

**COUNTRY REPORT
FOR 2008-2009 of**

Estonia

Reported by

Haldja Viinalass

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

Actions undertaken during the past year

- The number of pigs, sheep and goats and poultry is increasing, the number of cattle, incl cows is decreasing. The monitoring of endangered breeds shows stable trend.
- Updating the national farm animal data bank, improving quality of data in the international databanks.
- The EVA Interface 1.3 programme was applied for the management of Estonian Heavy Draught Horse breed.

Associated risks:

Due to very low milk price a lot of small dairy farms are finishing farming. The production is concentrating mainly into large dairy farms as they are able to better survive the economic fall .

Actions planned for the next year

- Further development of the national farm animal data bank, improving quality of data in the international databanks
- Continue research collaboration between Nordic and Baltic countries to characterise the breeds by using molecular markers

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Actions undertaken during the past year

- Upgrading of breeding and conservation programmes of farm animal breeds in Estonia

Actions planned for the next year

- Development of international collaboration with Nordic and Baltic countries for sustainable use and development of farm animal genetic resources

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION

Actions undertaken during the past year

- The subsidies paid within Agri-environment programme have promoted rising of animals of endangered breeds (Estonian Native cattle, Estonian Native horse, Estonian Heavy Draught horse, Tori horse).
- A lot of attention has been paid to raising public awareness and pointing attention to the problems connected with management and conservation of genetic resources:
 - o Several publications were issued in newspapers and journals
 - o The AnGR issues have been considered in several meetings and round-tables

- TV and radio have been invited to participate in actions (meetings, round-tables, animal shows and exhibitions) to raise public awareness
- The Slovenian Republic experience in the field of conservation and management of animal genetic resources was introduced by Dr. D. Kompan in Rakvere on October 24, 2008 to the representatives of government institutions, breeding and conservation organisations and university.

Actions planned for the next year

- Apply the EVA Interface programme for the management of Estonian other endangered breeds
- International collaboration in the field of conservation of AnGR

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Actions undertaken during the past year

- The regulation of the Republic of Estonia “List of Endangered Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds” was updated (15.01.2009).
- Participation in Baltic, Nordic, European and FAO collaboration in the field of AnGR

Actions planned for the next year

- Develop the national policy regarding farm animal genetic resources and strengthen institutions involved.
- International collaboration in the field of AnGR