

**Teacher: ZANIBONI LUISA**

**Research title: Poultry farming: biodiversity and sustainable diets**

**Titolo della ricerca: La filiera avicola: biodiversità e diete sostenibili**

**Contact details**

Università degli Studi di Milano  
Department of Veterinary Medicine  
E-mail: [luisa.zaniboni@unimi.it](mailto:luisa.zaniboni@unimi.it)  
ORCID 0000-0002-0881-2332

**State of the art and aims of the project (max 200 words)**

Sustainable animal production is one of the most challenging concerns worldwide. The sustainability of future poultry production needs to be improved in order to meet global challenges. The global poultry production significantly increased due to the high demand for eggs and meat. Therefore, it is critically important to mitigate challenges to the sustainability of modern poultry production, such as the loss of biodiversity, the depletion of finite natural resources, and animal welfare issues. In particular, the number of productive genotypes is worldwide very small and it is strongly based on commercial hybrids selected for production economics' targets. The extremely high genetic potential of these birds needs controlled environment and high quality input to be properly expressed. The removal of breeds means losing not only natural capital or genetic 'wealth', but also possibilities for adapting to different environments and situations, for example climate changes. The aim of the project is to investigate sustainable diets (for example locally sourced feed, insect larvae etc.) for local poultry breeds reared in extensive farming system, with a focus on the quality of poultry meat and animal welfare.