

**Edi Piasentier** is a full professor in Animal Husbandry at the University of Udine. A graduate in Agricultural Sciences at the University of Padua in 1984, he has pursued his scientific career in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Udine – formerly the Institute of Animal Production and the Department of Animal Production Science– first as a graduate student, then, from 1986, as a researcher. In 1998 he was appointed assistant professor, and from 2006 he has worked as a full professor in the discipline AGR/19- Animal Husbandry. It was director of the Department of Animal Sciences from 2007 to 2010, when the department was integrated in the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, of which at present he is vice-director.

Edi Piasentier has pursued his teaching career in the Faculty of Agriculture and, since its establishment in 1998 until 2011, when the university reform abolished all the Italian faculties, in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Udine, in the discipline of AGR/19- Animal Husbandry. He is currently responsible for the following courses: 'Animal husbandry: monogastric animals', and 'Laboratory for the evaluation of the quality of animal products', within the bachelor's degree program in Animal husbandry and health; and 'Quality control in animal production chains', within the post-graduate program in Animal resources and nutrition, at the University of Udine.

He is one of the lecturers participating in the doctorate studies programme in Agricultural Sciences and Biotechnologies within the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

In the framework of the EDULINK – African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of states (ACP) – EU Cooperation Program in Higher Education, he was the vice-coordinator of the project Linking Institutions for Veterinary Education (LIVE, 2009-2012), grant contract n.9- ACP-RPR-118#6, between the University of Udine; University of Perugia; University of Parma (IT); Universities of Yaoundé I; University of Ngaoundere; University of Dschang (Cameroon); University of Ndjamena (Tchad); University of Equatorial (Equatoria Guinea); University of Health Sciences in Owendo (Gabon). He was a member of the didactic commission and tutoring co-ordinator of the post-graduate course in "Food safety of animal products" for Cameroonian food technologists, veterinary surgeons and animal producers doctors which forms part of a project of cooperation between the University of Udine and the Yaoundé I University in Cameroon, financed by the regional council of Friuli Venezia Giulia. As part of this course, in 2006, 2007 and 2008 he taught the 30-hour unit on "Food analysis and quality control assurance", held in Yaoundé.

He is the secretary-member of the five-member national commission which evaluates and assesses the candidates' scientific qualification in the 07/G1sector- Animal Science and Technology, within the National Scientific Qualification for the University Professor position recruiting, 2013 -2014.

Since its establishment in 1999, Edi Piasentier has been the coordinator of the 'Animal systems and product quality' research group, and responsible for the laboratory of 'Analysis of animal products' at the University of Udine.

Edi Piasentier is a member of the Scientific Association of Animal Science and Production, of the Society for the Study and Enhancement of Alpine Animal Production Systems, and of the Italian Association of Organic Animal Production; he has participated in the EAAP Working Group of Carcass Evaluation, coordinated by H. de Boer, and also in the FAO European Cooperative Network on Sheep and Goat Research, coordinated by J.P. Morand-Fehr, and in the FAO-CIHEAM European Cooperative Sub-Network in Mountain Pastures Network, coordinated by Prof. Alain Peeters. He is a founding associate and a member of the 'Collegio di Probiviri' of the Italian Society of Sensory Science, a scientific society of which he contributed to its establishment in 2002.

Edi Piasentier was the President of the Technical Committee of Bergamasca and Biellese Sheep Breeds, and is a member of the Central Technical Commission for the Italian Simmental Breed, in his capacity as an expert on the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies.

Edi Piasentier has established a number of partnerships of scientific collaboration with various public bodies and associations, including the Regional Council for Agricultural Development of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, the Regional Associations of Sheep and Goat Producers and of Wild Animals Farmers, and the National Association of Italian Simmental Breeders. These partnerships have been cemented by conventions and research contracts which, between 1997 and 2013, have focused upon the development of livestock production, and the characterization and evaluation of

local products of animal origin. He is currently engaged in the various research projects as a participant and as a project coordinator in the Italy-Cameroon cooperative programme (2007-2013): “Improvement of Goudali productivity by controlled crossing with Italian Simmental”.

He has been the local project manager for the:

- quadrennial research project ‘Evaluation and improvement of the animal production systems using natural resources by grazing animals in Mediterranean areas’ no. 8001-CT90-0021, financed by the European Union Commission within the CAMAR program, from 1991 onwards. 14 different research groups from 5 countries – France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain – have taken part in the project coordinated by the International Center for High Mediterranean Agricultural Studies (CIHEAM) and the Mediterranean Agronomical Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ)
- triennial research project 'Identifying and changing the qualities and composition of meat from different European sheep types which meets regional consumer expectations' (1997–99), financed by the European Commission – Contract FAIR3 CT96 1768 – coordinated by Dr. Alan Victor Fisher of the Division of Food Animal Science, the School of Veterinary Science, University of Bristol, with the participation of 4 other foreign institutes: the Agricultural Research Institute Keldah, Iceland; the Department of Livestock Breeding, University of Zaragoza; 'La Station de Recherches sur la Viande', INRA, Theix, France; Aristotelian University, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- biennial project (1999-2000) titled 'Study, characterization and technological evaluation of Friuli Venezia Giulia local agricultural products'. Scientific Coordinator: Prof. Lanfranco S. Conte, acts in accordance with regional legislation 3/98, art. 16. Title of the program of research unit: 'Qualification and valorization of sheep breeds of the Istrian peninsula'.
- triennial project Interreg III B – Alpine Area, Contract I/III/1.2/10 'Alpine network for sheep and goat promotion for a sustainable territory development' (2005-2007), with the participation of 16 partners from Slovenia, Austria, Germany and Italy.
- triennial inter-regional program of Biological Animal Science 'Efficiency, Quality and Innovation in Organic Animal Production (2005-2008), nationally coordinated by Prof. R. Zanoli of the Marche Polytechnic University.

He has been the project and the national coordinator for the following projects:

- “Innovation and optimization in the cured ham production chain' (2006-2011), within the bounds of the regional laws on innovation no. 11/2003 and no. 26/2005, which brings together an interdisciplinary working group, comprised of 8 research units from 3 departments of the University of Udine, with specific areas of expertise that concern and cover the various aspects of the chain of ham production. These areas of expertise are complemented by those of the 'Istituto Nord-Est Qualità', with the function of performing official controls, and certifying PDO products.
- 'Quality, quality perception and product traceability in sheep meat production systems', a two-year project (2006-2007), within the Programs of Scientific Research of Relevant National Interest (DM no. 287, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2005), with the participation of 5 local research units from as many Italian universities.
- “Applicable requirements and perceived typicality of dry-cured ham”, a two-year project (2008-2010), within the Programs of Scientific Research of Relevant National Interest (DM no. 1175/2007), with the participation of 4 local research units from as many Italian universities.

The scientific career of Edi Piasentier, as with his teaching career, has developed through the study and evaluation of husbandry systems and factors of variability in animal production. Following an initial application on animal nutrition and feeding, his scientific attention moved towards themes concerning the evaluation and modification of the quality of milk and meat. In order to achieve the objectives described above, he has furthered his methodological and analytical skills regarding the evaluation and characterization of products of animal origin, in collaboration with foreign and national fellow experts.