

**Reported by**

**ELŻBIETA MARTYNIUK, NATIONAL COORDINATOR  
in cooperation with AnGR Conservation Unit and Species Coordinators**

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

Actions undertaken during the past year

All populations of farm animals included in the conservation programme have been monitored in 2009 and in 2010 and their current status reported. This is the task of Species Coordinators who provide their reports to the respective Working Groups. A substantial increase in population size in majority of breeds included in conservation programme has been observed in the last year;

Polish EFABIS database have been updated for cattle and poultry breeds under conservation programmes;

A number of research projects has been undertaken at various agricultural universities/institutes aiming to enhance genetic characterisation of native breeds;

Two MSc projects to analyse genetic status (inbreeding level, contribution of valuable ancestors etc.) of the Sztumski and Sokolski cold blooded horse breeds under conservation should be completed this year;

The molecular characterisation of those two horse breeds has been initiated.

Actions planned for the next year

Ongoing monitoring and performance recording of breeds under conservation programmes;

Studies to characterise native breeds under conservation will be either continued or initiated.

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

Actions undertaken during the past year

Performance recording results have been analyzed for four cattle breeds under conservation and the results were made available at the homepage of the Polish Federation of Cattle Breeders and Milk Producers;

Performance evaluation results for Hucul horses have been published and widely distributed in hard copies;

Continuation of efforts to develop specific, unique products from native breeds; e.g. participation in the conference „Native breeds – how to promote regional products?” First Podhale Exhibition of Polish Red cattle, Maruszyna, 29-30 May 2010;

Implementation of the project to control inbreeding level in a small population of Olkuska sheep;

New initiatives, in collaboration with the NGOs to develop and popularize innovative approaches for utilisation of cold blooded horses;

Participation in the VI Competition of sport lodging for draft horses (May and June 2010);

Participation in the annual conference of the FECTU (Federation Europeen Cheval de Trait) addressing utilization of local horse breeds, Ledbury, England, 19-22 March 2010.

#### Actions planned for the next year

Continuation of efforts to develop specific, unique products from native breeds;

Strengthening cooperation with breeders' societies and the NGOs to promote multipurpose utilization of native breeds;

Close collaboration with the Foundation "For old breeds and varieties" in networking breeders keeping native breeds.

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

#### Actions undertaken during the past year

Routine evaluation of implementation of the breed conservation programmes by relevant Working Groups;

In the reported period at last two meetings of each Working Group took place with the main aim to consider breeders' applications to join the conservation programme, to review and update, if necessary, relevant conservation programmes, and to evaluate implementation results;

The revised conservation programmes for Polish Koniks, Hucul horses, Silesian, Malopolski and Wielkopolski horses as well as Sztumski and Sokolski horses have been adopted by the Scientific Council of the Institute;

Selection of the best stallions of Hucul horses to be used in the conservation programme.

Revision of the procedure to issue documents related to the implementation of the Package 7 of Agri-environmental Programme by the Species Coordinators and improvement of documents' flow;

Development of a conservation programme for the Carpathian goat and application to the Ministry for opening herdbook for this native breed;

Revision of the conservation programmes for poultry breeds and honey bees lines;

Inspection of selected private farms participating in the conservation programme (total 57 farms);

As Sztumski and Sokolski horses are undergoing breed restitution it is important for the Species Coordinator to undertake inspection of mares accepted to participate in the conservation programmes. Such inspections were conducted in Malbork, Białystok, Łódz, Lublin, Olsztyn, Popielno, Monki and Sokolka in 2009; and in Smolajny (February and June 2010) and Wejherowo and Malbork (May 2010);

Inspection of bee apiaries of Augustow and North lines in Olecko region in 2009;

Organisation of seminars for breeders participating in the conservation programmes of:

1. Podhale cakiel sheep, Nowy Targ, 8 July 2009
2. Pomorska sheep, Tuchomia, 14 October 2009
3. Polish Merino sheep in the old type, Pawłowice, 5 May 2010
4. Malopolski horse, SO Klikowa/ Tarnowa, 19-20 June 2010
5. Sokolski coldblooded horse, Sokolka, 24-25 June 2010

Development of plans for establishment of the National Ex-situ Gene Bank for Animal Genetic Resources in the National Research Institute of Animal Production in Balice;

Participation in the cryo-conservation workshop in the Netherlands;

Initiation of routine collection of semen of Polish Red, Polish Red and White, Polish Black and White and Whitebacked bulls identified as sires in the respective conservation programmes (at least 200 portions per sire);

#### Actions planned for the next year

Continuation of ongoing conservation efforts;

Organisation of thematic seminars for breeders that are involved in conservation programme of remaining breeds (e.g. on 21<sup>st</sup> September for Olkuska shep breeders and so on.);

Coordination and assesment of implementation of the conservation programmes:

- for cattle, horses and sheep and pigs (measures included in the package P7 of agri-environmental programme, Rural Development Programme framework 2007-2013);
- for remaining species: poultry, fur animals, honey-bees and fish (state measures for animal breeding development within annual budget of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development);

Re-visiting conservation programmes for some breeds;

Establishment of the National Ex-situ Genebank for Animal Genetic Resources.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

### Actions undertaken during the past year

#### **Policy issues**

Preparation of the the proposal to develop a National Strategy and Action Plan within the Multi Year Programme of Work of the National Research Institute for Animal Production. The proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Continous cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in implementation of the Package 7 within the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013, under Agri-environmental Programme;

Participation in the Consultation Conference in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to evaluate progress in implementation of the Agri-environmental programme within the framework of the Rural Development Programme (PROW 2009-2013), 7 October 2009, Warsaw;

Preparation of the proposal to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to increase number of females within specific breeds within the Package 7 of the Agri-environmental Programme 2007-2013;

National Coordinator represented Ministry of Environment during two meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity: 14th session of the SBSTTA and 3rd meeting of the Working Group on Revision and Implementation of the Convention (WG-RI3), Nairobi, Kenya, May 2010;

National Coordinator contributed to the preparations of Polish position for the session of WG-ABS and other meetings related to negotiations of the International Regime – ABS;

National Coordinator takes part in the preparatory work related to EU presidency in the area of agro-biodiversity (under the CBD) and AnGR (CGRFA and ITWG-AnGR, FAO).

### **Science and education**

Organization of the national conference „The role of native breeds and conservation herds in livestock breeding – a tradition and modernity”, Chorzelów, Poland, May 2010;

Participation in scientific conferences, providing presentations:

- Workshop for National Coordinators “Sustainable Management of Animal Genetic Resources: Development of Priorities, Policies and National Action Plans” organized by FAO/Kazakhstan Association for Animal Production, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 15–18 September 2009[
- International conference „Mission Biodiversity - Traditional crop varieties and livestock breeds – conservation of agro-biodiversity” organized by NGO “For old varieties and breeds”, Bachotek, 1-3 October, 2009. Invited lecture: „*Conservation of AnGR in Poland and in the world*”;
- International seminar: „Challenges and opportunities in the management of animal genetic resources “organized by the Norwegian Genetic Resource Centre, 10 December 2009, Ås, Norway. Invited paper: “*Biotechnology application in conservation of animal genetic resources*”;
- Contribution to the FAO expert meeting on Indicators to measure trends in genetic diversity of domesticated animals, 9 - 10 February 2010, Rome. Presentation: “*Status quo - what can we learn/use from other initiatives*”;

- Participation in the Livestock Biodiversity Workshop, organized by the EU financed projects GLOBALDIV and EURECA, FAO, Rome 5-6 May, 2010;
- Conference "Talking about biodiversity not only in 2010", 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010, Warsaw University, Poland. Invited lecture: "*Biological diversity in agriculture: How to promote and popularize native breeds*";
- 9<sup>th</sup> WCGALP, Leipzig 1-6 August 2010: Invited paper for the session: Genetic improvement programs: Management of animal genetic resources. quo vadis after the state of the world report (jointly with FAO) Invited paper: „*Implementation of the Global Plan of Action in Central and Eastern Europe: Challenges and Opportunities*”;
- Conference: International Strategic Programs for the Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Vancouver 17th July 2010. Invited paper: "*Animal genetic resources programme in Poland: successes and obstacles*";

Participation in a numerous seminars for breeders, extension services and students providing lectures and consultation, e.g.:

- XLVII Annual Honey bee Conference, Puławy, 10-11. March.2010. Presentation „*Honey bee lines included in the AnGR conservation programme*”;
- Number of lectures on implementation of the Package 7 within the framework of the Rural Development Programme for various target groups. Extension Centre Brwinów, 24 January, 1 and 6 February, 23 and 31 June 2010; Extension Centre Radom 2 February 2010.

### **Public awareness**

Contribution to organization of the Regional Animal Shows with exhibitions of local native breeds, e.g. Szepietowo in June 2010, Janow in July 2010.

### Actions planned for the next year

Initiation of the process to develop the National Strategy and Action Plan;

Re-visiting National Priorities identified in the Country Report in 2002 in the lights of 23 GPA priorities and associated actions and development of the current set of national priorities;

Continuous cooperation with NGOs, especially breeders' societies and the Foundation "For old varieties and breeds";

Exhibition of native breeds at the National Animal Show, Poznań, 1-3 October 2010.