#1 Overview of the research programme: boosting exports of the emerging NZ dairy sheep industry

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This presentation gives an overview of the 6-year research programme led by AgResearch and funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). The aim of the programme, which is currently in its third year, is to increase export revenue from the NZ dairy sheep industry. This is being achieved by: 1) Providing science-based evidence of the nutritional and functional characteristics of sheep milk, 2) Optimizing feeding and animal nutrition systems to increase the net volume and value of harvested milk, and 3) Developing criteria to ensure environmental sustainability of sheep dairying in NZ. AgResearch is working together with the University of Otago, Callaghan Innovation Ltd and Victoria University of Wellington to conduct the research, and in close partnership with major NZ sheep milk producers to ensure industry relevance and uptake. The expected outcomes are high-value sheep milk products for export, increased milk production per ewe, and an environmentally sustainable NZ dairy sheep industry.