

ERFP Country report 2011 – 2012

COUNTRY: HUNGARY

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Strategic Priority Area 1:

Characterization, Inventory and Monitoring of Trends and Associated Risks

- Many breeding databases work in Hungary. There is a continuous data collection, including the animal identification and registration systems. The control bases on them. The relation between the breeding authority and the breeding organizations is continuous, so there is a way to follow the trends, to recognize the dangers, and to intervene in time.
- The animal breeding authority continuously maintains and runs the animal breeding database, and keeps on the availability of the breeders to the above database.
- The breeding associations in cooperation with the breeding authority reconstructed their breeding programs based on the results of the previous surveys.
- The recognition procedure of the breeding association of the Hungarian giant rabbit is finished.
- The breeding authority is responsible for maintaining the list of the breeds (including the recognized breeding organizations), in Hungary.
- The minister of agriculture and rural development maintains a so-called Indigenous Farm Animal Genetic Resource Committee. It is an advisory committee of the minister in the field of indigenous breeds. This Committee was renewed last year.
- Ministerial decree deals with the rules of the genetic maintenance of the protected indigenous animal breeds.
- The Ministry of Rural Development started to elaborate the national programme on the protection of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.
- The Ministry of Rural Development and the FAO published the “Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration” in Hungarian, and copies of it were distributed for all libraries of agricultural higher education institutes.

Actions planned for the next year

- We are planning to survey the data of the Hungarian breeds in the FAO’s DAD-IS system, and to update these data.
- The above mentioned bodies will continue their work.
- We will make the necessary developments of the animal identification and registration systems.
- We will keep the breeding data base up-to-date.

Strategic Priority Area 2:

Sustainable Use and Development

Actions undertaken during the past year

- In the case of conservation of indigenous breeds, one of the most important things is the product made from these breeds. The Hungarian grey cattle and mangalica pig products are more and more popular in Hungary and abroad too. It helps to keep these breeds. But for example the indigenous poultry, and some horse breeds have no marketable products. It means a specific problem in the maintenance of these breeds, so special help is needed. A trademark was introduced in Hungary, the so-called HU-BA (Hungaricum poultry product). These products are all made from indigenous poultry breeds. It can help to solve the problem of the marketing of the indigenous poultry breeds.
- The Association of Hungarian Small Animal Breeders for Gene Conservation (MGE) organized and made a further development of HU-BA (Hungaricum poultry product) programme which was started for establishing the breeding background of poultry meat and egg production, preferably in some

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underprivileged regions of Hungary. Another programme aims the sustainable usage of local poultry breeds. It is the Model Village Programme (MVP) which was launched by MGE. It includes an educational programme and the reintroduction of local breeds to small villages to develop family poultry production.

- In the last one-year period many events were organized for making the indigenous animal products popular. It can help to promote the consumption of these products too.
- The National Council Against Forgery works against the product forgery. It deals with the forgery in the food industry in Hungary, as well.
- Experimental genetic examinations started for finding the rate of the breeds in product. It can help fight against food forgery. In 2009, the so called “Mangfood project” was launched. This project will help to investigate the mangalica pig DNA for impeding food forgery. It will end in 2012 with a budget of 607 million HUF (app. 2,17 million EUR). This project also provides scientific data for mangalica research and establishing an in vitro mangalica gene bank.
- The Association of Hungarian Grey Cattle Breeders operates a mobile phone system for checking the origin of meat comes from grey cattle. (An SMS message with an identification number has to be sent to a phone number, and within a couple of seconds, the system sends an answer with a certificate of origin of that product.)
- The indigenous Hungarian grey cattle beef got geographical indication in the EU.
- A new financial support (subsidy) was introduced for the ex-situ in-vitro genetic resources conservation and dissemination of information in 2012. It is co-financed by the EU (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development).
- The Ministry of Rural Development started to renew the law on animal breeding. The future law will deal with the protection of the animal genetic resources on a much more detailed way.
- The new constitution of Hungary entered into force on 1st January, 2012, which especially protects the biological diversity.

Actions planned for the next year

- Marketing events will continue to promote the consumption of indigenous animal products.
- Indigenous Farm Animal Genetic Resource Committee will continue its work too.
- MGE plans a further development for both HU-BA and MVP, towards the production for the market. For this purpose, invitation of feed mills and processing plants to take part in the programme is needed.
- New EU zootechnical regulations are expected. Every Member State has to implement it in its own zootechnical legislation.

Strategic Priority Area 3:

Conservation

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

Actions undertaken during the past year

- The Indigenous Farm Animal Genetic Resource Committee was established in 2007. It helped to prepare the amendment of the ministerial decree on the declaration of the protected indigenous and endangered animals kept for farming purposes, and to create a new ministerial decree on the rules of the genetic maintenance of the protected indigenous animal breeds. It also keeps the situation of indigenous breeds under control, and it can initiate specific measures at the minister of agriculture. The membership of the Committee was renewed.
- Microsatellite markers and results of parentage control of the Hungarian grey cattle stocks in breeding were mapped and recorded in the animal breeding database by the Genetic Laboratory of Parentage Control of the breeding authority. The main goals of the investigation are to find the rare alleles and preserve the genome of the animals. Mapping of the DNA markers of native buffalo has started on 1000 samples.

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- The Research Institute for Animal Breeding and Nutrition (Herceghalom) examines the genetic variability of mangalica pig breeds within the framework of a research institute consortium project (MANGFOOD).
- The inspection of the sperm bank of the Hungarian grey cattle native breed belongs to the duties of the Department of the Animal Genetic Resources of the breeding authority.
- Frozen embryos of Hungarian grey cattle were transported to the USA for founding a small-scaled nucleus breeding site.
- The breeding authority and the breeding organizations worked in the field of genetic conservation.
- Hungary takes part in an ERFP project (“Proper way of supports for endangered livestock breeds”). This project gained 20.000 EUR from the ERFP Call for Action.
- The “Characterisation of the indigenous and improved podolic cattle breeds and identification of threats for extinction in global challenges” project gained 20.000 EUR from the ERFP call for Action. There were four meetings (Italy, Serbia, Austria, Hungary) related to this project. This project was finished in September 2011.
- A new financial support (subsidy) was introduced for the ex-situ in-vitro genetic resources conservation and dissemination of information in 2012. It is co-financed by the EU (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development).

Actions planned for the next year

- The building-up and filling of the in vitro frozen semen depot with preserved sperms is in process.
- By help of the above mentioned subsidy the gene banks will be filled up with new frozen propagating materials.
- The Research Institute of Small Animals and Gene Conservation Centre will launch a programme on in-vitro conservation of poultry gametes.
- Our further goal is to increase the registered poultry stocks of local breeds to reach a minimum of 1000, and to develop the number of pedigree (elite) breeding females in all local poultry breeds up to 2000, within five years.

Strategic Priority Area 4:

Policies, Institutions and Capacity-building

Actions undertaken during the past year

- In February 2012, Mangalica Festival was held in Budapest, where mangalica products were shown for the public. In April 2012, a Mangalica Festival was organized in Debrecen too.
- The Indigenous Farm Animal Genetic Resource Committee was established in 2007. It keeps the situation of indigenous breeds under control, and it can initiate specific measures at the minister of agriculture.
- The breeding authority and the breeding organizations worked in the field of genetic conservation.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development continued to revise and renew the Animal Breeding Act. The new act will deal with especially the protection of animal genetic resources.
- A new financial support (subsidy) was introduced for the ex-situ in-vitro genetic resources conservation and dissemination of information in 2012. It is co-financed by the EU (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development).
- The breeding authority was reorganized.
- The Department of Animal Genetic Resources works within the framework of Animal Breeding Directorate of the breeding authority
- The Ministry of Rural Development started to renew the law on animal breeding. The future law will deal with the protection of the animal genetic resources on a much more detailed way.
- On the National Fair of Agriculture and Food Industry there was a special exhibition on indigenous farm animals (“Indigenous Village”).
- The new constitution of Hungary entered into force 1st January, 2012, which especially protects the biological diversity.

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- There was an exhibition of the native animals at the Hódmezővásárhely Animal Breeding Fair of May 11-13, 2012.
- Hungarian delegate for ERFP Steering Committee participated on ERFP Steering Committee meeting in Bonn, in April 2011.
- In 2011, we participated on DAGENE annual meeting in Serbia.
- The Ministry of Rural Development and the FAO published the “Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the Interlaken Declaration” in Hungarian, and copies of it were distributed for all libraries of agricultural higher education institutes.
- Fatty Pig Conference was organized in Herceghalom in November, 2011.
- The Ministry of Rural Development started to elaborate the national programme on the protection of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Actions planned for the next year

- We are planning to survey the data of the Hungarian breeds in the FAO’s DAD-IS system, and to update these data, in the next year.
 - The breeding authority needs to establish a gene bank for semen, ova and embryos for the purpose of in-vitro preservation, according to the ministerial decree deals with the rules of the genetic maintenance of the protected indigenous animal breeds.
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