

ENRA Research Strategy and Living Labs: some reflections

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Professor Sally Shortall, ENRA SAB Member,
Duke of Northumberland Chair of Rural Economy,
Newcastle University

sally.shortall@newcastle.ac.uk



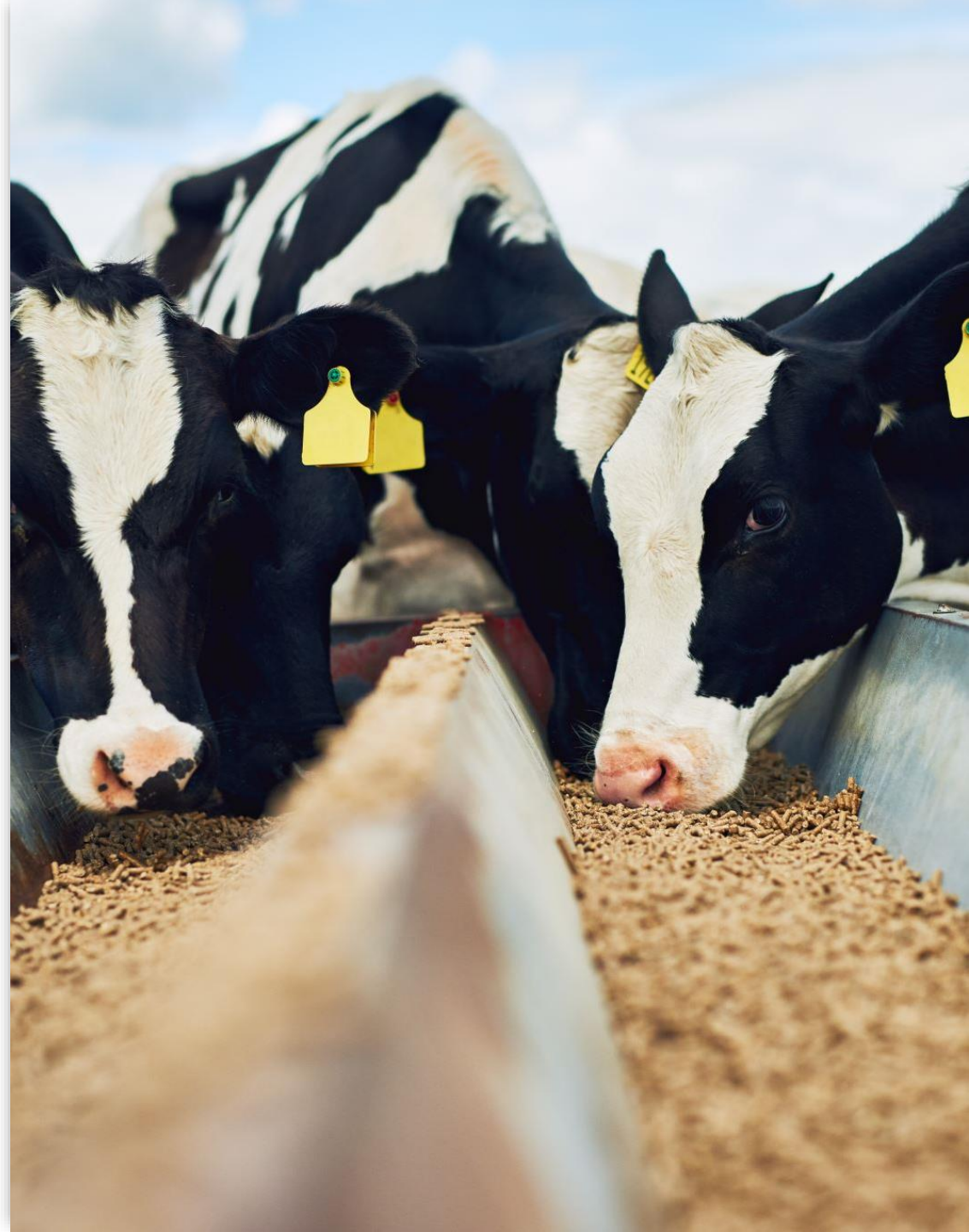
Living Labs: what the Strategy says:

- Living labs: They are also seen as important in the **adoption of new research and technologies**: living labs help reduce barriers to uptake, and help innovations be more ready for real-world use.
- Recognising Scotland's varied landscapes and local contexts, the document notes that living labs allow **region-specific solutions**: what works in one area may not work elsewhere, so the labs help adapt innovations to local conditions
- communities, researchers, and land managers



Living labs: some reflections

- Not just about the *type* of agriculture
- Who farms?
- Who are we interacting with?
- Family farms
- Need to make sure we access all relevant actors in our living labs



GRASS CEILING Horizon Europe project



GRASS CEILING multi-actor project to increase farm and rural women-led socio-ecological innovations: 9 countries: partners from science, policy & practice

Our living labs:

- living labs with women innovators
- engaging relevant stakeholders
- Academics



The living labs: How they worked

- Nine Member States: three living labs per year
- Different recruitment strategies in different Member States
- Co-led by an academic partner and a relevant stakeholder organisation
- Individual mentoring session between living labs (three mentoring sessions per year)
- Invited speakers



The living labs

- Tailored to different regions around the EU: they are flexible to location and region
- Women on farms and training needs
- Farm diversification/ alternative income streams and skills needed: finance, social media, marketing
- Two-way conduit: feed back what is needed to policy makers, advisers, banks



ITALIAN
LIVING LAB



**GRASS
CEILING**

LETIZIA CUONZO WELCOMES STUDENTS
OF CIHEAM BARI'S MASTER PROGRAMME

The living labs

- Scottish living lab in the Highlands and Islands
- Meetings in Ullapool
- Mostly crofters developing alternative income streams



The living labs: what worked



- Payment of the women participants
- Payment of stakeholder organisations (variations across Europe in level of engagement)
- Peer to peer learning was the most valued element of the living labs
- Individual mentoring sessions between living labs highly valuable
- Would have liked more visits to each other's crofts to see business developments



Thank you for your attention!



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