

# P20

## Cost action feed for health: Results vs. objectives

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**Abstract** The COST Action Feed for Health is a network supported by the European Cooperation in Science and Technology and by European Science Foundation which involves 28 countries, mainly from EU. The main aim of the COST Action is to develop an integrated and collaborative network of research groups that focuses on the roles of feed and animal nutrition in improving animal health and also the quality, safety and wholesomeness of human foods of animal origin. A further topic of the action is to examine the perception of consumers as regards the effects of animal nutrition on animal health and on the quality and safety of the resulting food products. In this context a general scientific output of the Action is that feed safety is a key element in livestock production. A number of issues have weakened the public's confidence in the quality and wholesomeness of foods of animal origin. As a result farmers, nutritionists, industry and governments have been forced to pay serious attention to animal feedstuff production processes, thereby acknowledging that animal feed safety is an essential prerequisite for human food safety. Concerns about these issues have produced a number of important effects including the ban on the use of processed animal proteins, the ban on the addition of most antimicrobials to farm animals diets for growth promotion purposes, and the implementation of feed contaminant regulations in the EU. In this context it is essential to integrate knowledge on feed safety and feed supply. Consequently, purchase of new and more economic sources of energy and protein in animal diets, which is expected to conform to adequate quality, traceability, environmental sustainability and safety standards, is an emerging issue in livestock production system. From the consumer point of view, it is generally accepted that FEED is perceived as particularly vulnerable in the livestock chain, and they prefer animal products from livestock systems that used animal feed safe for consumers, friendly to the environment and the animals.