



Promoting the use of rare breeds

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

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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



Procedure

Mapping

- total of 900 responses
(results are presented on: www.geneticresources.eu)

Literature review

- total of 228 papers mainly from the last six years



Procedure

Interviews

- 330 interviews with interviewees from 13 different stakeholder groups

Case studies

- in-depth analysis of 21 representative initiatives



Procedure

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



Procedure

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





Procedure

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



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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 sub-optimal conditions)
 - advanced technologies improve efficiency of breeding



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Added value

- **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





Added value

- **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



Added value

- **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)



Added value

- 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



Added value

- 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 preferably 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!

