



Promoting the use of rare breeds

Report from DG AGRI Preparatory Action – EU plant and animal genetic resources

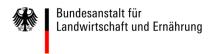
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Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)

Bonn, Germany

ERFP Assembly Meeting in Belfast 28th August 2016





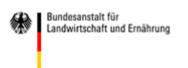
Consortium

- Valdani Vicari & Associati (contract leader)
- Arcadia International (project coordination)
- The Centre for Genetic Resources (CGN-PGR), the Plant Research International Plant breeding (PRI) and the socio-economics research institute (LEI); all being research institutes of the Wageningen UR
- The Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, an institute of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen (KNAW-CBS)
- The Information and Coordination Centre for Biological Diversity of the German Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE-IBV)

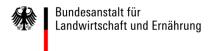










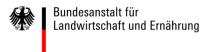




Objectives of the study

 to identify, describe and analyse the activities on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural and forest genetic resources

 to identify missing links and actions to be addressed in future actions on the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in agriculture and forestry



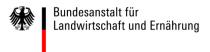


Mapping

total of 900 responses
 (results are presented on: <u>www.geneticresources.eu</u>)

Literature review

total of 228 papers mainly from the last six years



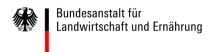


Interviews

330 interviews with interviewees from 13 different stakeholder groups

Case studies

in-depth analysis of 21 representative initiatives





Workshops

→ Better integration of ex-situ and in-situ approaches towards conservation and sustainable use of GR.

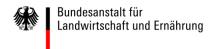
Brussels, June 2015

→ Forest Genetic Resources in Europe in a changing climate: challenges and needs for conservation

Amsterdam, June 2015

Microbial Genetic Resources

Utrecht, November 2015





Workshops

 The impact of climate change on the conservation and utilisation of crop wild relatives in Europe

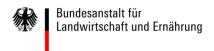
Barcelona, December 2015

Genetic resources for value chain developments

Brussels, January 2016

Access regimes on genetic resources for food and agriculture in the EU
 London, February 2016

Implementation of the Global Plan of Actions (FAO): which role for the EC?
Bonn, April 2016



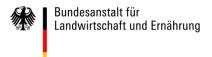


Final conference

- 9th June 2016 in Brussels
- nearly 300 participants
- background document with conclusions and recommendations



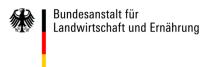
- feedback from the audience by voting
- request to send comments to the background paper





Final report

- submitted to Commission on 19th August 2016
- approved on....

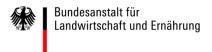




Promoting the use of rare breeds

Conclusions and recommendations of the study

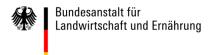
(only these conclusions and recommendations that are more or less directly associated with the promotion of rare breeds)





Conclusions of the study

- Fundamental conclusions
- Knowledge exchange
- Added value
- Funding
- Competence centres

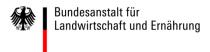




Fundamental conclusions

 utilisation and sustainable use of genetic resources is the key for the conservation

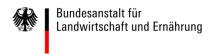
 sustainable use of genetic resources needs proportionate legal requirements for small producers





Conclusions of the study

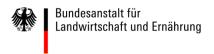
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Knowledge exchange

- Need for the development and dissemination of knowledge in the form of good practices and success stories
 - creation of User Guides for valorisation of rare breeds at EU level
 - success stories should be compiled and distributed via the existing EU networks
 - distribution among national and local advisory services

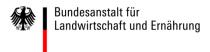




Knowledge exchange

- lessons from on-going and past projects should be learned
 - → no "re-inventing of the wheel"

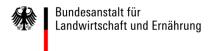
- take advantage of the specific features of the breeds (e.g. high quality of products, disease resistance, higher tolerance to suboptimal conditions)
 - → advanced technologies improve efficiency of breeding





Conclusions of the study

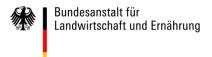
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- Valorisation projects should preferably be initiated and developed in added value food supply chains
 - valorisation of genetic resources and development of dedicated supply chains benefit from working alliances among stakeholders
 - regional scope of valorisation project as strength in the marketing of genetic resources
 - local trademarks and quality signs

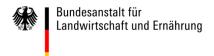






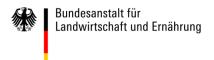
 Use of rare genetic resources in organic production systems

- organic farmers could increase their credibility and attract additional consumers
- increasing interest in regional breeds as positive impulse for organic value chains



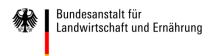


- Securing of a critical mass of animals
 - valorisation projects with low number of animals could be at risk
 - first stage up-scaling to guarantee a sufficient number of animals for the supply chain and the marketing objectives (volumes of production and sales)





- need to raise awareness for the connection of agri-environmental measures and the conservation of rare breeds
- recognise the importance of farmers as drivers for attaining economic, social and environmental goals
- operational groups in the framework of EIP-AGRI could serve as platforms

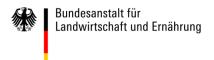




EIP-Agri – Example from Germany

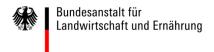
Project title: Population management

- management of inbreeding and breeding progress of old and typical regional breeds using modern genome-based population management methods
- Operational group: farmers, advisors, researchers
- funded by Rural Development Programme 2014 2020





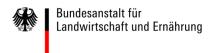
- need to raise awareness for the relevance of conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources in the general public
- importance of agro-tourism and gastro-tourism
- consideration of the importance of farming in value chains of valorisation projects





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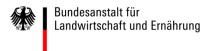




Funding

Funding of valorisation projects

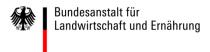
- resources to fund the projects are often limited
- funding should preferably go to groups that intend to develop a project of valorisation
- EU farm promotional programs could be a very important tool for genetic resources
 - → adaption to small initiatives is needed





Funding

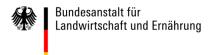
- Administrative burdens limits the development of valorisation projects
 - high burdens linked to the getting of subsidies or other typ of funding
 - late payment could ruin small organisations





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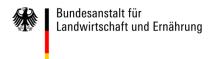


Competence centres

 Utilisation of rare genetic resources should be facilitated by specific competence centres

communication/visibility and logistics

 collaboration of existing networks should be further strengthened

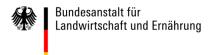




Competence centres

 ERFP could serve as well-working structure for communication between stakeholders at European level

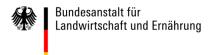
- → GR competence centre
- should also be involved in EU policy setting regarding conservation and sustainable use of GRFA





Recommendations

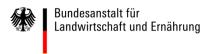
- actively support users' networks in the exchange of knowledge and best practises in the field of in situ conservation
- improvement of the integration of in situ and ex situ activities
- further develop R&D programmes for the dynamic conservation and management of genetic resources





Recommendations

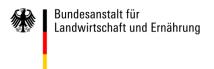
- establish EIP operational groups to develop and reinforce valorisation projects of rare breeds
- improve value chain cooperation for rare genetic resources that peferably provide ecosystem services
- promote wider public/consumer awareness for the attractiveness of more diverse food, nutritious diet and non-food products





Recommendations

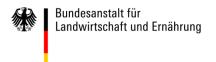
- review existing legislation to facilitate and promote the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture
- review and promote effective conditions to grant funding via the agri-environmental measures for the rural development policy
- reduce administrative burden (especially for small units)





More information available under:

www.geneticresources.eu





Thank you for your attention!

