

Reported by Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

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

Actions undertaken during the past year

In the course of revising and updating the Central Documentation of Animal Genetic Resources in Germany” (*Zentrale Dokumentation tiergenetischer Ressourcen in Deutschland, TGRDEU*), Germany’s National Inventory now contains information as required by the animal breeding legislation. This publication was namely required by [Council] Directive 2008/73/EC and [Commission] Decision 2009/712/EC and also according to § 17 of Germany’s Animal Breeding Act.

More than 10 years of stock numbers on all domestic animal breeds in Germany that are organised in terms of breeding with a special focus on the 63 indigenous breeds of the species horses, cattle, pig, sheep and goat are regularly updated. Poultry and rabbit breeds play a major role too and thus are listed in TGRDEU as well.

Updating and filling the gaps of the German Data in the EFABIS-System is completed.

As results of projects in the framework of “surveys, stocktakings and non-scientific studies in the field of biological diversity” which are carried out on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (*Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz, BMELV*) by the Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food (*Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung, BLE*), the infrastructure for the regular acquisition of data of individual animals for the species of cattle, pig, poultry and rabbit is established.

Actions planned for the next year

The project results of the “surveys, stocktakings and non-scientific studies in the field of biological diversity” will be analysed with regard to monitoring and as a calculation basis for the endangerment classification.

In addition to the above mentioned, an equivalent process for the species of sheep and goat is in preparation in close cooperation with the Federation of German Sheep Breeding Associations (*Vereinigung Deutscher Landesschafzuchtverbände e.V., VDL*) and the Federation of German Goat Breeders (*Bundesverband Deutscher Ziegenzüchter e.V., BDZ*).

Following the results of the other projects, a similar procedure and first discussions will be initialised with the National Equestrian Federation (*Deutsche Reiterliche Vereinigung e.V., fn*) for the species horse.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Actions undertaken during the past year

The National Committee on AnGR decided to intensify dialogue with the relevant stakeholders on the subject of sustainable breeding programmes with focus on conservation of AnGR.

The successful Ark Farm project of the Society for the Conservation of Old and Endangered Livestock Breeds (*Gesellschaft zur Erhaltung alter und gefährdeter Haustierrassen e.V., GEH*)

is continued in the 15th year. There are now three categories: the traditional Ark Farms, Ark Village or Region where at least four farms work together in breeding endangered breeds and Ark Parks which focus on public relations work and exhibiting animals.

For now ten years the poultry-breed “Vorwerkhuhn“ is managed in a breeding-programme, which is organised by the “Initiative Deersheim“, an association of private poultry breeders. Currently they started a new programme to maintain and support the poultry breed “Sachsenhuhn”. (www.erhaltungszucht-vorwerkhuhn.de)

Actions planned for the next year

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION

Actions undertaken during the past year

Discussions between all relevant parties – BMELV, *Laender* Ministries, BLE, Research Facilities such as Institute of Farm Animal Genetics of the Friedrich-Loeffler-Institute in Mariensee and the National Committee on AnGR towards establishing a National Genebank are continued.

Actions planned for the next year

Besides outlining the structural and institutional, the BLE will provide FLI with legislative expertise concerning the relevant contracts and later on take over documentation.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Actions undertaken during the past year

The National Committee on Animal Genetic Resources met twice, in November 2009 and June 2010. Main topic of the meeting in June 2010 is the revision of the “List of Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Germany - Inventory of Indigenous Livestock Breeds with Classification into Categories of Stock Endangerment” and the classification of the individual breeds.

The National Committee supported the establishment of two working groups. The Poultry working group met in February 2009 and among others approved the revised “Common list of old, indigenous and endangered poultry breeds”. The Cryo working group already met twice, in February and April 2010, to discuss further progress on establishing Germany’s National Genebank for AnGR.

In the International Year on Biological Diversity the BMELV launched a campaign to further spread knowledge on Agrobiodiversity in general and endangered breeds, too. Among others, a homepage was installed and an information bus is on tour in Germany, with focus mainly on school classes.

Though, financial aid for breeding organisations to support genetic resources is not possible under the “Joint Task for the Improvement of Agricultural Structures and Coastal Protection” (Gemeinschaftsaufgabe Verbesserung der Agrarstruktur und des Küstenschutzes, GAK) at least there is now the possibility for farmers and unprofessional farmers, e.g. hobby breeders to apply for support measures.

Also, 11 *Bundesländer* established support measures following Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) for 7 different species and 58 different breeds altogether.

The GEH presents the Meißner Widder (rabbit) as breed of the year which is accompanied on several occasions with public relation activities.

The following German Agricultural Research projects are dealing with various aspects of endangered breeds:

- Use of various endangered cattle breeds in extensive grazing systems in the humid grasslands under the framework of agrarian reform and an innovative, sustainable economy in the Elbe River Landscape Biosphere (RiBeElbe) further details please see http://www.fisaonline.de/index.php?lang=en&act=projects&view=details&p_id=2452
- Objectives, criteria and methods for using molecular genetic data in priority setting for conservation of animal genetic resources <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/document/download/46cff4ea7f7dfa52abd9aa9720600fa2.pdf/Boettcher.pdf>
- Genetic diversity of chicken breeds, Dr. Steffen Weigend, FLI Mariensee
- POPREP: a generic report for population management, Prof. Eildert Groeneveld et al <http://www.funpecrp.com.br/gmr/year2009/vol8-3/pdf/gmr648.pdf>

Actions planned for the next year

The endangerment classifications will be published by the IBV of the BLE as “Red List of Endangered Indigenous Livestock Breeds in Germany” in the form of a brochure. The brochure, which was first published in 2008, will provide basic information regarding the endangerment of animal genetic resources. The breed descriptions will be completed with detailed information on all indigenous breeds and include information on poultry and rabbits, too.

The IBV of the BLE, Germany will take over the ERFP Secretariat from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece for the next four years, 2010-2014.