

**COUNTRY REPORT
FOR 2007-2008 of**

Hungary

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

- Many breeding databases work in Hungary. There is a continuous data collection, including the animal identification and registration systems. The control bases on them. The relation between the breeding authority and the breeding organizations is continuous, so there is a way to follow the trends, to recognize the dangers, and to intervene in time.
- The breeding authority is responsible for maintaining the list of the breeds (including the recognized breeding organizations), in Hungary.
- The minister of agriculture and rural development maintains a so-called Indigenous Farm Animal Genetic Resource Committee. It is an advisory committee of the minister in the field of indigenous breeds.
- The ministerial decree on the declaration of the protected indigenous and endangered animals kept for farming purposes was amended (the number of breeds was modified).
- New ministerial decree was made on the rules of the genetic maintenance of the protected indigenous animal breeds.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as the Ministry of Environment and Water established a special working group (Gene Bank Special Body) for the genetic resources for food and agriculture. This working group will survey the needs, and will make proposals for the government in the field of protection of the genetic resources (including legal and financial measures).

Actions planned for the next year

- We are planning to survey the data of the Hungarian breeds in the FAO's DAD-IS system, and to update these data, in the next year.
- The above mentioned bodies will continue their work.
- We plan to revise the list of indigenous breeds.
- We will make the necessary developments of the animal identification and registration systems.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Actions undertaken during the past year

- In the case of conservation of indigenous breeds, one of the most important things is the product made from these breeds. The Hungarian grey cattle and mangalica pig products are more and more popular in Hungary and abroad too. It helps to keep these breeds. But for

example the indigenous poultry, and some horse breeds have no marketable products. It means a specific problem in the maintenance of these breeds, so special help needed. A new trademark was introduced in Hungary, the so-called HU-BA (hungaricum poultry product). These products are all made from indigenous poultry breeds. It can help to solve the problem of the marketing of the indigenous poultry breeds.

- In the last one-year period many events were organized for making the indigenous animal products popular. It can help to promote the consumption of these products too.
- Unfortunately, the product forgery is also a problem today, in these products. The National Council Against Forgery was established, which deals with the forgery in the food industry in Hungary.
- Experimental genetic examinations started for finding the rate of the breeds in product. It can help fight against food forgery.
- The Association of Hungarian Grey Cattle Breeders introduced a mobile phone system for checking the origin of meat comes from grey cattle. (An SMS message with an identification number have to be sent to a phone number, and within couple of seconds, the system sends an answer with a certificate of the origin of that product.)

Actions planned for the next year

- Marketing events will continue to promote the consumption of indigenous animal products.
- A new financial support (subsidy) will be introduced for the in-situ and ex-situ genetic resources conservation in 2009. It will be co-financed by the EU (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development). The preparation of its legal background is in progress.
- The Gene Bank Special Body will continue its work, and will give suggestions to the government how to establish national sustainable use policies, and national gene protection programmes.
- Indigenous Farm Animal Genetic Resource Committee will continue its work too.
- We hope, next year there will be realized the EU recognition of the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin of Hungarian grey cattle.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION

Actions undertaken during the past year

- The Indigenous Farm Animal Genetic Resource Committee was established in 2007. It helped to prepare the amendment of the ministerial decree on the declaration of the protected indigenous and endangered animals kept for farming purposes, and to create a new ministerial decree on the rules of the genetic maintenance of the protected indigenous animal breeds. It also keeps the situation of indigenous breeds under control, and it can initiate specific measures at the minister of agriculture.
- The breeding authority and the breeding organizations worked in the field of genetic conservation.
- The “Saving a nearly forgotten breed, the Murinsulaner” project gained 15.000 EUR from the ERFP Call for Action.
- A Polish-Hungarian project proposal was put in the framework of the intergovernmental scientific and technological cooperation. (Title: “Improving preservation method of indigenous sheep breeds and developing hair sheep breeds on the base of domestic and wild sheep population”.)
- A French-Hungarian project proposal was put in the framework of the intergovernmental scientific and technological cooperation. (Title: “Use of assisted reproduction techniques in the gene conservation and breeding programme of small number small ruminant populations”.)

Actions planned for the next year

- In 2009 the new financial support (subsidy) will be introduced for the in-situ and ex-situ genetic resource conservation. It will be co-financed by the EU (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development). The preparation of its legal background is in progress.
- The “Saving a nearly forgotten breed, the Murinsulaner” project will start in the autumn of 2008.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Actions undertaken during the past year

- The DAGENE (Danubian Countries Alliance for Conservation of Genes in Animal Species) annual meeting was held in Hungary, in June 2008.
- In February 2008, Mangalica Festival was held in Budapest, where mangalica products were shown for the public.
- The ministerial decree on the declaration of the protected indigenous and endangered animals kept for farming purposes was amended (the number of breeds was modified).
- New ministerial decree was made on the rules of the genetic maintenance of the protected indigenous animal breeds.
- The Indigenous Farm Animal Genetic Resource Committee was established in 2007. It helped to prepare the amendment of the ministerial decree on the declaration of the protected indigenous and endangered animals kept for farming purposes, and to create a new ministerial decree on the rules of the genetic maintenance of the protected indigenous animal breeds. It also keeps the situation of indigenous breeds under control, and it can initiate specific measures at the minister of agriculture.
- The breeding authority and the breeding organizations worked in the field of genetic conservation.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as the Ministry of Environment and Water established a special working group (Gene Bank Special Body) for the genetic resources for food and agriculture. This working group will survey the needs, and will make proposals for the government in the field of protection of the genetic resources (including legal and financial measures).

Actions planned for the next year

- We are planning to survey the data of the Hungarian breeds in the FAO's DAD-IS system, and to update these data, in the next year.
- Gene Bank Special Body will survey the needs, and will make proposals for the government in the field of protection of the genetic resources (including legal and financial measures).
- Breeding authority will establish a gene bank for semen, ova and embryos for the purpose of in-vitro preservation.
- In 2009 the new financial support (subsidy) will be introduced for the in-situ and ex-situ genetic resource conservation. It will be co-financed by the EU (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development). The preparation of its legal background is in progress.