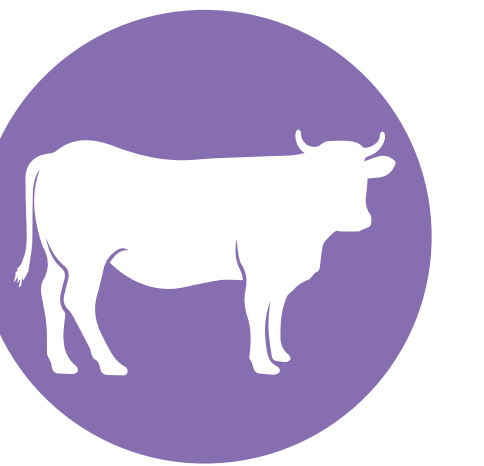


# Innovation goes hand in hand with tradition: TRANSHUMANCE



## The innovator

**Lucía Velasco**

**Region:** Asturias (Spain)

**Sector:** Livestock

**Number of head:** 100

**Breed:** Asturian Valley cattle (*Asturiana de los Valles*)

**Member of two cooperatives and founder of the women farmers association *Ganaderas Asturianas***

**Winner of the Excellence in Innovation Award for Rural Women (Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food)**



## Features of my innovator journey

- Back to tradition with transhumance - a widespread farming practice in the past
- Family farm with traditional facilities, depending on common pastures
- The valley-mountain pass system alternates mountain grazing in spring, summer and part of the autumn, and stabling and meadow grazing near the farm in winter
- Nomadic cowherds or *Vaqueiros de alzada*. Families move seasonally with their cattle

## Innovation from 3 perspectives

### Economic

Excellent meat quality with good market acceptance  
Opportunity to earn a living in the rural area  
Innovation - tradition  
Use of natural resources and less purchase of inputs



### Environmental

Protection of the rural landscape and biodiversity  
Prevention of wildfires  
Prevention of deforestation  
Regulation of soil nutrient cycle  
Configuration of the landscape  
Respect for the ecosystem's natural heritage



### Social

Stronger society  
Collaborative work and partnerships  
Cooperative movement  
Gives a voice to rural women through social networks  
Gives visibility to traditional nomadic cowherds (*Vaqueiros de alzada*) and rural women



## Barriers

The need for greater acknowledgement of women and to provide them with equal opportunities  
Limited social services in rural areas  
Lack of infrastructures  
Abandonment of pastures and loss of rural landscapes  
Problems with wildlife  
Depopulation. Less cowherds, more abandoned villages and loss of traditional know-how

“ I’m going to carry on my work to bring tradition and innovation together, because I want my children to live in a fairer world where members of the rural population have the same opportunities as city dwellers, where there is respect for traditional practices and, moreover, where there is real equality for the women and men earning their living in the rural world”. Lucia Velasco, farmer



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