

**COUNTRY REPORT
FOR 2009-10 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; goats at EVIRA Food Safety Authority)
- EFABIS link and CryoWeb database
- cf research projects under Area 4

Actions planned for the next year

- utilisation of EFABIS and CryoWeb databases
- review of sheep and goat database

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 – monitoring done via the advisory board for animal breeding within Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- project on creating a brand name for landrace cattle breeds
- EURECA book contains recommendations for maintenance of genetic variation in local cattle populations

Actions planned for the next year

- utilisation of genomic relationships in management of genetic variation in selection and conservation schemes

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION

Actions undertaken during the past year

- national action plan carried under MTT's coordination (advisory board within Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry), Terhi Nikkonen coordinating the activities while Juha Kantanen is at NordGen
- 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
- The Finnish agri-environmental programme 2007-13 with increased subsidies for the most endangered cattle breeds (Eastern and Northern Finncattle)
- collaboration with two agricultural colleges and a prison farm on keeping Eastern, Northern and Western Finncattle herds

Actions planned for the next year

- *in situ* programmes, semen/embryo storing within the national action plan

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Actions undertaken during the past year

- participation in Nordic and FAO work
- appearances in media
- new issue of the magazine on national programme of animal genetic resources
- leaflets on EURECA project topics (Eastern and Western Finncattle, cryopreservation, also in English), indigenous cattle breeds and national programme of AnGR
- international research collaboration
 - EURECA on local cattle breeds (esp. the book)
 - EFABISNET on databases
 - GLOBALDIV on meta-analysis of cattle and sheep breeds
- project on molecular archeogenetics of cattle and sheep in Finland
- *Sakha Ynaga: cattle of the Yakuts* Ed. Granberg L, Kantanen J, Soini K 218 p.
- project promoting the native Finncattle breeds (including development of unique food products)
- joint working group on plant, forest and animal genetic resources (national resources, rights)

Actions planned for the next year

- publicity and courses
- continued work in the present projects