



Einbeck, November 7, 2024

KWS as co-initiator: Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture funds project on the benefits of resource-efficient feed in poultry farming

6-R,¹ a project funded by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), has demonstrated the positive effects of high rye content in compound feed concepts for pigs. Now the BMEL has given the green light for another research project: FUETURE² will evaluate the benefits of resource-efficient animal feed in poultry farming.

Growing regional animal feed and using rye, which requires less fertilizer and water than other cereals and tends to be very healthy: Resource-efficient animal feed and innovative compound feed concepts can make a significant contribution to more sustainable agriculture and food production and have a positive effect on animal welfare. 6-R has already provided valid data supporting these aspects in the context of hog feeding. The initiators are now hoping to see the same results for broilers within the scope of the FUETURE research project.

KWS had already been involved in 6-R as an industry partner. The FUETURE project that has now been approved was initiated jointly by KWS, the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover Foundation (TiHo) and other partners³. It will investigate the resource-efficient use of animal feed in poultry farming. Here, too, regional protein sources such as peas, the cultivation of special, early-maturing grain corn varieties and the use of rye as a climate-adapted cereal crop could contribute to a more sustainable production of animal foods. "The focus of our scientific studies is on the special features of rye, peas, field beans and domestic soybeans in poultry feeding as well as their potential effects on animal health and animal welfare," says Prof. Christian Visscher, who heads the Institute for Animal Nutrition at TiHo. "First, the feed value will be investigated at Bingen Technical University of Applied Sciences." The aim is to determine the environmental footprint of an innovative feeding concept for poultry using scientific methods. "As a plant breeding company, we offer an exceptionally broad portfolio of crops and develop modern varieties that are increasingly resource-efficient," says Dr. Peter Hofmann, member of the KWS Executive Board and responsible, among other things, for the Cereals Business Unit. "Against this backdrop, KWS actively promotes innovative and sustainable feeding concepts. The BMEL's funding of this project underscores our strategic orientation."

In the case of pig feeding, this has already been achieved on the basis of scientific data from the 6-R project. The results show that feeding pigs a diet with a high rye content both promotes animal health and significantly reduces CO₂ emissions from livestock farming. If you look at the areas of feed cultivation, livestock farming and slaughter, around 60 percent of pork's harmful CO₂ emissions come from feeding. It has been proven scientifically that feeding pigs a rye-rich diet can reduce CO₂ emissions by around 20 to 30 percent up until slaughter. KWS expects that the sustainable feeding concept developed on this basis will be certified before the end of this year.

With a broad product portfolio of crops and digital tools, KWS is developing solutions for sustainable, resource-efficient and economical animal feeding in its Seed2FEED program.

¹: Regional renaissance of rye and oilseed rape to reduce problems in crop and livestock production through the reevaluation of substances and their systematic use to support environmental, animal and consumer protection).

²: Feeding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption – Investigations of feed selection and supply form to increase sustainability, animal health and regionality in the feeding of broilers (FUETURE).

³: Other participants in the FUETURE project are Bingen Technical University of Applied Sciences and the IFF (Internationale Forschungsgemeinschaft Futtermitteltechnik e.V. – International Association for Feed Technology).

About KWS

KWS is one of the world's leading plant breeding companies. Nearly 5,000 employees* in more than 70 countries generated net sales of around €1.68 billion in the fiscal year 2023/2024. A company with a tradition of family ownership, KWS has operated independently for almost 170 years. It focuses on plant breeding and the production and sale of seed for sugarbeet, corn, cereals, vegetables, oilseed rape and sunflower. KWS uses leading-edge plant breeding methods to continuously improve yield for farmers and plants' resistance to diseases, pests and abiotic stress. To that end, the company invested more than €300 million last fiscal year in research and development.

*excl. seasonal workforce

More information: <https://www.kws.com/corp/en>. Follow us on LinkedIn: [LinkedIn KWS Group](#)

Technical contact:

Dr. Andreas von Felde
Lead of Animal Nutrition
Cell phone: +49 (0) 151 18855322
andreas.vonfelde@kws.com

Press contact:

Britta Weiland
Corporate Communications
Cell phone: +49 (0) 151 18855950
britta.weiland@kws.com

KWS SAAT SE & Co. KGaA
<https://www.kws.com>