

ERFP Country report 2010 – 2011

COUNTRY: The Netherlands

reported by: Sipke Joost Hiemstra, National Co-ordinator

Strategic Priority Area 1:

Characterization, Inventory and Monitoring of Trends and Associated Risks

Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN) – Wageningen University and Research Centre

- Implementation and updating of EFABIS and CryoWEB databases. CGN participated in EC co-funded EU project EFABISnet and will further contribute to the ERFP Working Group Documentation and Information.
- Finalization of EC co-funded project EURECA (AGRI GEN RES 870/2004 012), coordinated by CGN. The project “Towards self-sustainability of EUropean REgional CATTLE breeds” was undertaken by a Consortium of 10 European partners (10 countries) between 2007 and 2010. The Consortium investigated different factors affecting the sustainability of local breed farming.
www.regionalcattlebreeds.eu.
- On-going PhD projects (collaborating with Wageningen University)
 - Characterization of Dutch cattle breeds for their milk fatty acid composition
 - Use of high-density marker information for conservation decisions

Dutch Rare Breeds Society (SZH)

- Start development of umbrella database and web tool for rare breeds, to assist decision making in case of disease outbreaks. Information will include location of breeding animals and populations of rare breeds in the Netherlands.

Strategic Priority Area 2:

Sustainable Use and Development

Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN) – Wageningen University and Research Centre

- CGN provides technical advice to breed associations on how to implement programmes that strengthen breeding efforts and minimize rates of inbreeding (e.g. Deep Red Cattle, Dutch Friesian Red and White, Mergelland Sheep).
- Finalization of EC co-funded project EURECA (AGRI GEN RES 870/2004 012), coordinated by CGN. The project “Towards self-sustainability of EUropean REgional CATTLE breeds” was undertaken by a Consortium of 10 European partners (10 countries) between 2007 and 2010. The Consortium investigated different factors affecting the sustainability of local breed farming.
www.regionalcattlebreeds.eu.

Dutch Rare Breeds Society (SZH)

- The first national day for living heritage (*Dutch*: “nationale dag van het levend erfgoed www.dagvanhetlevenderfgoed.nl”) was organized in August 2010. This first event was successful (3000 visitors). The public appreciated this concept, to become familiar with Dutch heritage, native

breeds. It was decided to organise the second national day in August 2011.

Product Board Livestock, Meat and Eggs (PVE)

- On behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, PVE is responsible for the implementation of the EU Zootechnic legislation in the Netherlands. In 2010, PVE renewed the national legislation and organisations for herd book registration, performance recording and/or estimation of breeding values have to re-apply for recognition of their herd book status.

Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation

Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN) – Wageningen University and Research Centre

- CGN is responsible for the development and management of the Gene Bank for Farm Animals in the Netherlands. The gene bank manages gene bank collections of semen and embryo's of a variety of breeds and lines of cattle, pigs, horses, sheep, goats, chicken, duck, dog. Periodically, CGN will add new genetic material to the gene bank collections, and some semen is distributed to support the conservation of a number of endangered Dutch cattle breeds.
<http://www.cgn.wur.nl/UK/CGN+Animal+Genetic+Resources/Genebank/>
- New activities include i) cryopreservation of semen of rare breeds of duck and goose, and ii) exploring the need for a parallel somatic cell collection strategy.
- The Working Group Ex Situ Conservation of ERFP elected S.J. Hiemstra as the chairperson for this Working Group. The Working Group identified a number of key topics to work on the next 2-3 years (legal and institutional framework, prioritization and sampling, management and development of CryoWeb, discussing European strategy for Farm Animal Gene Banking).

Dutch Rare Breeds Society (SZH) and CGN

- In collaboration with CGN, SZH plays an important role in assisting breed societies to conserve rare, native breeds in the Netherlands. Assistance includes discussing breeding goals, strengthening breeding programs, marketing, communication and many other requests coming from breed societies.

Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, Institutions and Capacity-building

National Platform for Animal Breeding

- Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, Product Board Livestock, Meat and Eggs, the Dutch Rare Breed Society, Wageningen University and Research Centre, and leading breeding industry, established a national Platform for Animal Breeding. The Platform discussed the role of Animal Breeding to contribute to a more sustainable animal production in the Netherlands and globally.

Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN) – Wageningen University and Research Centre

- At international level, CGN (co-)organised a number of workshops

- Workshop "Exploring the need for specific measures for access and benefit-sharing of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture", Wageningen, the Netherlands, December 2010 (Sponsored by the governments of Norway, Switzerland and the Netherlands).
<http://www.cgn.wur.nl/UK/CGN+General+Information/Education+and+information/Seminars/>
- CGN organised the international workshop on "in vivo conservation of AnGR", Wageningen, the Netherlands, June 2011, in collaboration with ERFP and FAO.
<http://www.cgn.wur.nl/UK/CGN+General+Information/Education+and+information/Seminars/>
- At national level, CGN – in collaboration with SZH and breed/species organisations – organised two national workshops:
 - How to deal with (in)breeding in dog breeds (April 2011)
 - To what extent are breeds unique (December 2010)

Annex 1: List of relevant national institutions for national Genebanks / Cryopreservation Experts

institution, address, e-mail, homepage, phone / fax	contact person / expert incl. e-mail	animal species	type of genetic material	remarks
Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands Wageningen University and Research Centre P.O. Box 65, 8200 AB, Lelystad, the Netherlands www.cgn.wur.nl	Henri.woelders@wur.nl (cryobiology) Kees.zuidberg@wur.nl (operational aspects gene banking) Henk.sulkers@wur.nl (operational aspects gene banking) Ina.Hulsegge@wur.nl (CryoWeb) Jack.windig@wur.nl (genetic aspects) Sipkejoost.hiemstra@wur.nl (policies and strategies)	Cattle, pig, horse, sheep, goat, chicken, duck, dog	Semen, embryo, somatic cells	CGN is entry point for the Netherlands. Through CGN also access to other specific experts in the Netherlands