

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

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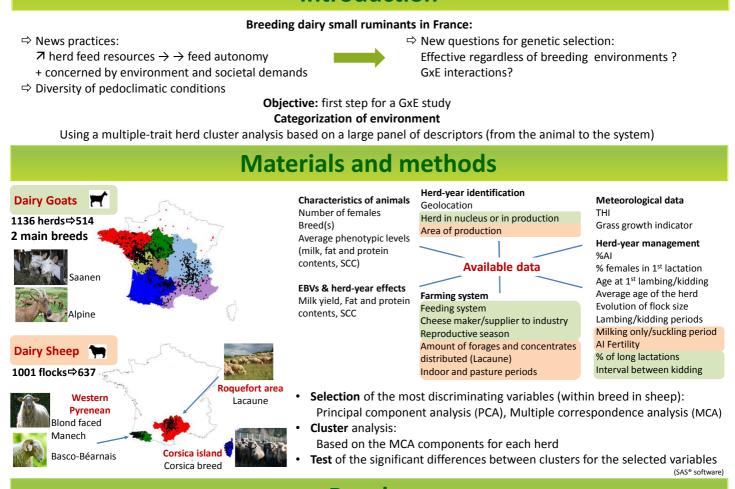
# Characterization of dairy sheep and goats production systems in France: First step for a GxE study

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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	<ul> <li>Geographical location</li> <li>Precocity of grass growth (altitude)</li> <li>Amount of distributed concentrate and forages (Lacaune)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Location-altitude</li> <li>Rate of 1<sup>st</sup> lactation at 2 years</li> <li>Flock size</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Location-altitude</li> <li>Milk yield level</li> <li>Artificial insemination rate</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Geographical location (West→East)</li> <li>Breeding goal (milk yield/composition)</li> <li>System of sales (cheese maker/deliverer)</li> <li>Herd size</li> <li>Reproduction organization (out of season or not)</li> </ul>

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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?

