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Water footprint and economic water productivity of sheep meat at farm scale in humid and semi-arid agro-ecological zones

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Highlights

- Water use of sheep meat at farm scale was monitored.
- Water footprint of sheep meat varies with farming systems.
- Farms in semi-arid zone exhibit higher water footprint than farms in humid zone.
- Farms in humid region create the highest gross margin by m³ of water.
- Rainfall, diet composition, and sheep productivity affect water footprint of meat.

Abstract

Tunisia is prone to serious depletion of water resources that is threatening the sustainable development especially the livestock sector. The current study aimed to measure water footprint (WF) and economic water productivity (EWP) of sheep meat within twelve smallholder farms in two different agro-ecological zones in Tunisia; humid in northern and semi-arid in central Tunisia. A year-round monitoring of on-farm practices was performed

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