



# BestCoopMed Project: Advancing Benchmarking and Best Practices in Portuguese Farms and Cooperatives

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Catholic University of Portugal & BestCoopMed Project  
EDF Congress 2025, Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal, June 25th  
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# Outline

- The BestCoopMed Research Project overall
- Benchmarking group case-study
- The Benchmarking Group
- Our benchmarking procedure
- Concluding Remarks

# The BestCoopMed Research Project

- Aims to enhance the role of Portuguese agricultural cooperatives in advancing technology and competitiveness in farming.
- Includes an action-research study to identify barriers of using benchmarking as a support tool for farmers and farmers' advisers.
- The project is ongoing and will finish in December 2025.

# Benchmarking Group - Preliminary assumptions

- Farms' performance data must be valid and reliable to be useful.
  - This depends first on farmers being willing to share information or delegate the task to others.
- Gathering all the required information takes time.
  - The effort varies depending on each farmer's connections with external institutions.
- Some information must necessarily come directly from the farmers and their accountants.

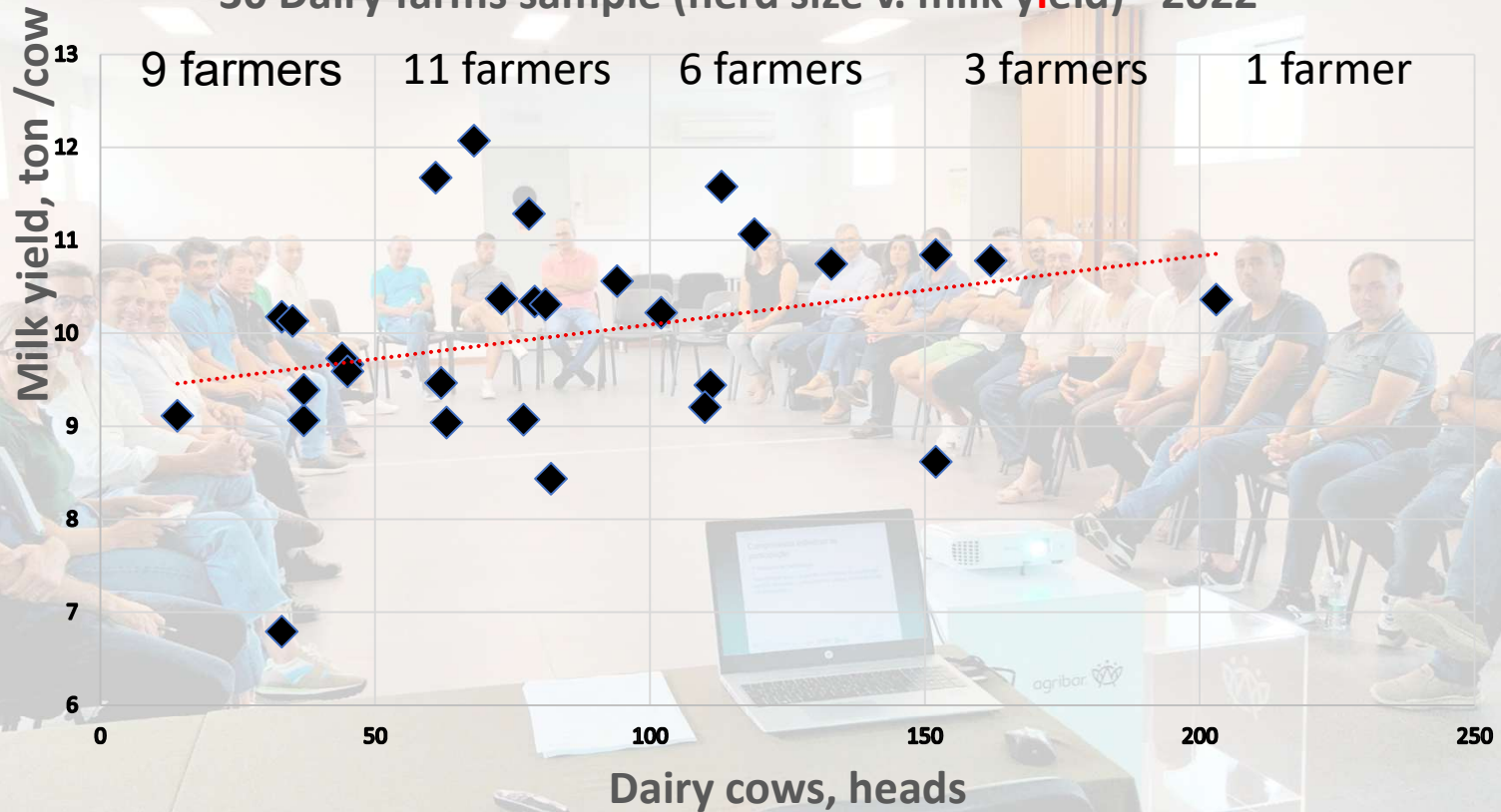


# The case-study

- The case study examines AGRIBAR, an agricultural co-operative in Northwest Portugal.
- Based on turnover, AGRIBAR ranks among the top 5 Agri-cooperatives in Portugal (CASES 2022).
- It analyses a diverse group (by scale and yield) of 30 dairy farmers linked to AGRIBAR.

# The farmers' group

30 Dairy farms sample (herd size v. milk yield) - 2022



# Benchmarking procedure: “Actors” and barriers

“Actors”	Data	Barriers found
Farmers	General farm structure; milk use; compound feed use; total and task-specific work hours.	No records of input use or work hours.
Co-operative	Milk production volumes and characteristics, subsidies	No major barriers identified
Milk recording association	Herd figures, some technical coefficients	Need for new data extraction routines for some indicators.
Accountants	Farms’ invoices, accountancy overall tables	Accountants’ promptness varies; accounting mainly for fiscal purposes, causing inconsistencies in farm inventory valuation across farmers/years

# Concluding Remarks

Dairy farmers' motivation for benchmarking depends mainly on the benefits they expect.

Farms need routines to record input and labour use.

Accountants must be trained for benchmarking purposes.

Many barriers have been removed by adjusting procedures.

Small-scale farming is not a major limitation.

However, data collection must rely more on support from agricultural institutions for the sake of comparability.

# Thank you!

