

**COUNTRY REPORT
FOR 2008-2009 of**

Slovak Republic

Reported by

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

Actions undertaken during the past year

The farm animal biodiversity database (EFABIS) is being filled with data characterizing breeds in Slovakia. Stakeholders expected to provide information needed were identified. The information changing network was established and the proposed procedure for data collecting is under verification. Monitoring of population data takes into account two registration systems: central livestock and herbook registers. See <http://efabis-sk.cvzv.sk> for details.

In the field of molecular research projects, activities associated with breed characterization are as follows:

Leptin and leptin receptor gene polymorphism in Large White and Landrace swine, casein and lactoglobulin gene polymorphism in Pinzgau cattle were studied.

Pilot DNA genotyping in Sazan carp, microsatellite analyses in sheep populations and studies of insulin-like growth factor receptor gene polymorphism in Japanese quail were introduced.

The national cryo-web information system has been launched under the EFABIS-net project.

Actions planned for the next year

Ongoing effort on breed characterization activities.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Actions undertaken during the past year

Breeding programmes are based on routine national genetic evaluation of traits included in aggregate genotypes related to breeding objectives. Longevity, fitness and health traits are growing in importance. Activities of existing breeding and organizational structures are mainly aimed at management of nucleus and multiplier herds.

Utilization schemes for suckler cows and ewes of local breeds in extensive production systems with respect to their non-production landscape and agrotourism functions are searched.

The latest initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture is aimed at adoption of a new legislative framework which will enable part of the livestock products to be sold to consumers directly from farm, without bargain interlinks in production chain. Respective veterinary legislation is taken into account in this context.

Actions planned for the next year

Searching for market allocation of local livestock products and diverse use of livestock breeds.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION

Actions undertaken during the past year

Promotion under Rural Development Plan (2007-2013) is being considered for eligible breeds as part of conservation and sustainability efforts.

Breeder's organizations are promoted in herdbooks' keeping and breeding schemes based on pedigree data.

Examples of ongoing in situ considerations:

Many chicken breeds of small size population are kept by fancy breeders in Slovakia.

Sustainability issues are of high interest in this respect. In situ breeding and conservation schemes are performed under the guidance of the Animal Production Research Centre Nitra.

Keeping populations of Japanese quail (used as a model animal for research purposes), honey bee (*Apis Mellifera Carnica*), and fish species is also performed under the umbrella of the Animal Production Research Centre Nitra.

Local goose breeds sustainability is addressed through activities of Small Breeder's Organization.

Under the guidance of the National Stud and Horse Breeder's Organization, efforts to make stable or to increase the local horse populations are in place.

To build-up national ex-situ collections, potentially available contributions of cryo-genetic material are searched throughout the country.

Actions planned for the next year

Seeking the possibilities for in situ conservation and identifying the priorities.

Ongoing search for cryo-genetic material considered as within-country ex situ reserves.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Actions undertaken during the past year

The process to involve farm animal genetic resources agenda within the latest amendments of Animal Breeding Law is currently ongoing.

Recent calls under the RDP 2007-2013 (July 2009) prioritize small farmers and, inter alia, are aimed at support of suckler cows and ewes in less productive regions and areas.

Series of seminars introducing support possibilities given by means of the RDP 2007-2013 took place throughout the country under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture during the year. Several events intended to increase public awareness of livestock species and breeds, products and handicrafts associated, took place under strong medial promotion during the year: First Christmas farmery day, Easter farmery days, Days of ecological agriculture, National livestock show, regional livestock shows. Most of these events were performed under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The translation of the Global Plan of Action for AnGR and the Interlaken declaration on AnGR (FAO, 2007) into Slovak is available.

Actions planned for the next year

Building of legal background for FAnGR.

Activities promoting public awareness on importance and roles of FAnGR continue.