

PRACTICE ABSTRACT #2

PA2 - Dairy managing grassland for carbon sequestration



Image 2. Cows resting in Western France pastures.

Source: ACTA

This Practice Hub explores the practices and challenges encountered by Dairy Farmers operating within the grassland systems of Western France, with a specific focus on their efforts in carbon sequestration. Despite employing diverse farming techniques such as hay milk and crossbreeding, the prevailing approach among these farmers centres on grass-based systems. However, there's a concerning trend of a decreasing grassland area, gradually replaced by crops like maize.

Highlighting the pivotal role of grasslands in carbon sequestration, the urgency to preserve these ecosystems becomes apparent. A "living lab" initiative, funded by the PATHWAYS project, involves collaboration with more than ten Dairy Farmers, to gather insights into their practices. Through rigorous data collection and analysis, the objective is to compare the environmental and economic performance of grass-based systems against a national database.

Furthermore, the initiative extends beyond data analysis to advocacy. The goal is to promote the retention and expansion of grassland systems, not only among future farmers but also within local policymaking circles. To achieve this, communication events, including open-farm sessions tailored for students and policymakers, are planned. These forums will facilitate dialogue on the benefits of grassland systems for both environmental sustainability and farmers' livelihoods.

More information on the Practice Hub [here](#).

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