



Welfare of animals in traditional systems

impact of farm, transport, slaughter practices

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Background

- **different levels of animal welfare standards (EU, candidate and non-EU countries, national legislation)**
 - **public perception for welfare of animals still is not as high as in West European society (social, animal rights associations, economical and educational situation)**
 - **undeveloped market for welfare-friendly food products**
 - **low willingness to pay more for better animal protection**
 - **insufficient knowledge concerning welfare during animal production.**
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Stocking density? ? ?



Challenges

- **extreme lack of information at the farm/industry level**
 - **no welfare assessment systems on farm and *ante-mortem* treatment (handling, transport and slaughtering)**
 - **no efficient control of welfare practice**
 - **livestock industry resistance to change**
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Opportunities

- **improved animal welfare**
 - **implemented control system for animal welfare**
 - **increased safety and quality of products**
 - **consumer awareness of high welfare systems**
 - **increased market for products (animal-friendly, organic...)**
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How to do it?

- **audit of animal welfare in the traditional systems**
 - **relevant research on animal welfare**
 - farm and ante-mortem treatment
 - relations to stress resistance of native breeds
 - **to provide objective assessments and improvements or control of welfare in the future**
 - to work with the industry to disseminate results and
 - to establish effective welfare systems
 - **science-based recommendations for policy makers (legislation)**
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Welfare in the traditional systems – ‘happy dirty pig’



The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be measured by the way in which its animals are treated

Mahatma Gandhi
