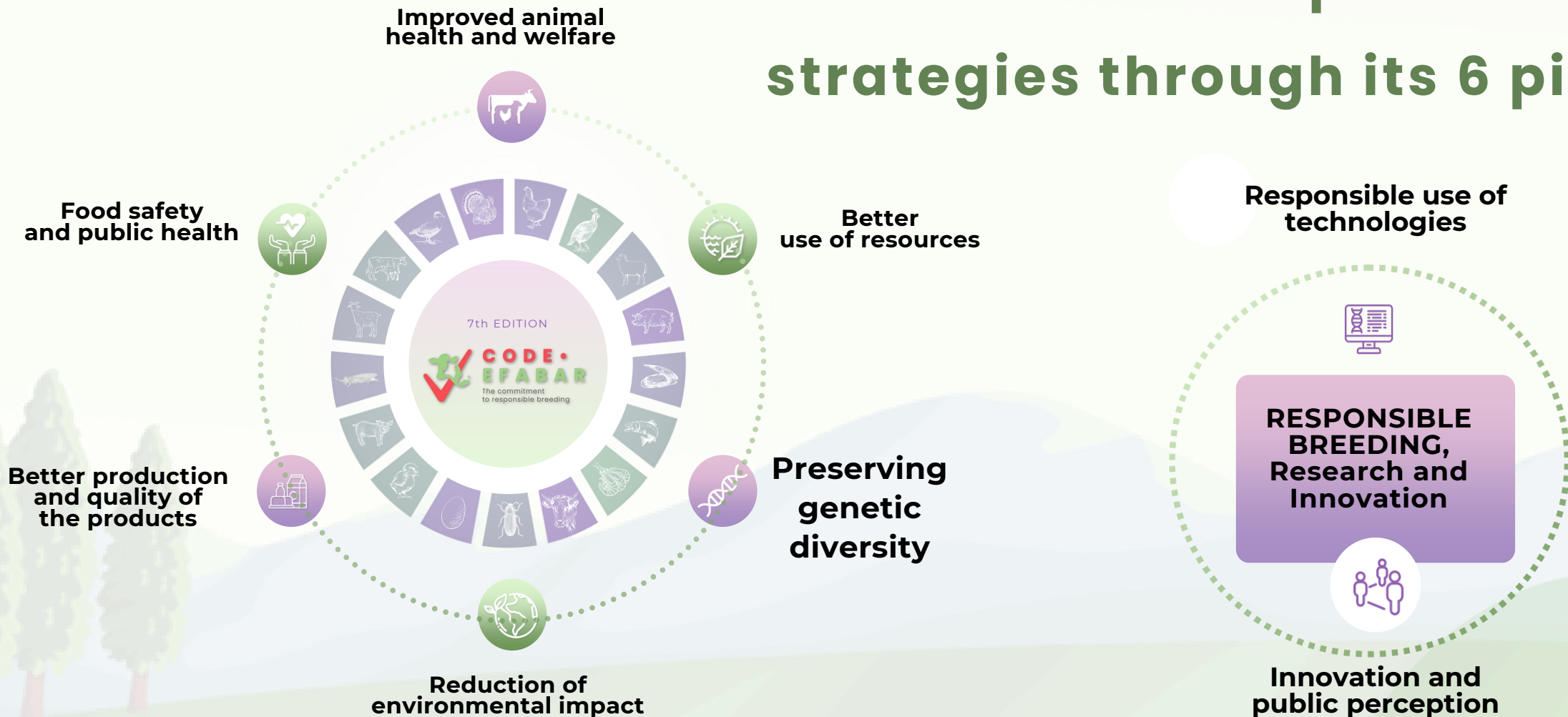




# What is CODE EFABAR?



## Reflects breeders' practices and strategies through its 6 pillars





# Ruminant Breeding



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The commitment  
to responsible breeding

Feet and leg strength,  
calving/lambing ease,  
udder conformation,  
claw health, polledness...

Meat and milk quality  
(protein, fat, type of fat)  
And quantity

Disease resistance  
and robustness  
(mastitis and udder  
health, reducing use  
of antibiotics)

Better use of resources  
(feed intake and use,  
fertility, longevity)

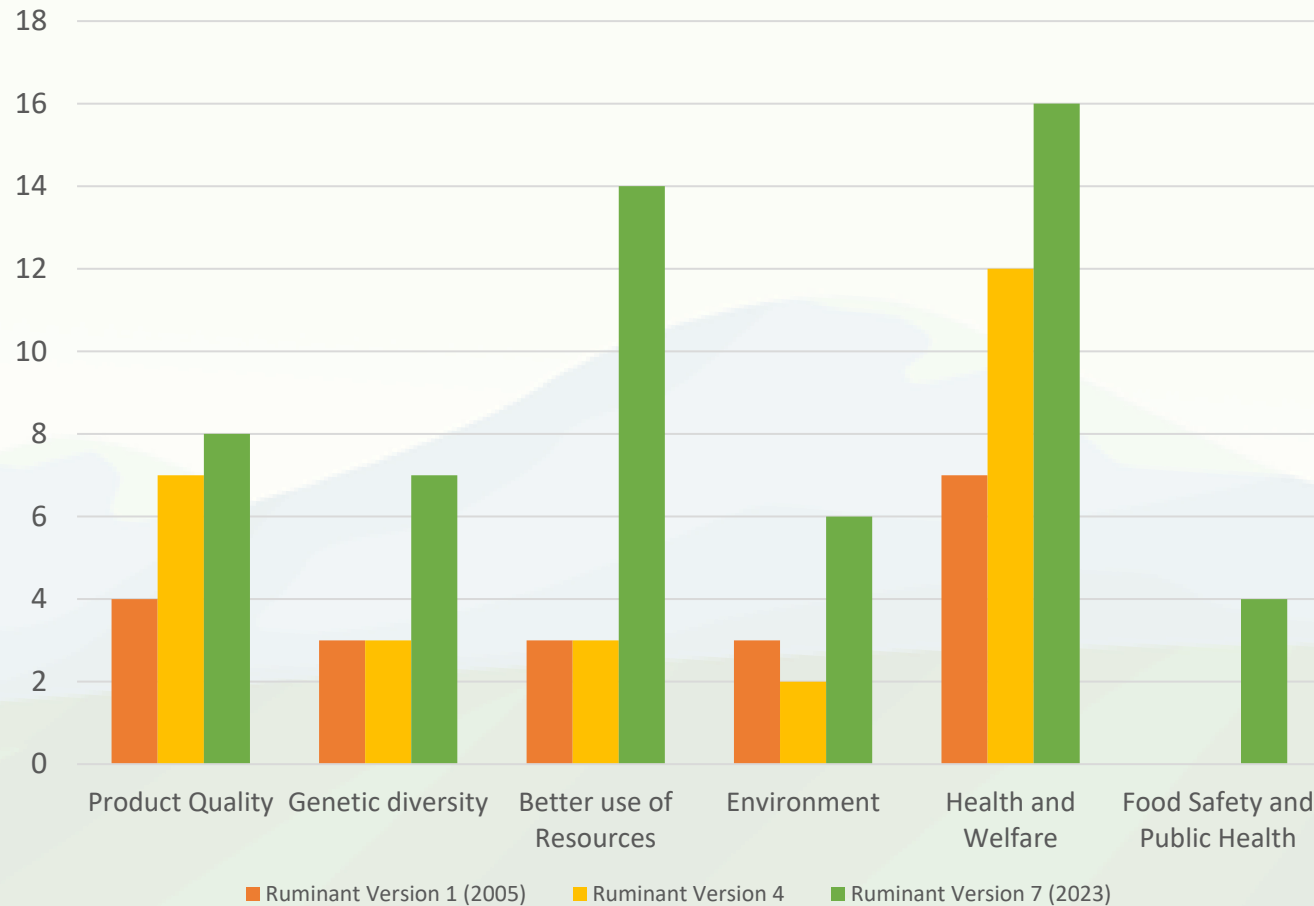
Reducing emissions  
(methane and ammonia)  
And carbon footprint

Preserving  
Genetic diversity





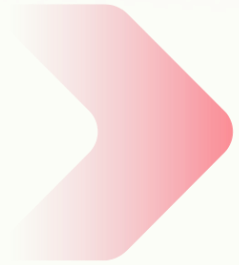
# Progress in Ruminant Breeding



*Change in the number of breeding elements included*







# Pig Breeding



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The commitment  
to responsible breeding

Improving piglet survival,  
Maternal abilities,  
Improving positive  
Social behaviour

Meat and milks quality  
(protein, fat, type of fat)  
And quantity

Disease resistance  
and robustness  
(reducing use of  
antibiotics)

Better use of  
resources  
(feed use, fertility,  
longevity of sow )

Reducing emissions  
(ammonia)  
And carbon footprint

Keeping  
Genetic diversity

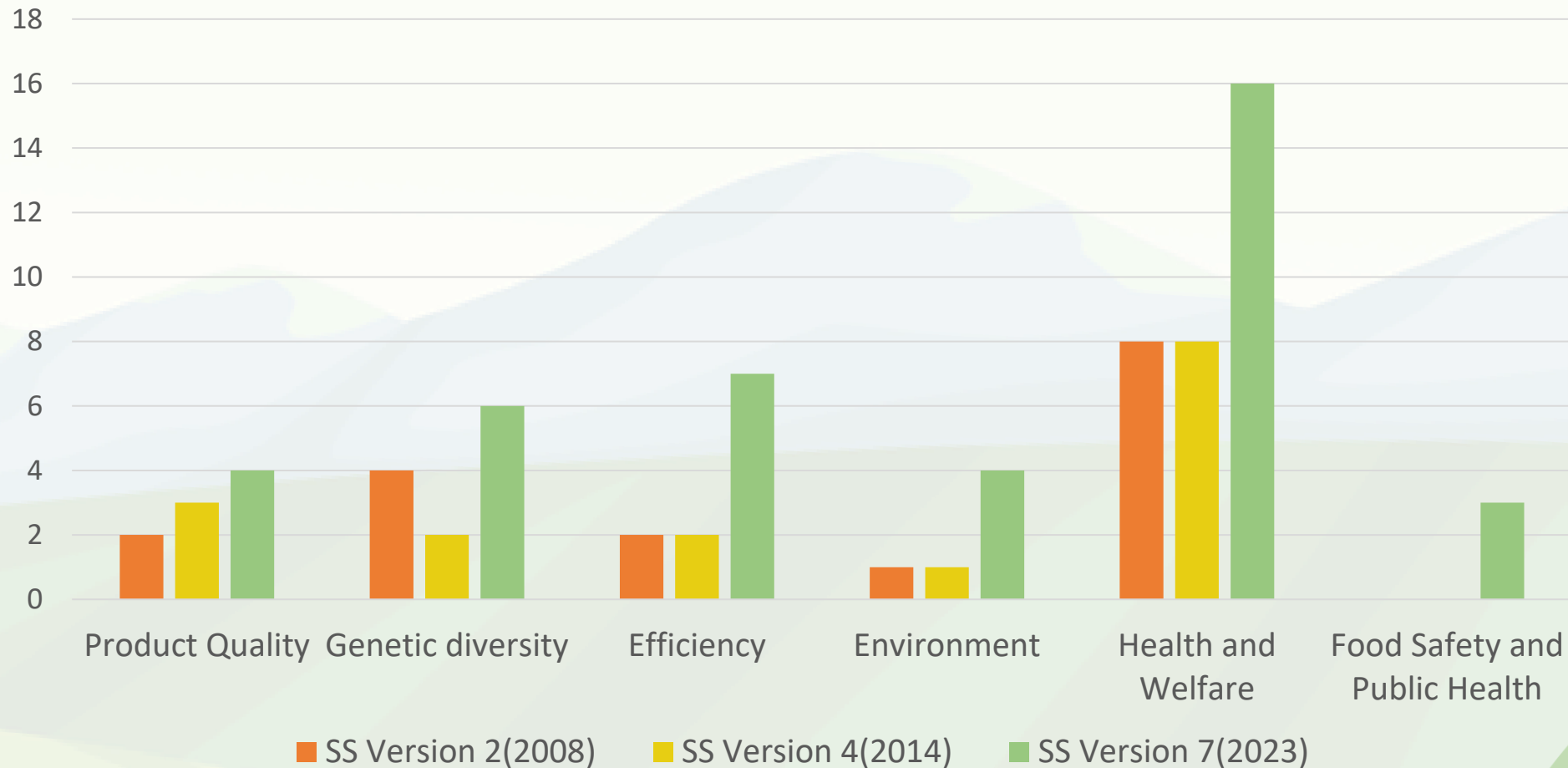




# Progress in Pig Breeding



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The commitment  
to responsible breeding





# Pig Breeding : AHW



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The commitment  
to responsible breeding

## Piglet

- Proper gestation length, proper birth weight, uniform litter
- Proper farrowing duration: born in time to get enough colostrum
- Colostrum **storage**
- **Its own teat**, enough milk
- Communication with the sow

## Sow

- Opportunity to express farrowing behaviour and nest-building
- Options to move between farrowing consecutive piglets
- Allowing or refusing piglets to suckle
- Communication with piglets, also when in the nest (visibility)
- Feed: quality, quantity, intake capacity



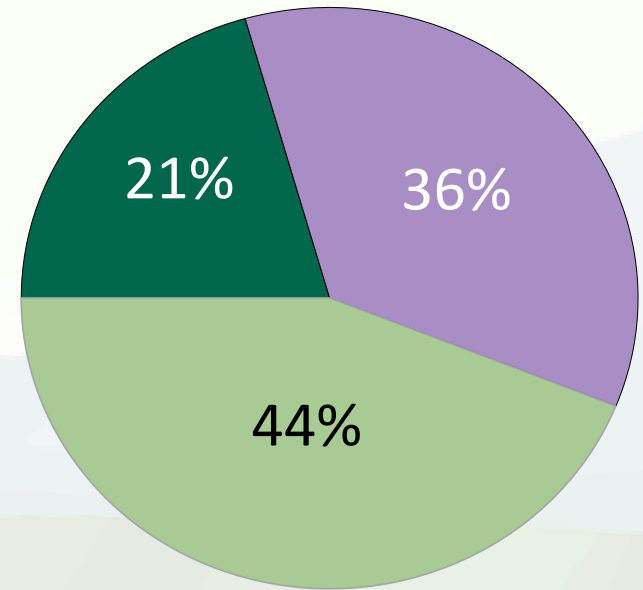


# Progress in Pig Breeding



Breeding goals of **11 maternal breeding programs, 2022-2023**

- Litter size & weaning-mating interval
- Piglet survival, birth weight & teat number
- Other traits (e.g. feed efficiency)



weighted  
average



# THE ESSENCE OF CODE EFABAR



The combination of these traits varies based on:



- **Regions**
- **Production Systems**
- **Farmers' Choices**
- **Resources' Availability**
- **Social, Environmental, Political, and Economic Situations**



"It is not a one size that fits all"





# ADDRESSING THE 3 PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY



1

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF BREEDING

- ✓ Methane emissions: **1% reduction annually**
- ✓ Nitrogen excretion: **3.5% reduction every 5 years**



2

## POSITIVELY IMPACTS THE ECONOMICS OF FARMS

- ✓ Using 30% less feed compared to 30 years ago positively impacts the environment and the economics of farms



3

## SOCIAL IMPACT IN OUR FARMS AND COMMUNITY

- ✓ By providing high-quality germinal products and breeding animals for a diversity of farming systems and local conditions, the sector supports farmers' livelihoods in rural and coastal areas throughout Europe



# Animal Breeding in 2024 : challenges and opportunities



✓ Huge diversity of breeds

✓ Further knowledge and innovation

✓ Health challenges :  
vectorial diseases,  
ASF, PRSS,

✓ welfare challenges :  
**Group gestation, free  
farrowing**, females,  
calves and piglets  
welfare

✓ Diversity of farming  
systems

✓ Support needed for  
knowledge &  
Technology transfer  
from cosmopolitan to  
local breeds

✓ Proportionate policy

Biodiversity, including  
genetic diversity

Vitality of rural areas

Appropriated support  
for farmers and  
breeders



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# THANK YOU

If you have any questions our door is always open

