

**COUNTRY REPORT  
FOR 2007-2008 of**

**Cyprus**

**Reported by**

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**STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 1: CHARACTERIZATION, INVENTORY AND  
MONITORING OF TRENDS AND ASSOCIATED RISKS**

Actions undertaken during the past year

To monitor population trends, a survey at breed level was conducted for the Fresian/Holstein and the local cattle, and a survey at species level (with some information on local breeds) was conducted for sheep and goats.

Actions planned for the next year

Similar type of surveys will be done during the next year, but an effort will be made to collect more information on sheep and goat breeds. The situation is quite complicated because a large proportion of farmers (about 40%) keep sheep and goats together, and also, in the same farm purebred and various degree crossbred animals are mixed; this is particularly true for goats, the majority of which are crossbred animals.

A study is being planned to investigate the genetic basis of prolificacy in the Chios sheep breed.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT**

Actions undertaken during the past year

The government programmes for the genetic improvement of the Chios sheep and the Damascus goat breeds, continued. In addition, the project aiming at the substitution of scrapie susceptible with scrapie resistant genotypes, advanced quite well.

A performance recording programme undertaken by the Cyprus Holstein/Friesian Association was initiated. Genetic improvement of the Holstein/Friesian population relies on AI with imported frozen semen from proven bulls.

#### Actions planned for the next year

The above mentioned projects will continue, and also, a new project aiming at increasing the scrapie resistant goat genotypes is being planned.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION**

#### Actions undertaken during the past year

Two projects were implemented aiming at the in situ conservation of the local cattle and the local fat-tailed sheep. Farmers keeping purebred animals of the two breeds received subsidies based on the number of breeding males and females

#### Actions planned for the next year

The subsidy paid per head of purebred local cattle and local fat-tailed sheep is expected to be substantially increased according to relevant provisions included in the 2007-2013 Cyprus Agricultural Development Plan approved by the European Union.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

#### Actions undertaken during the past year

The establishment of the Department of Animal Production in the Faculty of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Food Science of the Cyprus University of Technology, is perhaps, the only action undertaken. However, this development is important and opens up many possibilities.

Actions planned for the next year

To strengthen the above Department with competent staff and establish links and cooperation with relevant institutions locally and overseas.