

ERFP Country Report 2011 – 2012

COUNTRY: Switzerland

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Strategic Priority Area 1: Characterization, Inventory and Monitoring of Trends and Associated Risks

All important data of Swiss breeds of the main species – cattle, horses, sheep, goats, pigs, – is updated yearly and published on the EFABIS.ch database. Continuous monitoring of the active breeding population and the management of the latter is done by Breeding Organisations. Trends show that endangered breeds are maintained or their effective population size is increasing. The coefficient of inbreeding remains a problem in small populations due to the small number of breeding males. FOAG has also co-financed a project to enable genomic selection for Original Brown cattle.

Actions planned for the next year:

FOAG will co-finance a project for the development of an early-warning and response system for Swiss breeds. The updating of EFABIS.ch with new pictures and information regarding the National Gene Pool continues.

Strategic Priority Area 2: Sustainable Use and Development

Other FOAG co-financed projects for endangered breeds are still focussing on sustainable use including marketing of products of high value for specific breeds as well as on selection of optimal contributing animals and increase of the number of male animals. For bees of Swiss origin FOAG has co-financed a project for the estimation of breeding value and the introduction into breeding schemes. Reports on in situ and ex situ conservation programs for the sustainable use and development of rare breeds are revised continuously in order to improve conservation strategies. Breeding and production techniques, as well as breeding objectives have been improved in rare breeds resulting in increased population size. Incentives consistent with existing international agreements were again allocated to breeders participating in conservation programs. Technical support regarding breeding goals has been offered to Breeding Organisations.

Actions planned for the next year:

Technical support will continuously be proposed to Breeding Organisations. New projects shall also include consideration of broad genetic variety within breeds.

Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation

(please give details for the most relevant institutions for national genebanks / cryopreservation in the table in Annex 1)

FOAG co-financed a project for semen collection of goats of Swiss Breeds to be included in the National Gene Pool. Goat semen will be stored by Swissgenetics. The regular updating of the Database is ensured by collaborators of the concerned organizations: for cattle by Swissgenetics, for horses by the National Stud and for pigs by Suisag.

1st February 2012

Actions planned for the next year:

In 2012, a contract of collaboration in the National Cryobank shall be concluded with SUISAG (Service and Breeding Organisation for pigs) and the Federal Office for Agriculture. It rules the production and long term conservation of cryomaterial of pigs of Swiss origin collected from 2012 on, as well as the use of core semen for 3 specific situations. Next year's actions will again focus on the ex-situ conservation program for goats as well as on long term strategies for the management of the Cryobanks for cattle, horses, goats and sheep.

Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, Institutions and Capacity-building

In September 2011, a workshop was organised by FOAG in collaboration with the Swiss Association for Animal Production for different Breeding Organisations in order to exchange know-how and experiences made with the co-funded programs for endangered Swiss breeds. At the same workshop, each Breeding Organisation elaborated a SWOT analysis for their breeds. New projects have been discussed with different Institutions. Active collaboration in international workshops for sustainable use and conservation of animal genetic resources as well as for ABS, in FAO commissions and in forums regarding new FAO Guidelines.

Actions planned for the next year:

Evaluation of the SWOT analyses elaborated for endangered Swiss breeds by the respective Breeding Organisations in order to define the needs for actions. In 2012 it is also planned to discuss national emergency plans with respect to zoosanitary standards. Active participation in international workshops for the sustainable use and conservation of animal genetic resources and ABS will continue.
