“ReColAd”: Collaborative network on farm animal adaptation to environmental changes

T. ZERJAL[1], D. LALOË[1], N. MANDONNET[2], M. NAVES[2], A. COLLIN[3], S. THÉVENON[4] , D. RENAUDEAU[5]

Climate change is one of the major issues of our era. Many direct and indirect consequences are expected in the short and medium-term on livestock, worldwide. Adaptation of animals and more generally, farming systems to the effects of global warming is a challenge to which research actors from the North and the South must be dedicated.

ReColAd is a meta-program ACCAF (INRA) project that aims at establishing a collaborative network to gain knowledge and create events for discussions to reinforce our research capacities by:

- Federating research actors concerned by animal adaptation to a changing environment from a large range of disciplines
- Developing a network for sharing practices, methods and data to promote innovative and efficient approaches to decrease the vulnerability of the livestock production systems.

Action

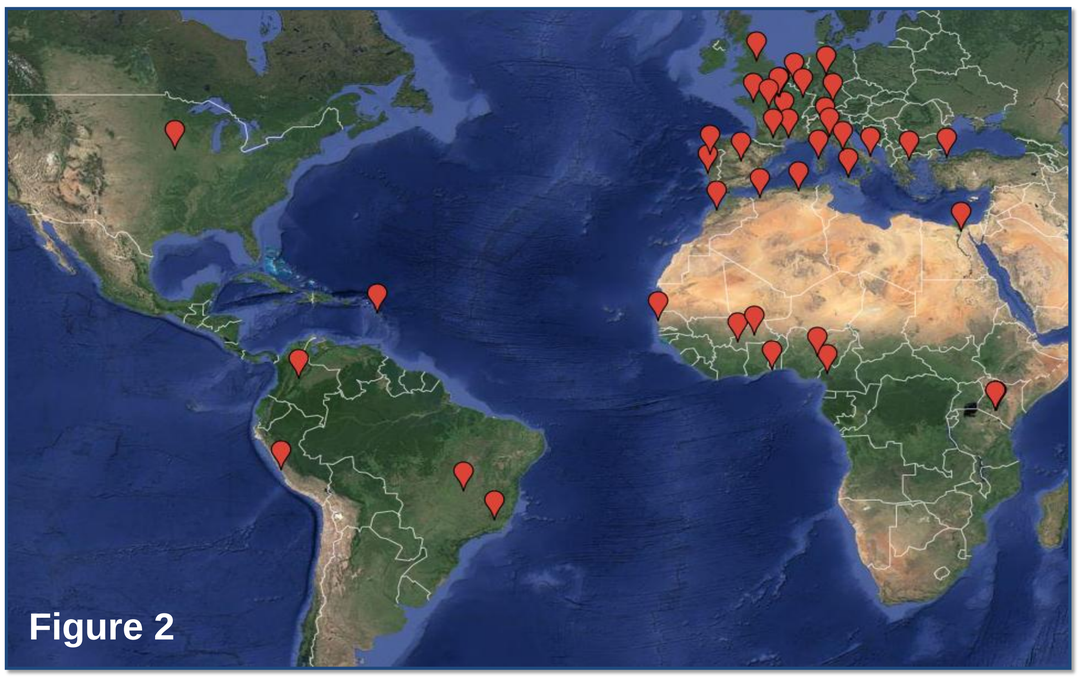

Figure 2

A workshop was organized in Paris on the 11th and 12th of February, gathering 75 participants from 22 countries (Figure 2).

Figure 3

Discussions focused on the best ways to improve phenotyping /selection strategies to better cope with the numerous challenges due to Climate Change. These adaptation strategies were approached at different scales: animal, farm, production system, etc (Figure 3).

Output

- Construction of a website to gather information and to perpetuate the ReColAd network (http://www6.inra.fr/recolad_eng)

Where efforts should be invested:

- To improve the characterization of the animal “meta-environment” (geography, climate, breeding system, socio-economic conditions etc.),
- To define new traits and common phenotyping strategies in the context of animal adaptation to climate change
- To establish databases for zootechnical and environmental measures
- To quantify the adaptive potential of local and commercial breeds
- To make governmental institutions aware about the impact of climate change on livestock production systems.

[1] INRA/AgroParisTech, UMR 1313 GABI, Division of Animal Genetics, 78352 Jouy-en-Josas, France; [2]INRA, UR143, Recherches Zootechniques, F-97170, Petit Bourg, France; [3]INRA, UR83 Recherches Avicoles, F-37380 Nouzilly, France; [4]CIRAD, UMR INTERTRYP, F-34398, Montpellier, France; [5]INRA UMR1348 Physiology, environment, genetic for animals and livestock systems, F35590 Rennes, France