

Husbandry and management of a frog farming pilot facility

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Every year, Europeans consume approximately 4500 tons of frog legs, with most of the demand coming from France. However, less than 10 tons are produced yearly in European frog farms due to legislative restrictions on the commercial exploitation of native species, so the remaining bulk of the demand is met by importing frozen frog legs from Asian countries, where animals are still sourced directly from the wild with little regard for their welfare by the millions. To protect and improve wild frog populations in source markets, the EU should strive to implement sustainability measures which allow for native frog farming operations. Therefore, it is imperative to continue researching on husbandry and management systems to gather data which could influence policy decision-makers. The main objective of this work was to develop a frog farming pilot facility (15 m²), combined with a digital platform to improve production-based decision making. The project consists of assembling an entire production unit in the context of production activity. We focused on the native Iberian water frog (*Pelophylax perezi*) to obtain biometric data to support the digital platform's development. Such tools could improve future research in this area, facilitating the study of, for example, the effects of different dietary regimes or population densities on growth rates. Testing facilities like these also help to overcome challenges that would be difficult on industrial scales.