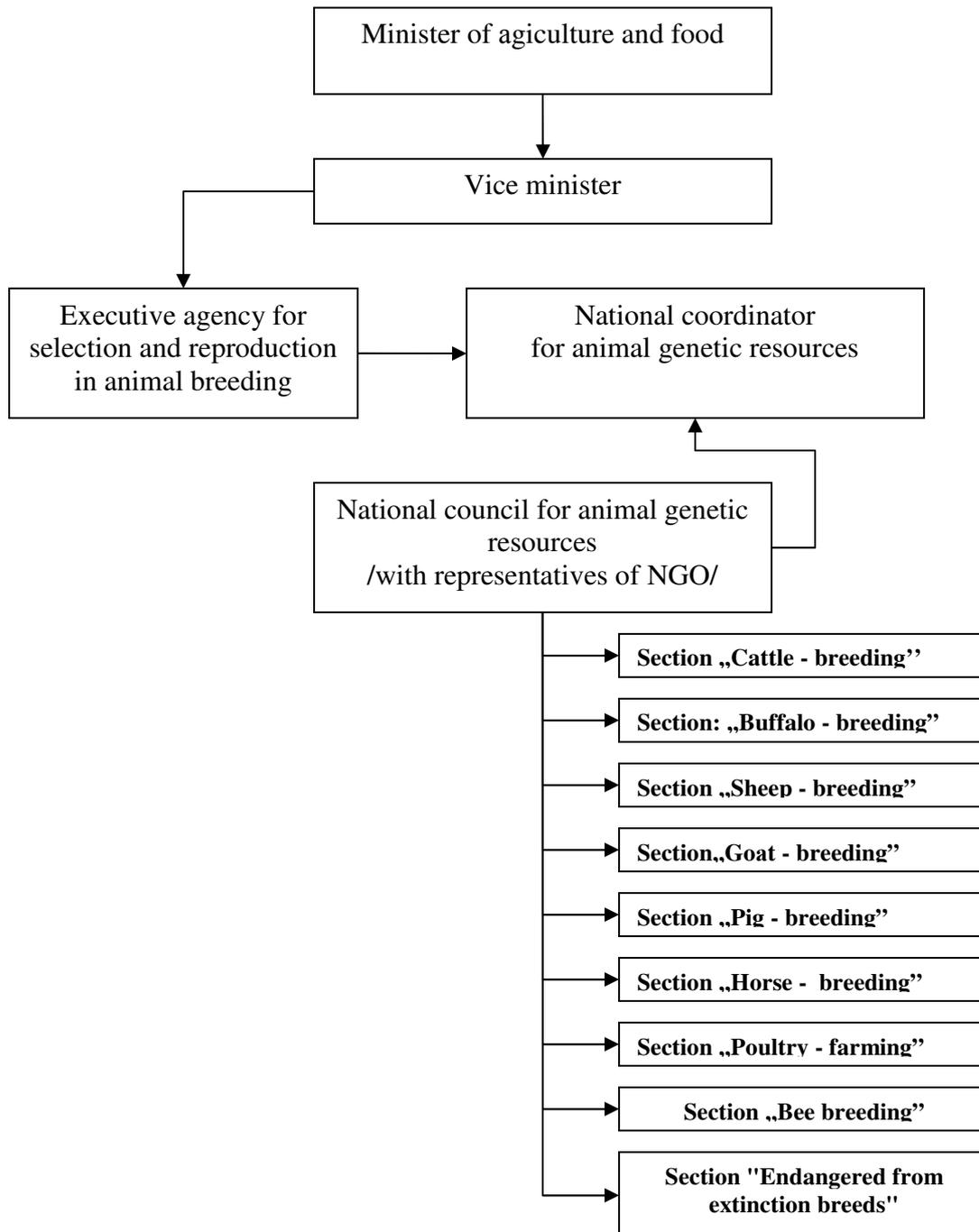


STRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA



THE ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR SELECTION AND REPRODUCTION IN ANIMAL BREEDING IN THE ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF THE GENETIC RESOURCES

The **Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding** (EASRAB) is a state body of long history. It has always played an extraordinary significant role in strengthening and development of the Bulgarian livestock breeding. This could be explained by the fact that it is the only specialized zoo-engineering administration in the country and it should organize the management, support and control of the processes related to the zoo-engineering activity with the object of the zoo-engineering speciality.

The new vision of the Agency is radically different and it has been clearly defined with the changes of the Livestock Act of 2010. The article 2, paragraph 3 of the new Rules of the Agency states, that it is “the executive body in the field of livestock breeding, subordinated to the Minister of Agriculture and Food and supporting him in carrying out the state policy of breeding activities, management and conservation of the genetic resources”.

An idea has been clearly defined in the new vision. It states that the management of the genetic resources represents an integrated system unifying all aspects of the zoo-engineer activity, as the genetic resource is neither an abstract notion, nor an animal or a breed. It is an integrated system of animal – environment – man, functioning in an inseparable unity. This is a system uniting organization and control.

Such a vision has been realized in the new structure of the **Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding**, through the establishment of two General Departments – Control and Coordination of the Breeding Activity and Management of the Genetic Resources and the Reproductive Process.

The activity of the Agency on management and conservation of the national animal genetics resources in livestock breeding is related to the organization, coordination, support and control of the the breeding activity. It operates through maintaining a network of structures, laboratories, stations for artificial insemination of a national and regional rank and includes the following main activities:

1. Management of the national genetic resources in livestock breeding:

- a. Guiding, organizing and participating in the activity of the National Council of Animal Genetic Resources;
- b. Organizing and supporting the activity of the breeding organizations;
- c. Coordinating the development of new breeds, lines and hybrids by organizing, guiding and providing the technical supply of the activity of the State Commission of Animal Breeds;

2. Permanent monitoring of the state-of-the-art of the national genetic resources:

- a. Creating, maintaining and periodical updating of the national register of breeding herds of the National Genetic Fund, of farms and organizations for production and trading with purebred and hybrid reproduction material in all the branches of livestock breeding;
- b. Establishing and maintaining a national network for monitoring of the animal genetic resources in livestock breeding;
- c. Participating in licensing and inspection of the purebred herds and animals.

3. Control of the state-of-the-art, changing trends, conservation and prosperity of the national animal genetic resources:

- a. Guaranteeing the conservation, protection and development of the breeds:
 - i. Breeding control and realization of the breeding programs;

- ii. Carrying out the breeding activity with species and breeds, for which no breeding organization have been established in the country;
- b. Guaranteeing the welfare treatment of animals:
 - i. Control of the state-of-the-art of the purebred animals;
 - ii. Control of the relevance of feeding and the breeding technology to the needs of the given species, breed and category of the farm animals;
- c. Guaranteeing the actual improvement of the national animal genetic resources:
 - i. Quality control of the breeding activity and fulfilling the aims of the breeding programs for each breed;
 - ii. Quality control of the reproduction material – produced, imported and distributed throughout the country – through maintaining a national register of the male animals for reproduction and a register of the breeding herds of the National Genetic Fund;
 - iii. Protecting the import of genetic material (breeding animals, semen, ova and embryos) of a low genetic value;
- d. Guaranteeing the use of high-quality and safe genetic products through prohibiting an import of unsafe genetic material threatened by inherited diseases and sexually transmitted diseases;

4. Conservation of endangered with extinction local autochthonous breeds – national treasure of the country:

- a. Developing the national conservation policies, evaluation and control of projects and programs implemented for *in situ* conservation of the animal genetic resources;
- b. Realization of the conservation programs *ex situ*:
 - i. EASRAB is the only institution in the country, which accomplishes *ex situ*, *in vitro* conservation of genetic material of animal origin;
 - ii. EASRAB annually maintains and completes the National Genetic Reserve, frozen semen of all the species and breeds of farm animals raised on the territory of the country, valuable lines, hybrids and animals for reproduction. The National Genetic Reserve in 2011 possessed frozen semen from 22 cattle breeds, 4 buffalo breeds, 10 sheep breeds and 3 horse breeds;
- c. Support to fulfilling *in situ* conservation programs of breeding organizations and state enterprises.
- d. Control and protecting the export of endangered with extinction species, breeds and populations of livestock, as well as the particularly valuable in a genetic aspect individuals of Bulgarian animal breeds.

5. Support to maintaining and developing the breeds;

- a. Realizing the reproduction of the local populations:
 - i. EASRAB is the only organization in the country, accomplishing or assisting the regulated reproduction of the national animal genetic resources in cattle-breeding;
 - ii. By maintaining and managing the stations of artificial insemination, EASRAB maintains and manages the National Genetic Bank of frozen semen for reproduction through artificial insemination of the species and breeds of the national animal genetic resources;
 - iii. Distribution of semen from the National Genetic Fund;
 - iv. Accomplishing and supporting the artificial insemination activities in livestock breeding.

- b. Organizing and supporting the activity of the breeding organizations for the realization of the breeding programs on conservation and development of the national genetic resources:
6. **Guarantee of the genetic identity and sustainable use of the national animal genetic resources.**
7. **Integrating the activity on management and conservation of the national animal genetic resources in the European and the world administrative bodies:**
8. **Setting the management and conservation of the animal genetic resources on a scientific basis and integrating the experience of leading countries, EU, international and world organizations by initiating, working out and participating in national and international projects, organizing scientific and scientific-and-practical forums, round tables, etc.;**
9. **Raising the knowledge, experience and information of the society on the genetic resources, the need of their conservation and development, popularization of the national genetic resources and the effect of the breeding activities:**
 - a. Support to training of students, specialists and farmers;
 - b. Organizing and holding regional and national exhibitions, auctions, seminars and meetings;
 - c. Accomplishing consulting services to farmers, experts, non-governmental organizations, etc. on breeding activities, breeding technologies, feeding and reproduction of animals.

The system of organizing, management and conservation of the genetic resources in the **REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA** has been established and it is functioning.

Main topics of the Code of rules for organization of the activity of the National council of animal genetics resources

In force from 04.01.2011

Issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food

Promulgated in SG, issue 1 of January 2011.

Chapter one.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. This Code of Rules regulates the composition, functions, structure, organization and activity of the National Council on Genetic Resources in stock breeding, called hereinafter "Council".

Chapter two.

STATUS OF THE HA COUNCIL

Article 2. (1) The Council is a permanent consultative body to the National Coordinator on animal genetic resources in livestock breeding, referred to in Article 18a, paragraph 3 of the Stock-breeding Act.

(2) Within the meaning of Article 18a, paragraph 2 of the ot Stock-breeding Act National Coordinator on genetic resources in stock breeding is the Executive Director of the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding (EASRAB).

Chapter three.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Article 3. (1) In the process of realization of its functions the Council supports the National Coordinator in delivery of its authorities in the area of the breeding activity, management and conservation of animal genetic resources.

(2) The Council delivers its functions referred to in paragraph 1, by making proposals and gives standpoint:

1. In the process of identification of the national priorities on management, conservation and sustainable use of the national animal genetic resources in livestock breeding ;

2. In initiatives, work and participation of our country in international bodies and organizations, related to management of genetic resources, conservation of the genetic fund and biological diversity of the animal species on the Planet;

3. In development of national, trans-boundary, regional and other international strategies and programs for protection and sustainable development of genetic resources in livestock breeding in compliance with the national priorities;

4. In development of legislative documents in the area, referring to management and conservation of genetic resources and breeding activity, in making recommendations regarding their acceptance, modification, complementation or revocation;

5. In specific activities, related to planning, organization, management and control in respect of protection and sustainable development of national animal genetic resources, of breeding activity and other activities in livestock breeding ,related to the increasing of its effectiveness and prosperity;

6. For the use of economic and financial mechanisms for supporting of the national animal genetic resources, breeding activity and livestock breeding as a whole.

(3) The Council supports the activity of the National Coordinator and the management of the national genetic resources through:

1. Creation of prerequisites and assistance for implementation of the Global Strategy of FAO for management of animal genetic resources of livestock;

2. Development and implementation of a National Strategy and Action Plan for management, monitoring, inventory procedures, assessment of the risk status and conservation of genetic resources in stock breeding ;

3. Initiation and assistance for establishment of national, regional and international intra-regional networks for development of common policies, activities, trainings, scientific researches and etc. in the area of genetic resources;

4. Participation in the elaboration of a National Report on the state of the animal genetic resources in Republic of Bulgaria;

5. Elaboration of proposals for completion and correction of the database in DAD-IS as regards to the national genetic resources;

6. Assistance for the creation and maintenance of national database for animal genetic resources in the livestock breeding of the Republic of Bulgaria;

7. Elaboration of analyses on the state of the genetic resources and the development of the individual branches of livestock breeding , in making forecasts on the processes and recommendations for their management;

8. Organization of public discussions, workshops on the issues of the animal genetic resources in livestock breeding ;

9. Organization of public contributions, related to the popularization of the breeding activity and the national genetic resources - presentations, auctions, conferences and etc.;

10. Implementation of progressive bio- and information technologies in the magement of genetic resources and the breeding activity;

11. Unification of the breeding documentation and the used software in the area of the breeding activity;

12. Realization of specific activities on the execution of the breeding programs of breeding organizations.

(4) The Council consults the National Coordinator in its participation in:

1. Identification of topical strategic directions in the management of the genetic resources and the breeding activity with the purpose of completion of the priority targets of MAF;

2. Discussion and implementation of strategies and operative actions of MAF in the area of genetic resources and breeding activity in compliance with the Common Agricultural Policy;

3. Identification of national strategy directions of the scientific studies in the field of genetics and breeding activity;

4. Development and proposal of specialized programs and training courses in the area of the breeding activity, management and conservation of the animal genetic resources in livestock breeding.

Chapter four.

COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL

Article 4. (1) The National Council on Animal Genetic Resources in Livestock Breeding consists of Chairman, Secretariat and members.

(2) The Council realizes its functions in sections as follows:

- 1. Section "Cattle-breeding";
- 2. Section "Buffalo-breeding";
- 3. Section "Sheep-breeding";
- 4. Section "Goat-breeding";
- 5. Section "Pig-breeding";
- 6. Section "Horse-breeding";
- 7. Section "Poultry-farming";
- 8. Section "Bee - breeding";
- 9. Section "Endangered from extinction breeds".

(3) On proposal of the Chairman of the Council, each Section chooses one representative for formation of a contact group, reviewing matters of common interest for the livestock breeding branches.

Article 5. (1) The Chairman of the National Council on Animal Genetic Resources is the Executive Director of the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding in his capacity of National Coordinator on animal genetic resources.

(2) The Chairman of the Council:

- 1. Represents the Council before all bodies and organizations in the country and abroad;
- 2. Appoints the sessions and endorses the agenda;
- 3. Leads the sessions and the overall work of the Council;
- 4. Represents the Minister of Agriculture and Food at other national and international institutions and organizations and the proposals and the positions of the Council and assists in their implementation;
- 5. Informs the Council regarding the process and implementation of its proposals, positions and initiatives.

.....
Article 7. (1) The members of the Council are:

- 1. One representative of each breeding organization, having obtained permit under Article 296, paragraph 2 of the Livestock Breeding Act;
- 2. Other non-governmental organizations.

(2) The associations under paragraph 1 designate their representatives, according to their statutes.

(3) The participation of the members in the work of the Council is personal and they can be replaced by other persons only by exception after upfront informing of the respective secretary.

.....
Article 8. (1) The personal composition of the Council is identified with order of the Executive Director of EASRAB on the grounds of a written proposal of the heads of the associations under Article 7, paragraph 1, item 1 and election of the members of the respective Section under Article 4, paragraph 3.

(2) The changes in the personal composition of the Council are made on the bases of a written proposal of the respective breeding organization, in compliance with the requirements for membership under this Code of Rules.

(3) The changes under paragraph 2 are effected with order of the Executive Director of EASRAB.

(4) Representatives of the involved parties, not included in the composition of the Council, can participate in its work in connection to discussion of problems, concerning their activity, without voting right.

.....
Article 16. (1) The decisions of the Council are public and are published in separate section of the official internet site of the Executive Agency for Selection and Reproduction in Animal Breeding .

(2) Statements on behalf of the Council before the mass media can make the National Coordinator on animal genetic resources in stock breeding .

Assoc. Prof. VASSIL NIKOLOV, Ph.D.
Executive Director of the
Executive Agency on Selection and
Reproduction in Animal Breeding
and
National Coordinator animal genetic resources