

**COUNTRY REPORT ITALY  
FOR 2009-2010 of**

**Reported by ITALIAN NATIONAL FOCAL POINT FAO  
Prof. Giovanni Bittante**

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

**Actions undertaken during the past year**

Several researches were undertaken, and in part published, on characterization of different populations, especially of cattle, sheep and goats and fowl by university departments and other research institutes. Among these, special attention is given to ConSDABI (see annex 1) that share a special link with the Italian National Focal Point.

Characterization was undertaken from the population study, molecular genetics, phenotypic description, product quality and social-economical aspects.

**Actions Planned for the Next Year <sup>1</sup>**

The main goal for next year is to establish a open data base to collect all Italian project and publication on farm animal populations regarding the characterization from the population, molecular genetics, phenotypic description, products quality and valorisation, and socio-economic aspects.

This objective will be reached through a large involvement of all the researchers that are active on this area.

The database will be web based.

The inventory of Italian animal genetic resources will be updated and more recent population trend established.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Action undertaken during the past year**

During 2009 Italian Government started studying a new law on biodiversity protection and use and also several Italian Regions started to work on this subject.

A lot of actions were undertaken in the field of sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources, especially by local governments, often without a coordination of their activity, with the exception of Regional Governments that continues to meet and share information and ideas.

**Action planning for the next year**

During 2010 the new national law on biodiversity protection and use is expected to be approved and also several local rules and plans are expected too. The main action will be try to coordinate these activities and implement the correlated actions.

Special attention will be dedicated to typical products of specific animal populations and environments.

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## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION**

### **Actions undertaken during the past year**

Beyond the actions undertaken by ConSDABI on several animal populations (*see annex 1*), a special attention was dedicated to the projecting a national system of cryoconservation of genetic resources. The system is intended to create a net among existing cryobanks developing a common and shared information system.

This action is stimulated especially by the Lombardia Region and coordinated by prof. Gustavo Gandini. A meeting was organized by Gustavo Gandini and Flavia Pizzi in Milan with the representatives of national and regional governments, breeders associations, scientific organizations and institutes and AI centres to illustrate the project and involve institutions.

### **Actions Planned for the Next Year**

It is planned to continue the efforts for an efficient activity of conservation of animal genetic resources through a coordination of the different initiatives, but special attention will be devoted to the project of establishing a national system integrating the several cryobanks present in the Country.