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Title:

Genética molecular e as características qualitativas da carne de suínos de raças autóctones

Molecular genetics and qualitative characteristics of pork meat in local breeds

Abstract

Local pig breeds have a different level of knowledge of their qualitative characteristics especially for traits as meat quality. The recent advances in molecular genetics allow to discover and exploit peculiar features of these breeds conserving at the same time the genetic variability. The first part of the talk is focused on the meat quality traits suitable to be improved or highlighted in local breeds exploring also the meaning of “local” in different contexts. It is then faced the aspect related to niche products that could represent the key point for the development of market opportunities for these breeds. Finally, the talk focused the attention on all the aspects related to selection in small populations and molecular genetic tools able to identify traits of interest. The concluding remarks pointed out that local pig breeds have specific and sometimes unique features. The peculiar characteristics of these breeds with their limited effective size force to develop conservation and selection together and molecular genetics could provide a solution for this aim. It is mandatory to identify traits of interest and to collect phenotypes as well as to monitor the inbreeding. The preservation of diversity combined with the exploitation of the peculiarities of these populations should be an effort to be made in the near future.

Keywords: local pig breeds, meat quality, molecular genetics