

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR PRODUCTION AND ANIMALS HEALTH CONTROL OF THE PIG INDUSTRY IN PORTUGAL

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The adhesion of Portugal to the UE and the fulfilment of the single market rules, brought new problems to the pig industry in Portugal, leading to the need of a comprehensive knowledge of the sector.

Information systems need to be strengthened at all levels if farmers, producers associations and Government Services are to operate with the required levels of efficiency. Decisions on disease control policy have been made with intuitive judgements and advice on production matters has been given by experienced individuals but there are no structured information bank for epidemiological investigations no for assessing productive efficiency on a broad scale.

In this context, the Veterinary Faculty of Lisbon in close collaboration with the Regional Directorate of Agriculture for Ribatejo e Oeste (DRARO), developed a database to collect relevant data from all the administrative regions of the DRARO, covering the period from 1989 to 1996. The processing and analysis of these data allowed the understanding of the trends of the pigs industry and gave directions for the building-up of an information system to produce adequate information for decision making at different levels, to be applied to animal production as well as animal health level.

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