

**COUNTRY REPORT
FOR 2007-2008 of**

FINLAND

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

- tasks according to the National Action Plan (databases for landrace chicken, cattle jointly with Faba Breeding; sheep and horse maintained by respective breeding organisation)
- questionnaire to farmers and stakeholders of Eastern and Western Finncattle within EURECA project
- cf research projects under Area 4

Actions planned for the next year

- analysis of the questionnaire results

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Actions undertaken during the past year

- animal breeding organisations are responsible also for following the sustainability principles (selection goals, maintenance of variation, cryopreservation) in the breeding programmes – monitorin done via the advisory borad for animal breeding within Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- project on creating a brand name for landrace cattle breeds
- EURECA work package on recommendations for maintenance of genetic variation in local cattle populations

Actions planned for the next year

- EURECA work package (cf above)

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION

Actions undertaken during the past year

- national action plan carried under MTT's coordination (coordinator Juha Kantanen, advisory board within Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)
- running *in situ* programme for Eastern, Northern and Western Finncattle (mating planning done in collaboration with Faba Breeding, semen banking with AI co-operatives, embryo banking with Embryocentre) and for landrace chicken
- semen storing from Finnsheep and Åland sheep rams
- new agrienvironmental programme 2007-13 with increased subsidies for the most endangered cattle breeds (Eastern and Northern Finncattle)
- plan to move Eastern and Western Finncattle animals from a closed prison farm to agricultural colleges
- one agricultural college joining the chicken *in situ* programme

Actions planned for the next year

- *in situ* programmes, semen/embryo storing within the national action plan
- two agricultural colleges housing Eastern and Western Finncattle animals
- 10th anniversary of *in situ* programme for Landrace chicken

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Actions undertaken during the past year

- committee on access and benefit sharing of genetic resources
- Nordic joint project on recommendations and guidelines for management and exchange of animal genetic resources – both breeding and conservation
- participation in Nordic and FAO work
- several appearances in the main newspapers and on radio and TV
- new popular journal for national programme of animal genetic resources
- international research collaboration
 - EURECA on local cattle breeds
 - EFABISNET on databases
 - GLOBALDIV on meta-analysis of cattle and sheep breeds
 - interdisciplinary project on Yakutian cattle (Russian farm animal genetic resources)

Actions planned for the next year

- publicity and courses
- Nordic and FAO work
- continued work in the present projects
- European Science Foundation seminar 'Integrating population genetics and conservation biology: Merging theoretical, experimental and applied approaches' (coord. Armando Caballero, Vigo, Spain)
- preparation of new EU funded projects
- preparation of SheepHapMap project (coord. CSIRO in Australia)
- preparation of horse genetic diversity research