Cooperl

The French experience, upstream of the pig chain

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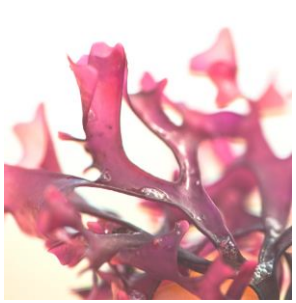
Crete, June 2023

Our job is to valorize the living

OUR JOB

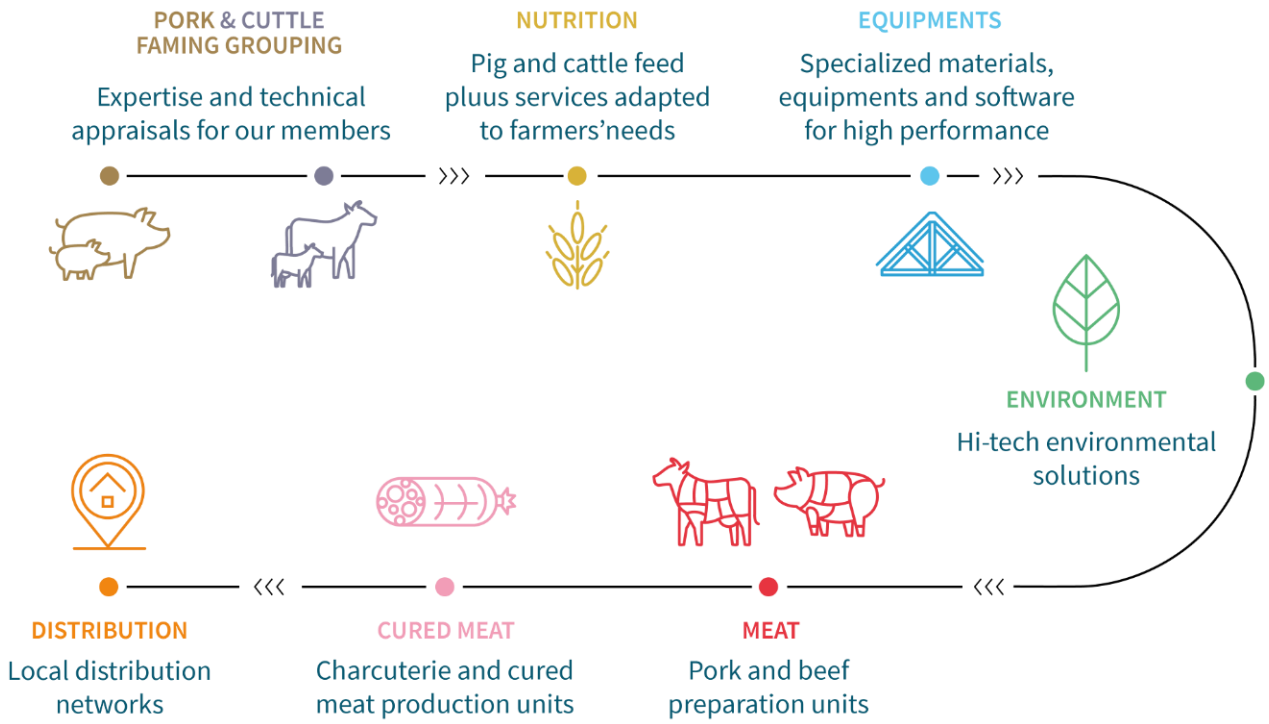
VALORIZE THE LIVING



PRODUCE

BIOMASS

COOPERL: 9 Activities, both complementary and interconnected, from upstream to downstream of the pig chian



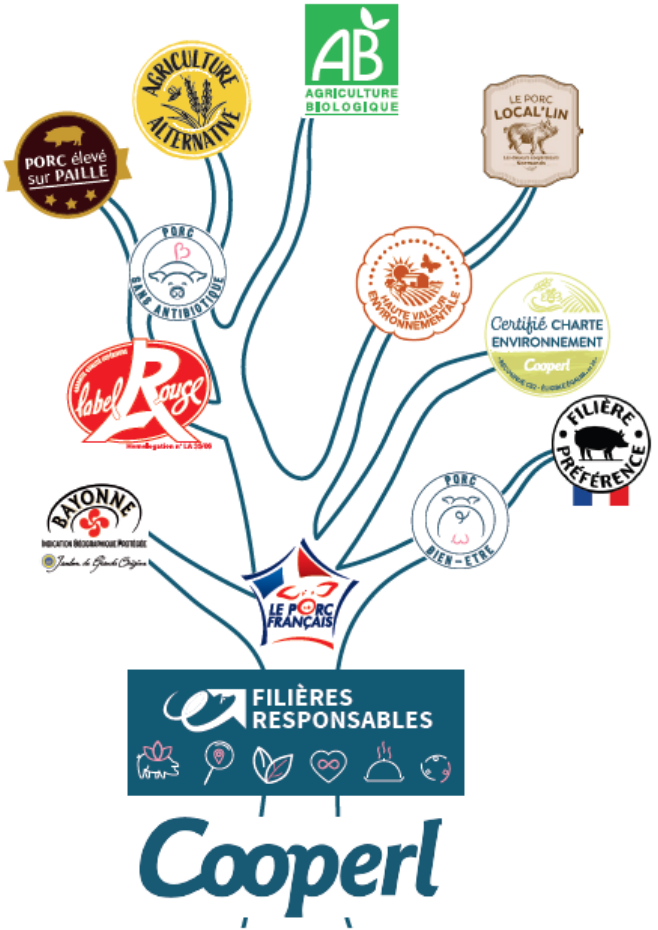
Cooperative

3 000 members
7 700 employees
30 industrial sites
2.8 billion turnover

COOPERL: segmentation strategy/higher value

- Certifications:

Organic
GMO
Free antibiotics
Welfare
Environmental certification
Free pesticides
Low GHG
….



2030: the major challenges

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- Animal Health and Welfare
- Public Health
- Pollution / Eutrophication
- Pesticides & Biodiversity
- GHGs & Climate Change
- Critical resources (water, soil)
- Regional planning

ENGAGÉ RSE
MODÈLE AFAQ 26000
Confirmé ★★
AFNOR CERTIFICATION

Certified
B
Corporation

Corporate Social Responsibility: a key element of Cooperl's strategy

4 CSR axes

- Humans
- Animals
- Planet
- Territories

Solutions 2030 par Cooperl

The example of the antibiotic free pigs production

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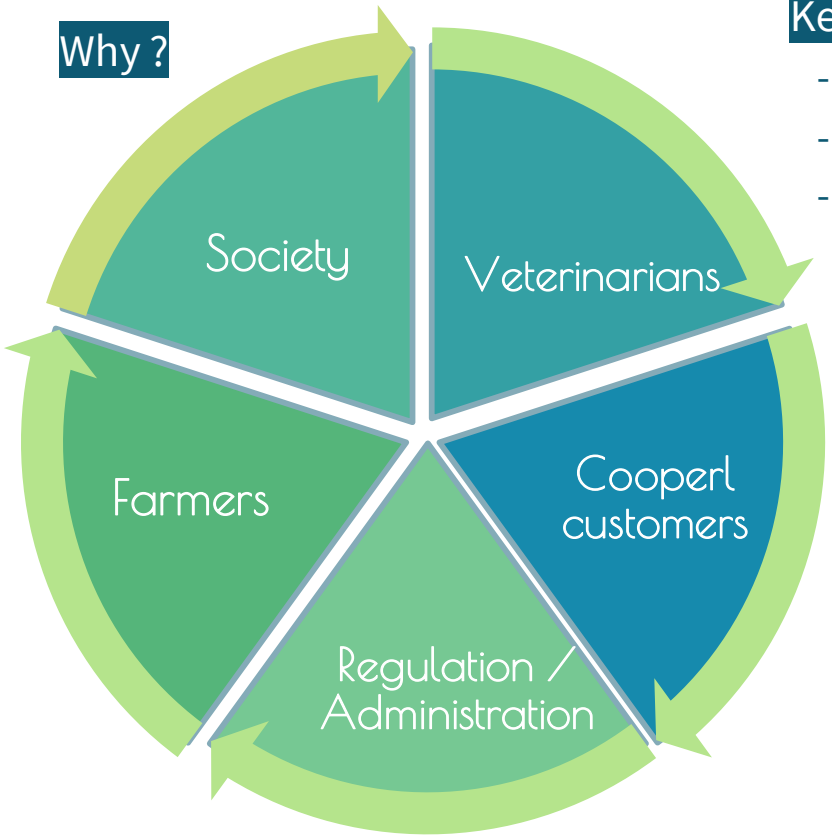
Why ?



Key figures

- **2013 : proof of concept, 100 000 pigs, 30 farmers**
- **2014 : beginning of the AFP, 1 Million pigs, 300 farmers**
- **Today : 3 Millions of pigs, 800 farmers, 50% of the pigs**

Antibiotic use 2022 : -73% c/w 2014

How did we manage it ?

To succeed, firstly set the foundations

Involve all stakeholders to innovate

Evaluate each farm through an “access” audit

Build the monitoring tools & alternatives

Avoid failures… in order to gain trust

Enlarge and expand the project

1. To succeed, firstly set the foundations

2008 : Cooperl starts R&D to ban castration and offers farmers to produce entire males

2012 : Cooperl decided to stop the antibiotic supplementation in fattening feed

Formulation of ATB-free-adapted post-weaning feed

Development of the Lawsonia vaccination

1. To succeed, firstly set the foundations

Farm Level: without antibiotic nor growth factor

Insuring high level of gilts and boars

Health status of our reproductors

GGP/ GP Farms under air filtration

Transport under air filtration

Regular monitoring of diseases

GGP animals free of:

- PRRS
- Mycoplasma hyopneumonia
- Actinobacillus pleuropneumonia

2. Involve all stakeholders to innovate

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ANIMAL
Genetics, physiological stage, age, backfat thickness, immunity, …

BREEDER
Respect of the protocols, observation and intervention, hygiene,...

HOUSING CONDITIONS
Buildings, comfort, movements, drafts, humidity, …

MICROBISM
Bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites, …

FEEDING
Colostrum and milk quantity and quality
Water and feed quality
…

FARM MANAGEMENT
Batches, hygiene of the animals, equipment, ...

Inspired from Tillon's hexagon, 1980

Our global approach of animal health

3. Evaluate each farm through an “access” audit

Visit each farm with the tech. to evaluate:

- Zootechnical practices
- Buildings
- Ventilation, water quality
- Internal biosecurity

…

Objectives

- Highlight the risk factors
- Classify the farms (quantify the risk)
- Make a decision:

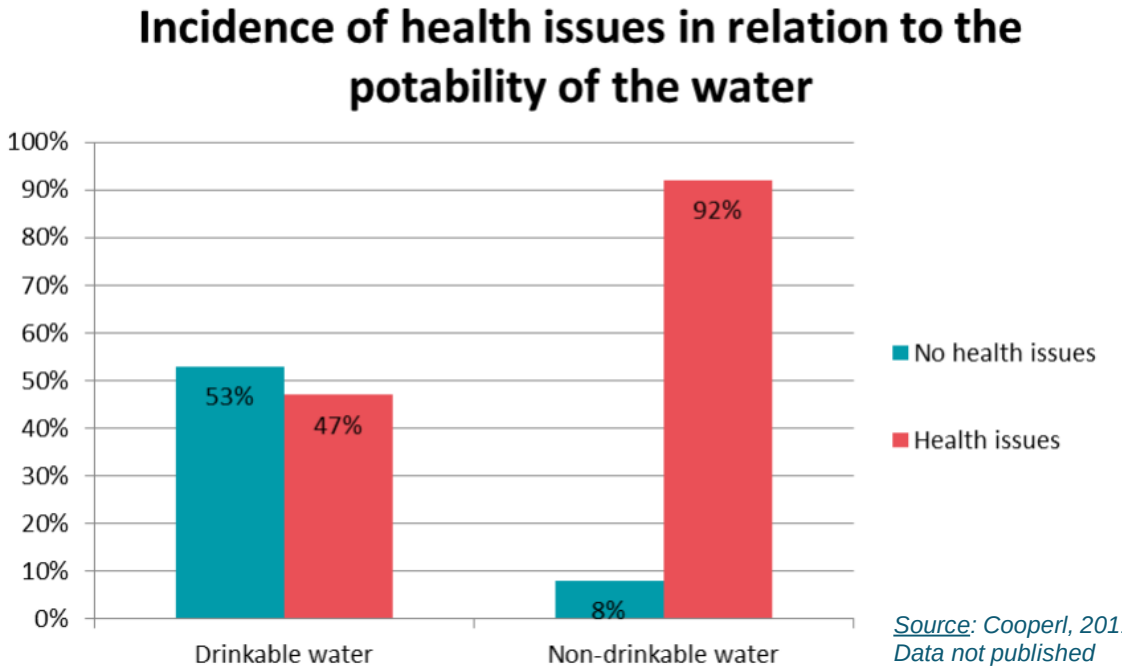
“OK we can try to stop ABs but I advise you to improve ….”

or

“I don’t think stopping the ABs right now is a good idea, we’d rather modify …. in the first place”

3. Evaluate each farm through an “access” audit

… And analyze the results of the farms to advice better



Importance of the drinking water in the ATB free pig production

Source: Cooperl, 2011.
Data not published

3. Evaluate each farm through an “access” audit

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:: Farm Level: without antibiotic nor growth factor

Adapt the feeding program to the needs of the animals

Respond to the challenge of the weaning period:

Work on the quality of the piglets to face the infections

- Weight and vitality
- Colostrum intakes
- Healthy microbiota
- Immune stimulation

Gestating feed formulated in that way

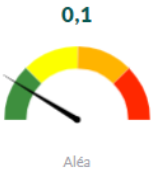
Learn piglets to eat solid

- Eat and drink
- Palatable feed
- Highly digestible raw materials

Range of feed to use during lactating period and after weaning

4. Build the monitoring tools & alternatives

Build **sanitary indicators** for each farm



Lung lesions monitoring at slaughterhouse

Identify and develop ATB alternatives
vaccines, organics acids, postbiotics, …

5. Avoid failures… in order to gain trust

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Begin with the best farms (those where some previous work is already done)

Begin easy: No ATB in feed but possible tu use them before 42 days of life

Be reasonable: Treating sick animals is necessary

Technical basis for a good farm management

Specific hygiene and water measures

Identification of the objectives

Decrease in antibiotics use
Increase in performance

General external and internal biosecurity measures

Nutritional approach

5. Avoid failures… in order to gain trust

- The farmer must **earn money**

Group	ALEA +	ALEA -
Level of biosecurity	86,8%	99,3%
Number of sows per farm	268	265
Margin/feed cost (€)	**907,83** [a]	**1103,14** [b]
Health expenses (€)	111,3	122
Vaccines (€)	66,3	77,1
Injectables (€)	12,3	14,3
Supplements (€)	11,26 [b]	7,69 [a]
Pigs produced/sow/year	**23,33** [a]	**25,1** [b]
Consumption rate (8-115j)	2,4	2,39
Losses rate PW&F (%)	6,99	5,86

ALEA + Higher Animal Level of Exposure to Antimicrobials ALEA - Lower Animal Level of Exposure to Antimicrobials

6. Enlarge and expand the project

- With first success, trust and money, everything is easier
  - Add new “harder” farms
  - Continue to the ATB-free production since birth

Newborn piglets are wet, light and must fight before getting energy.

Weak digestive system

No immune defenses

No thermal protection

6. Enlarge and expand the project

Collaborative project to detect and eradicate disease on farm

Objective: Qualify an innovative method to collect air in farm for a rapid, early and targeted diagnosis of infections on pigs

No pain to pigs ⇒ animal welfare
Very quick analysis
Portative system

⇒ Early detection

Trials in progress on Cooperl farms

Take home message

The antibiotic free pig production, a success story made possible by:

Conclusion: ATB-free reality or chimera?

What is the future of antibiotic-free production?
Antibiotic-free pig farming has become standard practice. Eventually, this standard will become part of a more global approach to responsible production, taking into account other issues such as animal welfare and decarbonization.

Do you foresee the market share of antibiotic-free production to become higher in the future?
As a new standard, it will become the foundation on which to build our development and increase our market share.

What is need to incentivize this type of production and make it sustainable?

- Explain why
- Show how
- Reassure, support
- Step back and take a global view
- Continuously measure progress and the value created
- Don't stop at the first hurdle, and learn from your failures, at both farm and collective level.

Innovation is crucial: covers all pig chain

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Transversal — 10


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Sophie DANJOU

Packaging — 3


Yannick SIMONIN

Cured + Veggie products — 25

Stéphane DENIS

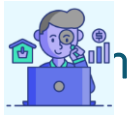
Dry products — 3


Franck REMBLIER

Taste — 2

In total: 123


23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Innovation axes have to find solutions to reach sustainability

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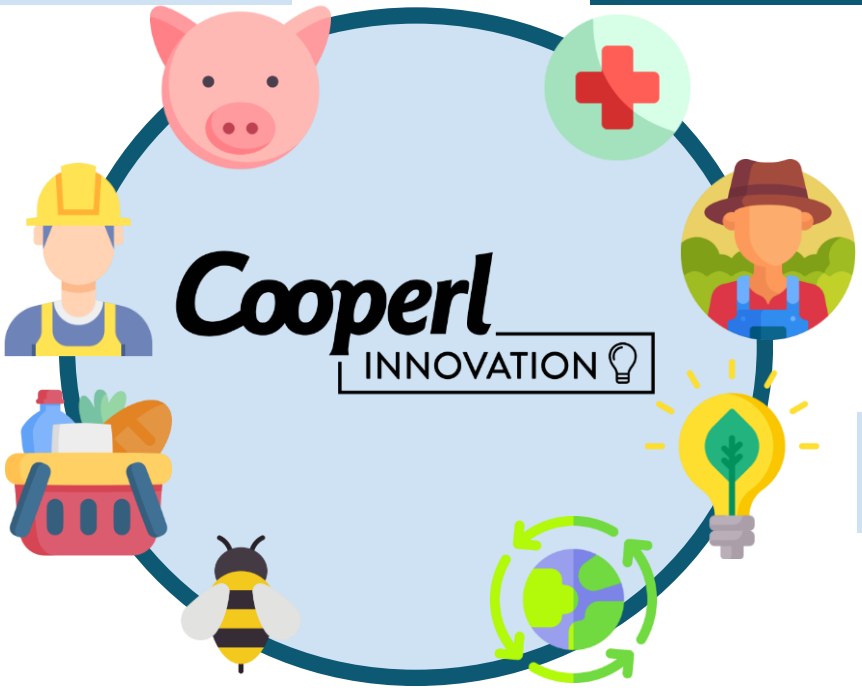
Animal welfare

Animal health

Efficiency and security for industry



Farm efficiency

Consumer

Energy and resources

Agroecology

Circular economy

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THANKS TO

AVANT

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