

Report on activities on the Management of Animal Genetic Resources in Poland

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I. ACTIVITIES DURING SEPTEMBER 2006 - AUGUST 2007

National AnGR Conservation Programme

In the reporting period, the Working Groups were involved in evaluation and revision of conservation programmes for laying hens, geese and ducks, fur animals and fish genetic resources (carp and rainbow trout). Several native breeds in the last few years were identified as requiring conservation measures and for those breeds new programmes have been developed. They include: Wielkopolski, Sokolski and Sztumski horses; Polish red and white and Polish black and white cattle; Podhale zackiel and Polish Merino sheep (old type). By June 2007, revised conservation programmes for laying hens, geese and ducks, and in July the new conservation programmes for Wielkopolski horses, Polish red and white cattle and fur animals have been approved for implementation by the Director of the Institute.

The National Focal Point carried out monitoring and inspection of herds, flocks and apiaries involved in AnGR conservation activities.

The important task of the National Focal Point was related to finalisation of proposals for financing animal genetic resources conservation programmes in 2007-2013 within the framework of agri-environmental programme and through the state aid. In Polish Rural Development Programme, action on **Agri-environment** includes 9 Packages, two of them addressing directly conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture:

1. Sustainable agriculture
2. Organic agriculture
3. Extensive permanent agricultural lands
4. Conservation of endangered birds and habitats within Natura 2000 sites
5. Conservation of endangered birds and habitats outside Natura 2000 sites
- 6. Conservation of endangered plant genetic resources in agriculture**
- 7. Conservation of endangered animal genetic resources in agriculture**
8. Conservation of soil and water
9. Buffer zones

In Package 7, four species are included with respective endangered breeds:

Cattle: Polish Red, Whitebacked cattle, Polish red and white, Polish black and white

Horses: Polish Koniks, Hucul, Małopolski, Silesian, Wielkopolski, Sokolski, Sztumski

Sheep: Polish Heath Sheep, Swiniarka, Olkuska sheep, Polish Mountain (colour variety), Polish Merino (colour variety), Uhruska, Wielkopolska, Żelaźnińska, Korideil, Kamieniecka, Pomorska, Podhale zackiel, Polish Merino old type

Pigs: Puławy, Złotniki white, Złotniki spotted

The Rural Development Programme 2007-2013, including agri-environmental programme, undergoes currently the final stages of approval by the European Commission. The National Focal Point is being consulted in preparation of relevant implementation regulations by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Financial resources for National AnGR Conservation Programme

In 2006, the *in-situ* conservation subsidies for breeders were provided from two sources:

- **Measures included in agri-environmental programme (package G01,** within (Rural Development Programme framework 2004-2006) for cattle, horses and sheep;
- **State measures for animal breeding development** within annual budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for remaining species: pigs, poultry, fur animals, honey-bees and fish.

Activities related to gene banks

In the reporting period, activities of animal gene bank were limited to support collection of the semen of the Polish Red and Whitebacked cattle and fish genetic resources.

Cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

- National Coordinator has participated in the work of the Advisory Body on Implementation of Agri-environmental Programme established by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, from July 2005 till now;
- National Coordinator represented Ministry of Agriculture during several meetings of the Council Working Party on Coordination FAO in Brussels;
- National Coordinator represented Ministry of Agriculture during the 4th Session of the ITWG-AnGR in December 2006 and 11th session of CGRFA in June 2006, FAO, Rome;
- National Coordinator initiated and contributed to preparation of Polish position for the first International Conference on AnGR in September 2007;
- National Focal Point provided comments/contribution to various documents being prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;

Cooperation with the Ministry of Environment

- National Coordinator contributed to preparation of the update of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for 2007-2013;
- National Coordinator represented Ministry of Environment at the 2nd meeting of the Working Party on Review and Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Paris, June 2007;
- National Focal Point provided comments/contribution to various documents related to biodiversity issues on request of the Ministry of Environment.

International Cooperation

- A group of breeders from Germany, members of the Society for the Conservation of Old and Endangered Breeds has visited Poland in May 2007; they met with National Coordinator to discuss Polish AnGR conservation programme;
- National Focal Point participated in preparation of the second submission of the project proposal coordinated by the European Association on Animal Production "The research training network "Training in Fields Related to Utilisation and Conservation of Autochthonous Farm Animal Genetic Resources" within the Marie Curie-Skłodowska framework.
- National Focal Point provided various materials on request of FAO in relation to the preparation of the first International Conference on AnGR in Interlaken (conservation success stories, farmer life stories)

Cooperation with NGOs

National Focal Point continued providing support to various NGOs in implementation of their projects / activities that include AnGR component.

Research, Education and Public Awareness

- International Scientific Conference: "Conservation of animal genetic resources in Poland and in Europe – achievements and dilemmas" was organized by the National Research Institute of Animal Production in Balice, from 31st May to 2nd June 2007.
- A special Exhibition of Native Breeds was organized during XXI National Animal Show POLAGRA-FARM in Poznan on 12-15 October 2006. A seminar "Biodiversity in Agri-environmental programme" was held to facilitate breeders' understanding and participation in G01 packages.

- A second edition of the album “Rare breeds of Poland was prepared for the 2007 Exhibition of Native Breeds at FARMA National Animal Show as well as other promotion materials including leaflets, brochures and CDs.
- The video on Polish native breeds is being prepared by the Institute
- The National Focal Point participated in training workshops for horse breeders organized by the Polish Horse Breeders Association and for honey-bee breeders by the National Animal Breeding Centre. The workshops were devoted to rules and procedures for participation in respective conservation programmes.

Meetings participation

The National Focal Point participated in the international seminar “*Relationship between the CAP and biodiversity*”, Warsaw, Poland 7-8 December 2006.

II. PRIMARY ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE COMING YEAR

- Implementation of new conservation programmes, and monitoring of ongoing conservation programmes;
- Implementation of Package 7 on “**Conservation of endangered animal genetic resources in agriculture**” within Agri-environmental Programme 2007-2013;
- Preparation of a special Exhibition of Native Breeds during XXII National Animal Show FARMA 2007 in Poznan, in September 2007;
- Organization of workshops for breeders involved in conservation programmes (first one, for sheep breeders is planned for November 2007);
- Preparation for the first International Technical Conference on AnGR in Interlaken, in September 2007;
- Contribution to the implementation of the Global Plan for Action on Animal Genetic Resources
- Contribution to finalization of the National Strategy on Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Rural Areas’ Biological Diversity – still pending;
- Contribution to preparation of SBSTTA 13 and the 9th Conference of the Parties the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- Contribution to Agroweb network and other information sharing initiatives.