

THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

In the current globalized world and in a context of increased competition, adequate management of the supply chain is of paramount importance. Swine production is in a process of consolidation through a vertical integration model that secures a consistent flow of information and data from the sales stage back to the product development, manufacturing and logistics stages. Quality and flexibility can be increased, and costs reduced, by means of: (i) optimal connection of manufacturing systems, (ii) the prevention of system failures and (iii) better analytical abilities.

Moreover, the agri-food sector faces multiple challenges in the coming years that affect the society at large. Public health, including responsible use of antibiotics and the eradication and control of diseases, is in fact at the centre of the debate. Several strategies are available to tackle existing deficiencies in the production process and to increase value creation (in a broad sense). For instance, the environmental footprint can be reduced by using manure as an agricultural fertilizer (instead of regarding it as livestock waste). This will help farmers to cut down on the use of chemical fertilizers. Increasing animal welfare not only benefits animals themselves, but also improves sanitary and food guarantees, and conveys a better image of the agri-food sector to society. Given the public consequences of measures taken by agri-food businesses, management of swine production should balance the interests of all stakeholders involved in the process. Better distribution of production nucleuses in isolated areas and the pursuit of higher efficiency in production need to be reconciled with the development of production strategies that ensure income generation and satisfaction to consumers, while simultaneously ensuring sustainability of the environment and prosperity of healthy communities.