

National Focal Point for Farm Animal Genetic Resources - Czech Republic Activity report 2007

The most considerable activities during the year 2007 were as follows.

More than 50 original Czech poultry hybrid lines (hens, ducks, geese, and experimental imbred chick lines) have been newly included into the National program mainly with regard to the avian influenza outbreak worldwide and a need of preparing an emergency plan for their breeding nuclei.

Emergency precaution in critically endangered Red cattle: 60 long-term stored embryos of have been distributed to two experimental farms (Institute of Animal Science and University of South Bohemia) to produce lacking sires as unrelated as possible to current population for future breed management (during May – June 2008 8 female and 3 male calves are born).

A Steering Committee on Genetic Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture was set up to coordinate incidental matters. Based on outcomes of the Interlaken 2007, there was submitted also a proposal of timing necessary steps to implement the GPA to the Ministry. The main discussion now is on the need to incorporate FAnGR thinking into a number of Ministry policy areas with regard to development in the livestock sector in the post CAP reform era.

Especially this relates to a need to establish routine monitoring systems for all relevant species and breeds in cooperation with breeders' associations to provide them with effective tools for sustainable management of their breeds. This also relates to lack of capacities to upgrade and regularly perform the EFABIS database (reliable data access and assessment). Implementation of specific measures planned under the current National Program for respective breeds (regular monitoring, coordinated management in-situ, evaluation and description of utility traits) has been executed by contracts with breeders associations and supported from the State budget

Developments in current cryoconservation program

Ex-situ conservation (routine collecting of semen) has been postponed until the newly reconstructed and formally recognized Gene bank is established and an improved protocol for accepting semen of horses, goats and sheep is accepted (enters into operation in July 2008). Meanwhile, a public database of stored cryomaterial is being tested. Collecting of somatic cells and DNA samples however continues as well as analysis of genetic diversity of populations using micro-satellite and other markers, through related research projects.

Members of the National Coordinating Centre (NCC) have participated to numerous international and national events related to the Farm Animal Genetic Resources.

The NC has been appointed to represent Ministry at the ABS Working Group of the CBD, which is to negotiate a global regime on Access and Benefit Sharing of genetic resources.

In national level the NCC participated in several meetings and shows (National livestock show, local shows, scientific conferences, environmental education package, publication of material related with the management and conservation of FAnGR to local journals to stimulate public awareness etc.).

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NC

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