



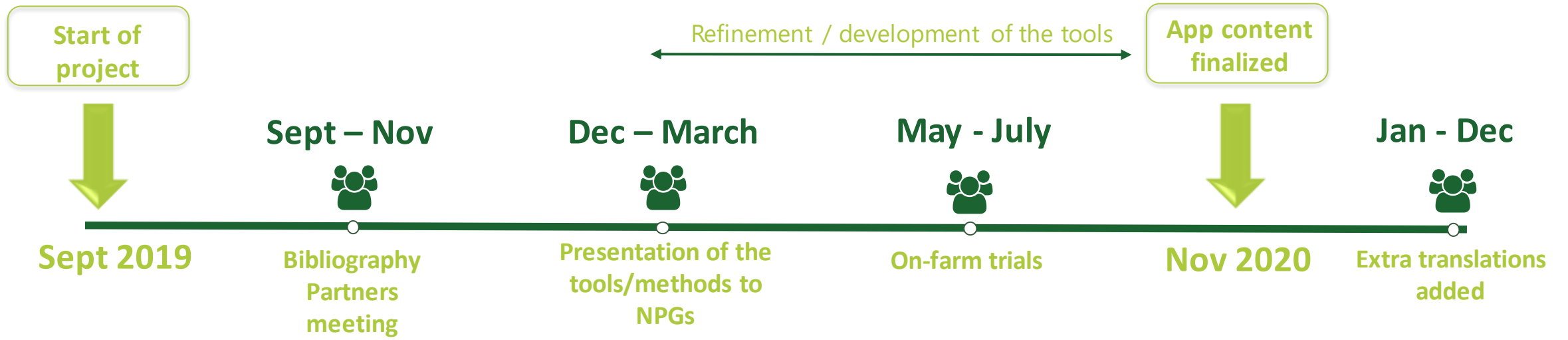
PIGLOW and EBENE: Development and on farm testing of apps for animal welfare self-assessments

PPILOW – Eurogroup for Animals

22nd of February 2024

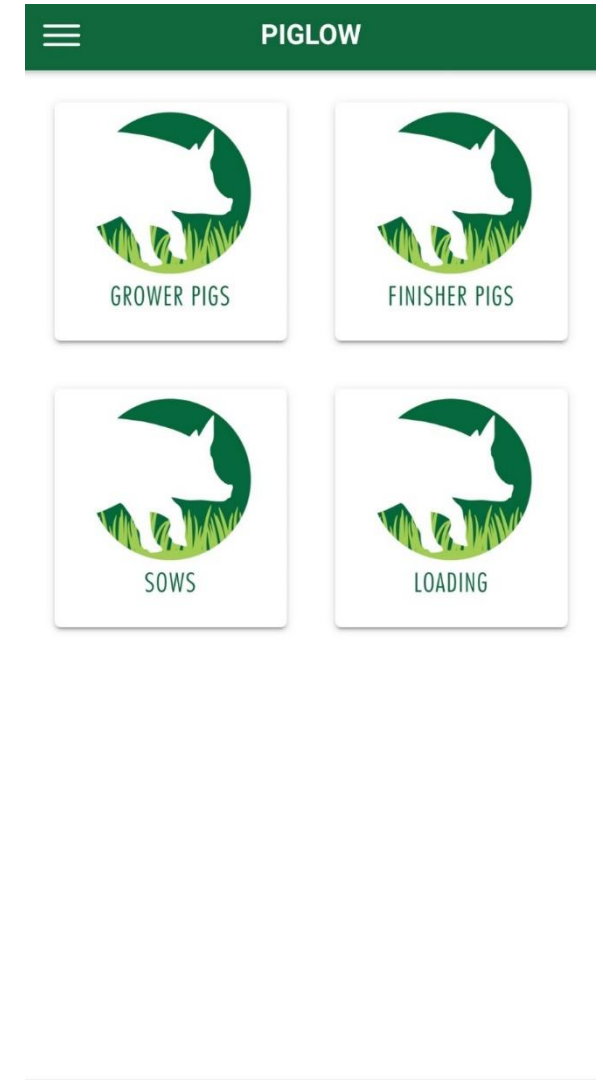
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Development of self-assessment apps

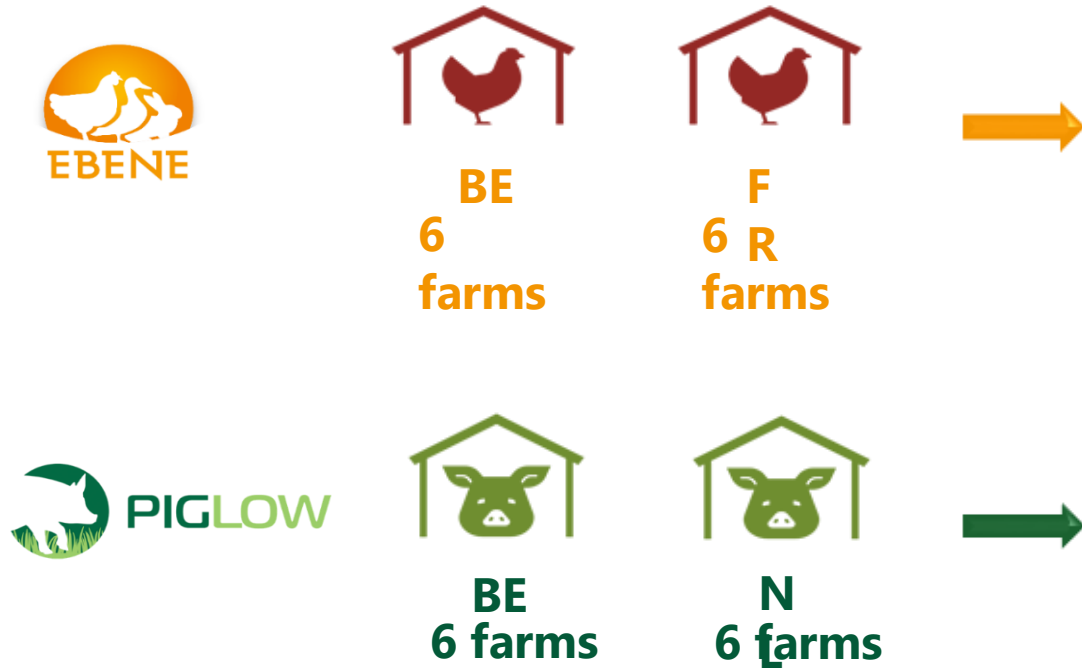


PIGLOW and EBENE

- Animal welfare assessments by free-range and organic pigs and poultry farmers
- Animal based welfare indicators
- Feedback on results: tips for improvements per welfare indicator
- Benchmarking
- Meant to sensitize farmers towards possible welfare issues
- Available in Dutch, Danish, English, Finnish, French, German, Italian (+ Romanian and Norwegian for PIGLOW)



Longitudinal study



Period = **2 years**

Assessments by farmer = **2/year**

Assessments by researcher + farmer = **1st and last**

Filling out survey = **beginning and end**

Period = **2 years**

Assessments by farmer = **3/year**

Assessments by researcher + farmer = **1st and last**

Filling out survey = **beginning and end**

Research questions:

- How do welfare assessments with the PIGLOW and EBENE app by farmers compare to those by trained researchers?
- Do frequent animal welfare self-assessments with the PIGLOW and EBENE app lead to an improvement of animal welfare on the farm?
- **What do farmers think of the apps?**

The apps in action...





Participant survey:
Opinions of pig farmers on the PIGLOW app

Results – Farmers' opinion on the PIGLOW app

Overall, do you feel like the use of the PIGLOW app has changed how important certain aspects of animal welfare are to you? Rate on scale from 1 (not at all) to 7 (very much).

Average score: 4,00

SD: 2,00

Comments:

“The assessment of lesions, scratches, etc. on the bodies of pigs has evolved positively in my opinion. I pay more attention to it.” (5)

“If you assess the pigs with the app, you do look more closely” (6)

“Because we muck out the enclosures every day, we have a good image of the welfare of the animals. I don't think we treat the animals differently.” (4)

“Our whole farm already revolves around obtaining the best possible animal welfare, it's our main goal.” (1)

n=11
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Results – Farmers' opinion on the PIGLOW app

Overall, do you think the use of the PIGLOW app has led to an improvement of the welfare of your animals? Rate on a scale from 1 (not at all) to 7 (absolutely).

Average score: 3,82

SD: 1,60

Comments:

“More reflection on pig behaviour” (5)

“It has made me look at the animals slightly differently, but we were already very focused on it” (2)

“We regularly have young people walking around here, and I find that the app has added value for them. Now they know what they should look at.” (4)

n=11

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Results – Farmers' opinion on the PIGLOW app

How would you rate the PIGLOW app on a scale from 1 tot 10?

Average score: 8,09

SD: 1,37

Comments:

“I found the app very easy and userfriendly. I think it is very suitable for a farmer who wants to improve welfare” (9)

“I think this app has added value for new comers in the sector. They can learn how to look at an animal, what you should pay attention to, and how to see whether an animal feels comfortable” (5)

n=11

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Results – Farmers' opinion on the PIGLOW app

Would you recommend the PIGLOW app to other farmers?

8: yes

3: yes, if some changes are made

What changes would you like to see made to the PIGLOW app?

“None, it's very good like this” (9)

“I would maybe give some more practical tips in the apps, or examples from real farms” (9)

“More depth and better feedback on the results, such as the Welzijnscheck Varkens” (7)

“Sometimes a little bit too precise” (9)

n=11

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Conclusion – Farmers’ opinion on the PIGLOW app

- Opinions differed, but overall the use of the PIGLOW app had a small to medium effect on how pig farmers look at animal welfare
- Farmers indicate that on average, they think the use of the PIGLOW app led to a small improvement of the welfare of their pigs
- Overall, the farmers rated the PIGLOW app very highly, but partially because they see the potential for others and not necessarily because they personally found it very useful
- Comments show that farmers each have different wishes and it is difficult to design something that fits everyone’s needs
- Farmers indicate that they think the app could be very useful for newcomers in the sector or farmers who are not focused on animal welfare yet, so it would be good to find that audience



Participant survey:
Opinions of poultry farmers on the EBENE app

Results – Farmers' opinion on the EBENE app

- **Overall, do you feel like the use of the EBENE app has changed how important certain aspects of animal welfare are to you?**
Average score: 5,11 out of 7
SD: 0,78
- **Do you think the use of the EBENE app has led to an improvement of the welfare of your animals?**
Average score: 4,22 out of 7
SD: 0,97
- **How would you rate the EBENE app on a scale from 1 to 10?**
Average: 7,78 out of 10
SD: 0,97
- **Would you recommend the EBENE app to other farmers?**
8: yes
1: yes, if some changes are made

n=9

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