

# The Institute



## Where are we

The Institute for the Animal Production System in the Mediterranean Environment takes interdisciplinary interest on Animal production research themes by using a systemic approach as well as knowledge & methods from different cultural areas (biology, physiology, molecular genetics, agronomy, cytogenetics, biochemistry, proteomics, nutrition, microbiology, forage cropping, and applied mathematics).

Research activity is realized in collaboration with both National and International research centers and includes the following investigation themes:

- Forage production & environmental sustainability
- Animal systems, biological sustainability & product quality
- Biodiversity & genetic improvement
- Farming optimization models

These investigation themes have been developed through the constant action of various scientific groups, whose research lines are detailed below:

- Native plant species for forage and multipurpose uses
- Animal Breeding and Nutrition
- Animal Physiology
- Animal Cytogenetics and Genomics
- Animal-derived Food and Materials
- Bioagricultural Proteomics
- Rumen and Food Microbiology
- Sustainable development of Farming & Agropastoral systems

Some of them have currently achieved a level of excellence.

The potential generated by the ISPAAM research activities can be summarized as follows:

- Genetic improvement of farm animals
- Proteomic characterization of organisms having bio-agricultural interest
- Selection/treatment of foods for animal nutrition and related nutritional programs
- Animal welfare
- Improvement of agronomic techniques for the multifunctional use of pastures
- Use of biomasses from drought tolerant native species for energetic purposes

ISPAAM research lines/activities always attracted young researchers that completed their Post-Doc/PhD/Research fellow/Thesis periods in the Institute laboratories. They were from various Italian Universities and demonstrated the strong interaction of the Institute with academies as well as the attractiveness of its multidisciplinary environment. Worth mentioning was also the presence of young scientists from Universities/Research centers of other countries (Iran, Nigeria, Peru, Russia, Montenegro & Romania), which participated in ISPAAM activities, confirming the strong internationalization of the Institute action. In most cases, attractiveness data were related to the activity of ISPAAM excellence groups, which were distinguished for their actual research lines, quali-quantitative publication performances, capacity to attract external funds and editorial/congressman/contact person/divulgate activities, which highly qualified the Institute outwards.