

Natural Concept

5 KEY AIMS of NATURAL CONCEPT

Biology at the heart of sustainable development



PRIORITISE
robust and efficient food systems



PREVENT
risk of infection



STIMULATE
the immune system



USE
chemicals only where disease has been confirmed



RETURN
essential nutrients to the soil



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Editorial

If there is one thing that Nature has taught us, it is to live in harmony alongside it and to respect its balance; man can use anything but abuse nothing. Mindless and endless large-scale animal production is a waste which endangers the natural balance. In the same way, the other extreme, veganism, preaches behaviour which is over-the-top and goes against nature.

Asking man to give up his natural consumption of meat forever, because he does not know how to use it sensibly, would cause a catastrophic disturbance in our ecology. While extreme points of view never present a fair and measured response to a given problem, they do have the benefit of drawing attention to a particular issue, encouraging us to reflect and finally inspire progress through the advent of new solutions. Sustainable and responsible use of our resources (both animals and vegetables) and diversification of our sources of protein will without doubt preserve the natural balance which is so important to us.

MAKE BETTER CHOICES

We need to consider healthcare criteria and animal wellbeing when we make choices regardless of the species. We can no longer make choices based solely on productivity (growth, profitability, etc.). The emergence of new data collection techniques with the development of breeding technology means we can identify animals with the best genetic potential based on these criteria. We also know that health and wellbeing are closely linked to the animal's environment and to breeding management. We are exploring these innovative areas and are taking steps to to commit significant resources within Groupe Grimaud.

DIVERSIFY OUR FOOD SOURCES

Furthermore, it also provides an opportunity to develop new animal production methods which are more sustainable, and to consider innovative animal protein production methods without using animals... In raising this idea, I might be accused of shooting myself in the foot. Quite the opposite. Just as aquaculture, for example, allows us to protect marine resources, in-vitro animal protein production will generate an alternative source of protein which would give us a better understanding of sustainable animal production methods which are less intensive and more respectful.

There are already fresh initiatives emerging in California, Israel and France.

Not all of them will succeed, but the movement is committed and is irreversible, putting a new perspective on: "eat less meat, eat better meat!"

■ A swine with the feed conversion ratio* of a chicken...

1.54: this is not the feed conversion ratio of a chicken, but of the best EXCELIUM swine specially selected for feed conversion. While the French production breeding average is around 2.85, the average for the total population of EXCELIUM animals is 2.10. At 1.54, this new feed conversion ratio for 30-115 kg reflects the intensive selection effort made for feed efficiency of hog lineages by CHOICE GENETICS. Feed efficiency is Natural Concept's number 1 key aim.

EXCELIUM swine was launched at SPACE 2017 (the international exhibition for animal production) and several users have been impressed by it. Sales are increasing 30% a quarter. The first users were impressed by the strength of the piglets. Thanks to this strength, the number of piglets that the sows lose is considerably below average. Field results confirm that this swine has it all: it combines LMP, growth and an excellent feed conversion ratio.

* As a reminder, the feed conversion ratio (FCR) is the quantity of food ingested by an animal to gain one kilogramme of body weight.





■ A reduction of more than 40% of Galor's annual water consumption

At GALOR SAS, the three key uses of water consumption are:

- Guinea fowl consumption
- Cleaning facilities (buildings used for breeding and hatchery).
- Hatchery water to cool the incubators and hatchers. The provision of cold water is therefore necessary to remove the calories released by the OAC at the end of incubation and in the hatcher.

We also take an interest in the third use of consumption, an area in which GALOR SAS has invested in the past.

The machines' water cooling recycling circuit (incubators and hatchers) was designed in the following way: water from the network arrives at 14°C and feeds into the first water reservoir. The water is kept at 9°C thanks to an "ice-cold water" production facility and is passed into the machine cooling system.

The hot water which returns is stored in a second reservoir. Part of this second reservoir is used for washing the hatchery, and the other part returns to the first reservoir to be cooled again to 9°C. By recycling in this way we have significantly reduced our water consumption.

We already had an ice-cold water production facility but it became too small after expansion, and as it got older it became less and less effective.

In spring 2017, we decided to invest in a new ice-cold water production facility allowing us to recycle 100% of the water used in the hatchery.

The new facility became operational in the autumn of 2017 and allowed us to reduce GALOR SAS's water consumption by more than 40%.



■ Demedication at Grimaud Frères Sélection

"ANTIBIOTICS ARE NOT STANDARD PRACTICE"



On 27 March 2017 GRIMAUD FRÈRES SÉLECTION signed up to the SNA (French hatcherymen's association) charter committing the company to the proper use of medicinal treatments. This commitment underpins the actions they already take which extend beyond the requirements of the charter.

To reduce the medication of livestock and particularly the use of antibiotics, the following workstreams were approved and refined many years ago by the technical team:

- Enhanced zootechnical knowledge and associated breeding methods because it goes without saying that animals which are bred in a comfortable environment, respecting their needs, are in better physical health and therefore less sensitive to diseases present in the environment.

- Making the most of nutritional knowledge to adapt food better to the needs of ducks to obtain the best physical constitution and to be more resistant.
- Influencing the breeding bacterial ecosystem using floral barriers and/or digestives allowing a protective floral bacteria to develop.
- Analysing health events to gain a better understanding of the causes, and implement actions allowing us to avoid recurrent diseases.
- Apply the adage "prevention is better than cure" by using autovaccination to prevent the most recurrent pathological bacteria.
- Be curious and innovative by using a phytogramme as well as an antibiotic sensitivity test to prioritise phytotherapy over antibiotic therapy.

Use indicators to measure the effectiveness of these actions.

As a result, to date, we have noticed a regular reduction in the use of antibiotics. GRIMAUD FRÈRES SÉLECTION is really proud to be able to respond to the ecoantibio plan, by reducing the negative effect of medicinal practice in breeding which affects antibiotic resistance in humans, and by using healthier livestock and managing breeding costs more efficiently.