

COUNTRY REPORT **TURKEY**
FOR 2008-2009 of

Reported by **A. Oya AKIN National Coordinator**

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

Actions undertaken during the past year

The information which indicates population number, distribution and risk status of farm animal breeds in Turkey is still insufficient. For this reason a comprehensive inventory study should be initiated to alleviate the information gap. In order to provide an example for nation-wide inventory study, three pilot provinces have been selected that represent different regions of Turkey. Education documents prepared for survey takers which will execute inventory on the field.

Morphological, physiological and molecular level characterization studies continue for conservation herds.

Anatolian Grey, Gokceada and Cine Capari sheep breeds' documentary films had been produced by GDAR.

Actions planned for the next year

Pilot inventory studies will be completed. For visual presentation of local breeds some documentary films and a detailed Breed Catalogue which cover local cattle, water buffalo, sheep, goat, chicken, rabbit, dog, cat and bee breeds, and silkworm lines will be produced.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT

Actions undertaken during the past year

To encourage local farmers in community based conservation and improvement program some incentives have paid per animal. This year was the forth year of that kind of subsidy and it has been very attractive for the local farmers who are farming in remote areas. There two types of subsidy; one for *in situ* conservation of local cattle, water buffalo, sheep and goat breeds, and the other for small ruminat improvement. Pure breeding and selection have been used in the extent of the improvement projects, which covers 6300 head per small ruminant breeds (11 sheep and 2 goat breeds).

Actions planned for the next year

As part of the subsidy program, Dagic sheep breed improvement project will be initiated in its original breeding areas.

In order to create interest on decion makers about 'Community Based Small Ruminant Improvement Projects', an introductory meeting will be held by GDAR.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3: CONSERVATION

Actions undertaken during the past year

In recent years Turkey has giving strong emphasis on conservation and sustainable utilization of farm animal genetic resources. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs have conducted all conservation activities, either *ex situ* or *in situ*. (Table 1.)

* *ex situ* conservation activities;

It has been projected to conserve domestic animal breeds by General Directorate of Agricultural Research (GDAR). The project include conservation of 4 sheep, 4 cattle, 1 water buffalo, 1 goat, 1 bee and 2 chicken breeds and 3 silkworm lines in 6 institutes of GDAR.

The cryo conservation project which is named “Conservation and Pre-Molecular Identification of Some of the Native Domestic Animal Genetic Resources of Turkey-I” (TURKHAYGEN-I) started in March 2007. This project aims to establish gene banks to conserve national animal genetic resources, to characterize our local breeds, to build national researcher capacity in animal genetics and animal biotechnology and to combine and disseminate knowledge. TURKHAYGEN-I Project’s live animal material partially completed and for some breeds DNA isolation, semen and embryo freezing activities has been started.

* *in situ* conservation activities;

In the frame of community based conservation program some local breeds conserved in their original breeding areas;

Cattle; Native Black, Anatolian Grey, South Anatolian Red (Kilis), East Anatolian Red, Native Southern Yellow, Zavot

Buffalo; Anatolian Water Buffalo

Sheep; Kıvırcık, Sakiz, Karagul, Herik, Cine Capari, Hemsin, Norduz, Daglic

Goat; Angora Goat, Kilis, Norduz and Honamli

Table 1. Current state of *in vivo* conservation of animals including *in situ* and *ex situ*

Species	Breed	In original farming system	In research institutes	No. of animals	No. of males	No. of females
Cattle	Native Black	√		150	14	136
			√	29	13	16
	East Anatolian Red	√		150	16	134
			√	159	32	127
	South Anatolian Red	√		127	34	93
			√	83	30	53
	Anatolian Grey	√		100	16	84
			√	117	31	86
	Zavot	√		86	16	70
	Native Southern Yellow	√		147	28	119
Buffalo	Anatolian Water Buffalo	√		74	20	54
			√	71	19	52
Sheep	Sakiz	√		113	7	106
			√	66	12	54
	Kivircik	√		200	16	184
			√	326	49	277
	South Karaman		√	61	37	24
	Gokceada	√		200	32	168
			√	70	6	64
	Herik	√		193	15	178
	Karagul	√		200	32	168
	Hemsin	√		200	16	184
	Cine Capari	√		54	7	47
	Norduz	√		200	16	184
	Daglic	√		200	16	184
Goat	Ankara Goat	√		200	16	184
			√	94	16	78
	Kilis Goat	√		194	32	162
	Honamlı Goat	√		200	16	184
Chicken	Denizli		√	400		
	Gerze		√	200		

Actions planned for the next year

Conservation studies will continue. The opportunities will be search to include some more breeds for the *in situ* conservation program.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4: POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Actions undertaken during the past year

- * Two regular meetings of the National Consultative Committee for AnGR Conservation took place 31 October 2008 and 30 April 2009 in Ankara.
- * Program evaluation meeting of AnGR Conservation Project was held on 23-26 March 2009 in Antalya and sub projects were discussed.
- * Participation to the Technical Workshop on AnGR with National Coordinators 26-27 January 2009 in Rome.
- * Participation to the V. Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources on 28-30 January 2009 in Rome.
- * Participation to the 2. ERFPP Project Meeting 'Study of origin and conservation strategy of the Pramenka sheep breeds as a regional transboundary breeds' 04-04 June 2009 in Belgrade.

Actions planned for the next year

- * Two regular meetings of the National Committee for AnGR Conservation.
- * Program evaluation meeting of AnGR Conservation Projects.