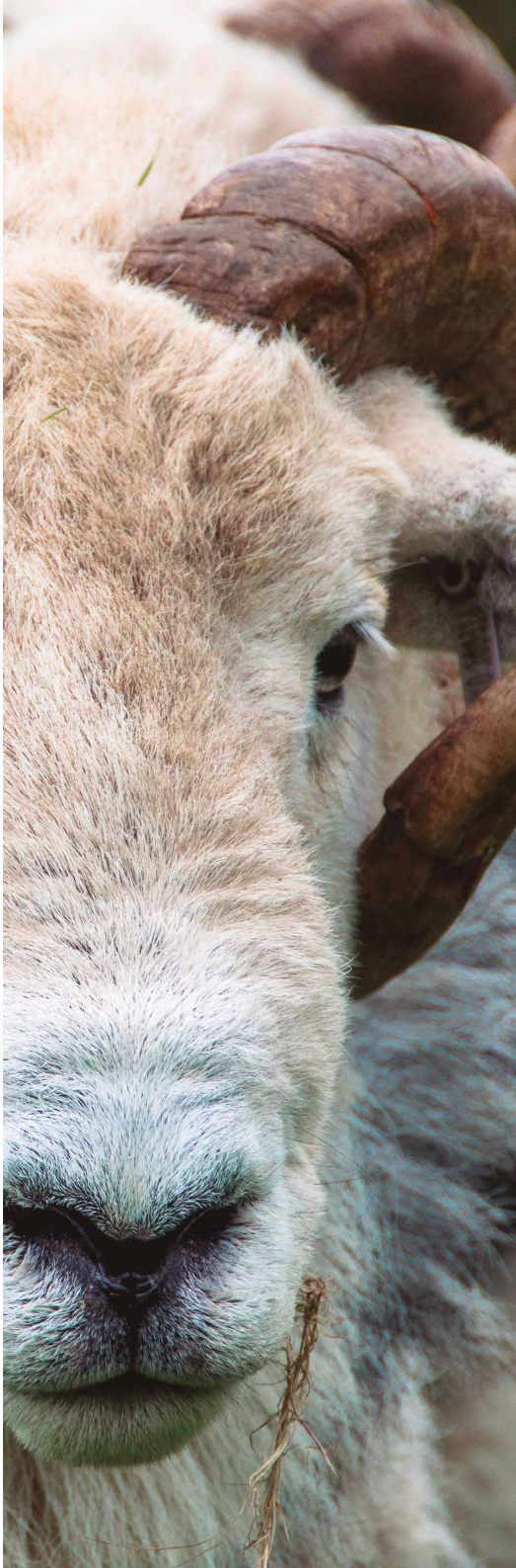
Meet the European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources

ERFP

European Regional Focal Point (ERFP)

The ERFP for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP) is the regional platform to support and coordinate actions for the conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources (**AnGR**) in order to facilitate the implementation of FAO's Global Plan of Action for AnGR.

The ERFP mission is driven by the need to safeguard farm animal genetic diversity for future generations, in particular in the global context of food, nutrition security and climate change.

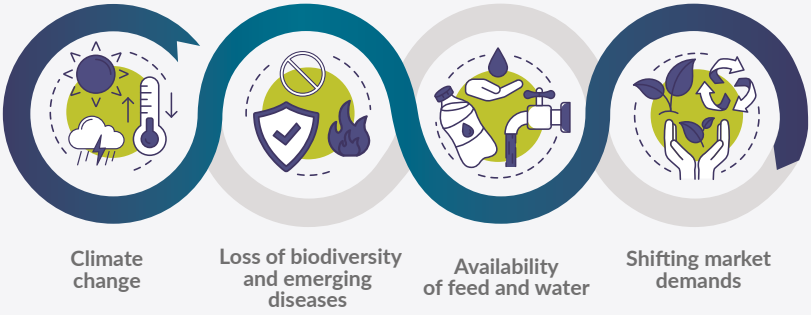


The importance of Farm Animal Genetic Resources

Animal genetic diversity is essential for the further development of sustainable and resilient livestock production systems. It provides a range of ecosystem services and contributes in many ways to livelihoods, food security, rural development, cultural life and environmental management.

ERFP includes all species, breeds, strains and their reproductive material that are of economic, environmental, scientific and cultural interest for agriculture and food systems, now and in the future. Common species include sheep, goats, cattle, horses, pigs, buffalo and chicken. Other domesticated animal species are also relevant, such as donkeys, rabbits, fur animals and reindeer.

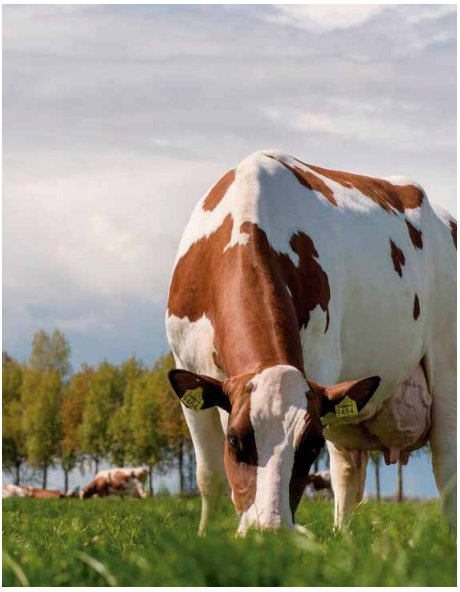
Diverse animal genetic resources provide adaptability and resilience in the face of:



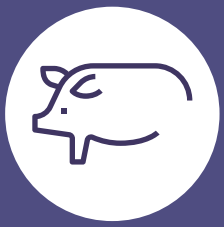
Sustainable use and conservation of AnGR

Sustainable use refers to genetic improvement and breeding programs to maintain and make optimal use of genetic diversity between and within species of livestock, in the context of a large diversity of livestock production systems, with the aim to develop sustainable and resilient future livestock systems.

Breeding programs are either implemented by networks of farmers or breed societies and organisations. They need to balance both selection intensity and the maintenance of genetic diversity within the breeding population.



Two complementary conservation approaches should be implemented at breed level: countries and stakeholders need to develop and implement appropriate strategies and policies for the conservation and sustainable use of **AnGR**. Institutional frameworks need to be established at national and European level to streamline and to coordinate the conservation and sustainable use of **AnGR**.



In situ Conservation

All measures to maintain live animal breeding populations, where they either have been developed or are now normally found, together with husbandry activities that are undertaken to ensure the continued contribution of these genetic resources to sustainable food and agricultural production.

Ex situ Conservation

When referring to the maintenance of live animal populations, not kept under their normal management conditions, it is classified as "in vivo". When referring to the storage of reproductive material such as embryos, semen, oocytes, somatic cells or tissues with potential to reconstitute live animals in future, under cryogenic condition (genebanks) it is classified as "in vitro".

Sources of information on AnGR

ERFP manages and maintains two relevant databases to collect information about **AnGR** and to monitor trends in farm animal genetic diversity in the European region:

- The European Farm Animal Biodiversity Information System **(EFABIS)** serves as the platform for the exchange of national data provided by the National Coordinators and it´s aligned with the FAO Domestic Animal Diversity Information System **(DAD-IS)**.

  More information in:
  http://www.fao.org/dad-is/regional-national-nodes/efabis/en/

- The European Genebank Network for **AnGR (EUGENA)** is a network of Member Genebanks in European countries. It aims to support the ex situ conservation and sustainable use of **AnGR**, and to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, experiences and access to information about genebank collections.

More information: **https://eugena-erfp.net/en/**

The future of AnGR must be ensured!
Take action now!

CONTACT US

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