



Livestock housing of the future

Overview of the *Réseau Mixte Technologique* [Mixed Technology Network]

In 2007, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fishing created a new executive for co-ordinating work, experiments, research and training on targeted technical themes. This executive, named the **Réseau Mixte Technologique** (RMT) provides resources to **motivate networks** and enables them to build up a reputation in a particular area of expertise to optimise their future focus in research/experiments/development and training.

In view of the high degree to which livestock housing is being restructured, the *Institut de l'Élevage* [Livestock Institute], *Chambres d'Agriculture* [Chambers of Agriculture] and technical institutes in other livestock industries have proposed organising an inter-industry network (ruminants, pigs and poultry) centred on livestock housing. The RMT "**Livestock housing of the future**" was approved on 1st September 2007, and will last 3 years.

The RMT's "housing" objectives

This RMT's overall objective is to prepare the livestock housing of the future, by developing and structuring a skills network, on a national scale but also through exchanges with European partners. The RMT's expectations are:

- **To census** contacts, studies/experiments, training and literature on livestock housing
- To do **two things in particular**:
 1. Organise a **European symposium** (Oct. 2009)
 2. Find **innovative housing references** for the three livestock industries concerned.
- **Make the most of exchanges** within the network to **encourage the creation of new project ideas**

The RMT's business and themes

The RMT's business is divided into 5 areas.

Area 1

Work centred on 7 themes

The RMT especially concentrates on seven technical themes.

- 1: **Energy and housing**
- 2: **Architectural quality and landscape integration**
- 3: **Bioclimatic requirements of animals and workers**
- 4: **Management and treatment of effluents**
- 5: **Work, worker safety and user-friendliness of housing**
- 6: **Construction costs, design and engineering**
- 7: **Inspection and changes to types of livestock housing**

Area 2

Production and assessment of innovative housing

This area, closely linked to a study in progress examining eco-construction and livestock housing, includes two successive themes:

- classification of innovative housing into the three livestock industries, the specific focus of a project being carried out for the RMT up to June 2009,
- making the most of census, especially through involvement in work seeking to create prototypes for the livestock housing of the future.

Area 3

Exchanges with European partners in livestock housing research

To strengthen partnerships and encourage people to work together, our top priority is to organise a two-day symposium in autumn 2009. French and European partners will be able to discuss current and future issues and put forward their current views on the theme of livestock housing.

Area 4

Training

So that training benefits from advances in research and development, an industrial inspection will be carried

out. It will detail existing training, identify synergies and how they complement each other (inter- and intra-industry) and identify, from the results of work done centred on the RMT, any areas where improvements could be made.

Area 5

References and reaping the benefits

In this respect, the objective is to compile and make the most of information provided by the four main areas in which the RMT operates. The fact that a website is being created will reinforce the RMT's position, both spreading the word about it and contributing to the dynamism of network exchanges.

Partners

Sixteen founding partners

Sixteen organisations have actively contributed towards creating the RMT and are morally committed through a partnership agreement signed with the DGER.

- *Institut de l'Élevage*
- *IFIP*
- *ITAVI*
- *APCA*
- *Chambre d'Agriculture de Bretagne [Brittany Chamber of Agriculture]*
- *Chambre d'Agriculture des Pays de la Loire [Loire Valley Chamber of Agriculture]*
- *Chambres d'Agriculture [Chambers of Agriculture in*
 - *Isère*
 - *Lot*
 - *Manche*
 - *the Pas de Calais*
 - *Sarthe*
- *SUAMME*
- *GIE Lait Viande de Bretagne*
- *ISA de Lille*
- *CREPA Bretagne*
- *INRA/UMR SAS*

Partners

Other organisations, less involved with RMT's organisation are associated with it, covering a range of subjects. The list of partners is non-exhaustive and has already expanded since the RMT was created. Partners include:

- *Players in development*
- *Agricultural training organisations*
- *Higher education institutions*
- *Partners in research*
- *European research centres, with contacts in Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands and Switzerland*
- *Housing contacts*

For further information

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... The "RMT livestock housing of the future" website is coming soon.