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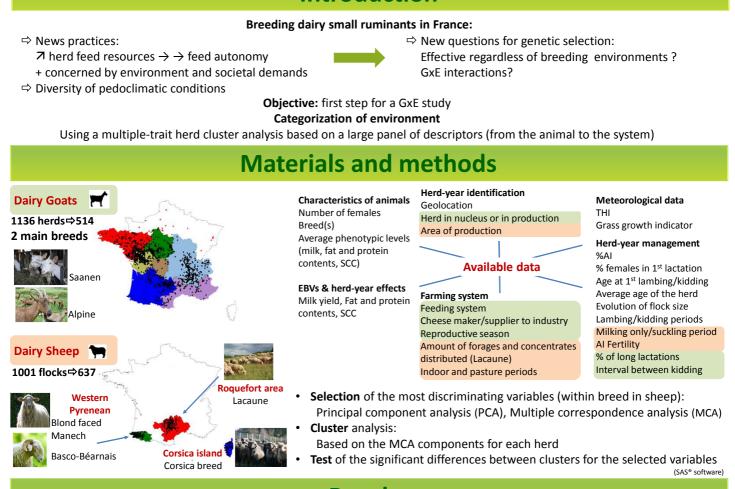
Characterization of dairy sheep and goats production systems in France: First step for a GxE study

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Introduction



Results				
Breeds (number of herds)	Lacaune (300)	Basco-béarnais (84) Blond-faced Manech (218)	Corsica (35)	Goats – Alpine & Saanen (514)
Number of clusters	4	4/7	3	4
Discriminating variables	 Geographical location Precocity of grass growth (altitude) Amount of distributed concentrate and forages (Lacaune) 	 Location-altitude Rate of 1st lactation at 2 years Flock size 	 Location-altitude Milk yield level Artificial insemination rate 	 Geographical location (West→East) Breeding goal (milk yield/composition) System of sales (cheese maker/deliverer) Herd size Reproduction organization (out of season or not)

Conclusion

Main discriminating factors of environments:

- Geographical location (Lacaune, goats), altitude (precocity of grass growth)
- Herd breeding goal: milk yield/composition
- Herd management: size, rate of 1st lactations at 2 years-old
- System of sales and of feeding (Goats)
- Amount of concentrate and forages (Lacaune)

SCIENCE & IMPACT

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Next step:

Are these contrasted breeding practices and conditions a source of GxE interactions?

