

Reported by

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GENERAL

Actions undertaken during the past year

- Continuation of work programme of Centre for Genetic Resources in the Netherlands (ex situ conservation, in situ conservation support, policy advice, research), in close collaboration with NGO's, public and private sector, incl. the rare breed society, breeding and research organisations.
- Discussing the responsibilities and role of the Dutch government (Agriculture and Foreign Affairs) in implementation of GPA internationally.

Actions planned for the next year

- Establishment of "platform" for farm animal breeding and conservation
- Development of new 5-year programme for the Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands.

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

Actions undertaken during the past year

- EFABISnet: installation of software on national level
- Inventory and update of breed status and information on breeds in the Netherlands, in EFABIS (and DAD-IS) and national website www.absfocalpoint.nl
- Update of gene bank collection data in cryo database (CRYO-IS)
- Breed assessments within the framework of EU-GENRES projects EURECA (cattle) and HERITAGESHEEP.

Actions planned for the next year

- Promoting characterization and scientific research on within and between breed diversity
- Further analysis of the status of cattle and sheep breeds within the framework of EU-GENRES.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Actions undertaken during the past year

- Analysis of breed ‘self-sustainability’ within the framework of EU-GENRES project EURECA (cattle)
- Advice to breed societies how to select against scrapie susceptibility and at the same time maintain genetic variation within populations.

Actions planned for the next year

- Initiation of participatory project aiming at development to ‘the country-side cow’ (low input, sustainable breeding goals) in close collaboration with farmers networks and breeding organizations.
- Finalization of breed assessment within the framework of EU-GENRES project EURECA and start further breed strategy development and implementation in close collaboration with farmers networks and different stakeholders.
- Technical support to rare breed societies and herd book by analyzing genetic diversity within populations and their breeding program and breeding structure.
- Further advice to rare breed societies and other stakeholders how to promote the use of local breeds in order to increase the number of breeding animals by breed

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION

Actions undertaken during the past year

- Further establishment of gene bank collections (semen) for poultry, sheep, goat, horses
- Embryo collection (cattle)
- Distribution of bull semen from the gene bank to support breeding of endangered cattle breeds
- Analysis of genetic diversity within populations of the Dutch landgoat, Deep Red cattle, Geldersche slenk (pigeon), Dutch draft horse

Actions planned for the next year

- Continuation of semen collection of stallions and rams
- Consideration of addition of new species (e.g. dogs, rabbits, pigeon) to the gene bank collections
- Consideration of cryopreservation of somatic cells (parallel to gametes collection)
- Further characterization and rationalization of gene bank collections

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Actions undertaken during the past year

- Discussing special provisions for gene bank and local (cattle) breeds in veterinary law
- Start of two new PhD projects: i) use of whole genome scans for conservation, and ii) between breed variation in milk quality parameters.
- Scientific paper on optimization of management of within breed diversity taking into account missing/wrong pedigrees.
- Organising national training workshop for cattle breeders and (fancy) poultry breeders on breeding and inbreeding in small populations.
- Bilateral collaboration project with Bhutan on in situ and ex situ conservation strategies
- Development of national “knowledge portal” for rare breeds
- Promoting biodiversity in national education programs (from primary schools up to MSc)
- Development of indicators for livestock (and crop) biodiversity, including modelling of the relationship between use/conservation of genetic diversity, changes in animal production systems and drivers of change.

Actions planned for the next year

- Development of MSc course AnGR Management in Wageningen (if additional funding available)
- Contributions to specific training courses ‘management of AnGR’
- Organising scientific biodiversity seminars (WIAS, Wageningen University)
- Training and interactive workshops for representatives of Dutch breed societies
- Development of FP7 project “optimization of management of genetic variation”