

**COUNTRY REPORT
FOR 2008-2009 of**

Hungary

Reported by

Tamás Szobolevszki
national coordinator of animal genetic resources
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Department for Agriculture
Animal Breeding Unit
1055 Budapest, Kossuth tér 11., Hungary

**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. This Committee had a meeting every month, and carried out its work (opinion, recommendations etc.).
- 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; the “endangered horses” became “indigenous horses”).
- Ministerial decree deals with the rules of the genetic maintenance of the protected indigenous animal breeds. According to this decree, until the end of 2008, the recognized breeding organizations had to renew their breeding program. The breeding authority approved all.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as the Ministry of Environment and Water, in 2008, established a special working group (Gene Bank Special Body) for the genetic resources for food and agriculture. This working group works on surveying 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.
- The above mentioned bodies will continue their work.
- We plan to revise the list of breeds declared as “national treasure”.
- 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. In 2009, the so called “Mangfood project” was launched. This project will help to investigate the mangalica pig DNA for impeding food forgery. It will end in 2012 with a budget of 607 million HUF (app. 2,17 million EUR). This project also provides scientific data for mangalica research and establishing an in vitro mangalica gene bank.
- The Association of Hungarian Grey Cattle Breeders operates a mobile phone system for checking the origin of meat comes from grey cattle. (An SMS message with an identification number has 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 genetic resources conservation end of 2009. It will be co-financed by the EU (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development). The preparation of its legal background is in progress.
- A new financial support (subsidy) will be introduced for the ex situ, in vitro genetic resources conservation and dissemination of information, guidance, next year. It will be co-financed by the EU (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development). The preparation of its legal background will be 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 Indigenous Farm Animal Genetic Resource Committee expressed its opinion on the renewed breeding programs submitted by breeding organizations deals with indigineous animal breeds.

- Research programs in the field of genetics and reproductive physiology of indigenous domestic animal were in progress on national and international level. There was an applied research to improve housing and feeding technology, meat quality by indigenous domestic animals.
- 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 in 2008. Two sessions were organized last year (Kozárd, Óriszentpéter – Hungary) and one this year in Zagreb (Croatia). The related data collection was finished and the form of the international registration was discussed. Next meeting is planned to be held in Slovenia.
- Hungary takes part in an ERFP project (“Proper way of supports for endangered livestock breeds”). This project gained 20.000 EUR from the ERFP Call for Action.
- The “Characterisation of the indigenous and improved podolic cattle breeds and identification of threats for extinction in global challenges” project gained 20.000 EUR from the ERFP call for Action.
- A Hungarian-Japanese project proposal was put in the framework of the intergovernmental scientific and technological cooperation. (Title: “Improvement of cryopreservation of swine gametes: saving of the genetic diversity”.)
- New a program was set up for the indigenous Hungarian poultry. In 2008, there were 50 courtyards where indigenous poultry was settled for ensuring the natural environmental conditions.
- The Hungarian plain goat seems to be the next breed which may become in indigenous status. The legal procedure is in progress.
- We take part in the ELBARN project.

Actions planned for the next year

- In the end of 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 be finished in 2010. The final report is planned to be published in an electronic and printed form.
- The first meeting of the “Characterisation of the indigenous and improved podolic cattle breeds and identification of threats for extinction in global challenges” project will be in Italy in the second half of 2009. A further meeting will be in Debrecen University (Hungary).
- The Indigenous Farm Animal Genetic Resource Committee will give opinion on breeding programs of endangered and indigenous animal breeds.
- We need to ensure information for the ELBARN project.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Actions undertaken during the past year

- The annual meeting of DAGENE (Danubian Countries Alliance for Conservation of Genes in Animal Species), its head office is in Hungary, was held in Zagreb (Croatia), in May 2009.
- In February 2009, 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; the “endangered horses” became “indigenous horses”).
- Ministerial decree deals with the rules of the genetic maintenance of the protected indigenous animal breeds. According to this decree, until the end of 2008, the recognized breeding organizations had to renew their breeding program. The breeding authority approved all.
- 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, in 2008, established a special working group (Gene Bank Special Body) for the genetic resources for food and agriculture. This working group works on surveying the needs, and will make proposals for the government in the field of protection of the genetic resources (including legal and financial measures).
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development started to revise and renew the Animal Breeding Act. The new act will deal with especially the protection of animal genetic resources.

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 need to establish a gene bank for semen, ova and embryos for the purpose of in-vitro preservation, according to the ministerial decree deals with the rules of the genetic maintenance of the protected indigenous animal breeds.
- A new financial support (subsidy) will be introduced for the in-situ genetic resources conservation end of 2009. It will be co-financed by the EU (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development). The preparation of its legal background is in progress.
- A new financial support (subsidy) will be introduced for the ex situ, in vitro genetic resources conservation and dissemination of information, guidance, next year. It will be co-financed by the EU (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development). The preparation of its legal background will be in progress
- In 2010, DAGENE annual meeting will be in Romania.
- New Animal Breeding Act probably will enter into force in 2010.