

ERFP Country report 2010 – 2011

COUNTRY:

reported by:

Strategic Priority Area 1:

Characterization, Inventory and Monitoring of Trends and Associated Risks

Actions undertaken during the past year

All important data of Swiss breeds of the main species – cattle, horses, sheep, goats, pigs, rabbits and chicken – is updated yearly and published on the EFABIS.ch database. Data is provided by Breeding Organisations and reflects the number of animals registered in their Herdbooks. The total population size per breed must be estimated and is best for the cattle breeds. Breeding Organisations are responsible for the rare and endangered breeds as well as for the continuous monitoring of the active breeding population and the management of the latter. Trends show that endangered breeds are maintained or their effective population size is increasing. The coefficient of inbreeding remains a problem in small populations due to the small number of breeding males

The Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG financed projects for the molecular characterization of breeds. The project “Genetic diversity in an indigenous horse breed, implications for mating strategies and the control of future inbreeding” has resulted in an original article published in the journal of Animal Breeding and Genetics. The project “molecular definition of Swiss Grauhvieh populations using genome wide SNP Data” has shown very close relationship between Swiss and Austrian Grauhvieh

NGOs are also important partners in this strategic Priority Area and the collaboration is good

Actions planned for the next year

EFABIS.ch will continuously be updated with new pictures of local breeds

Strategic Priority Area 2:

Sustainable Use and Development

Actions undertaken during the past year

Projects for endangered breeds have been focussing on sustainable use including marketing of products of high value for specific breeds as well as on selection of optimal contributing animals and increase of male animals. Reports on in situ conservation programs for the sustainable use and development of rare breeds are revised continuously in order to improve conservation strategies. Breeding and production techniques, as well as breeding objectives have been improved in rare breeds resulting in increased population size. Incentives consistent with existing international agreements were again allocated to breeders participating in conservation programs

Technical support has been offered to Breeding Organisations. Approaches for the selection of optimal contributing animals for reproduction have been discussed together

Actions planned for the next year

Technical support will continuously be proposed to Breeding Organisations. Projects shall also focus on sustainable use of land with rare breeds and include consideration of broad genetic variety within breeds

Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation

(please give details for the most relevant institutions for national genbanks / cryopreservation in the table in Annex 1)

Actions undertaken during the past year

Several meetings took place with horse and goat Breeding Organisations to promote conservation activities. In 2010, a contract of collaboration in the National Cryobank was concluded between Swissgenetics (IA Organisation) and the Federal Office for Agriculture. It rules the long term conservation of cryomaterial of cattle, sheep and goat breeds of Swiss origin, collected over 50 years, as well as the use of core semen for 3 specific situations. Semen remains in the ownership of Swissgenetics. Equine semen is stored in the Cryobank of the Swiss National Stud Farm in Avenches and most of it belongs to the Government. The regular updating of the Database is ensured by collaborators of the two Cryobanks. A training course was organised in September 2010 in Switzerland together with E. Groeneveld and Z. Ducheve for the collaborators of the two Cryobanks. A new project was launched for semen collection of rare goat breeds

Actions planned for the next year

Next year's actions will again focus on the ex-situ conservation program for goats as well as on long term strategies for the management of the Cryobanks for cattle, horses, goats and sheep

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

Actions undertaken during the past year

New projects have been discussed with different Institutions. Active collaboration in international workshops for sustainable use and conservation of animal genetic resources as well as for ABS, in FAO commissions and in forums regarding new FAO Guidelines

Actions planned for the next year

A workshop is planned in September 2011 with Breeding Organisations for an exchange of know-how and experiences made with the programs for endangered Swiss breeds and for the elaboration of a SWOT analysis for each of their breeds.

Active participation in international workshops for the sustainable use and conservation of animal genetic resources and ABS

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

institution, address, e-mail, homepage, phone / fax	contact person / expert incl. e-mail	animal species	type of genetic material	remarks
Swissgenetics/Federal Office for Agriculture	Fritz Schmitz, Swissgenetics (fsc@swissgenetics.ch) Catherine Marguerat (catherine.marguerat@blw.admin.ch)	Cattle, sheep, goats	semen	
Swiss National Stud Farm/ Federal Office for Agriculture	Dominique Burger (dominique.burger@haras.admin.ch) Catherine Marguerat (catherine.marguerat@blw.admin.ch)	horses	semen	


