

**COUNTRY REPORT  
FOR 2009-2010**

**United Kingdom**

**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**

1. The National Standing Committee on Farm Animal Genetic Resources (NSC FAnGR) <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/> continued to meet quarterly to work on the 38 Recommended Actions (RA) in the UK Action Plan for Farm Animal Genetic Resources <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/geneticresources/documents/fangr-actionplan.pdf>
2. NSC FAnGR approved a revised definition of a 'native' breed. This definition was circulated to all National Co-ordinators on 18 November 2009. On advice from the Committee, it has been agreed that Dexter and Irish Moiled cattle are native to both the UK and Ireland.
3. Work has continued on refining the list of breeds present in the UK and on developing a monitoring system for UK FAnGR. There is clear recognition that the UK inventory is out of date and needs to be updated.
4. Work has also continued on how best to protect genetic resources in a disease outbreak: this requires further definition and agreement on a list of breeds at risk.
5. Attended the twelfth regular session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture - Oct 2009. Clarification received on access and benefit sharing. Also attend RBI/RBST/EAAP seminar in London in February 2010 to discuss definitions, thresholds and other matters.
6. Work underway to update UK Zootechnical Legislation and associated guidance for cattle, pig, sheep and goats breed societies seeking approval under the legislation.

**Actions planned for the next year**

1. Further work on UK breed lists to ensure inventory is accurate and there is coherence between the inventory list, the list of native breeds supported under agri-environment programmes and the list of native breeds at risk which, subject to biosecurity requirements, may be able to benefit from special measures in the event of an outbreak of exotic disease.
2. Agree definition of a breed.
3. Hold workshop with breed societies in first quarter of 2011.
4. Implement a simple and low cost monitoring system for Farm Animal Genetic Resources.
5. Update inventory.

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

**Actions undertaken during the past year**

1. The results from the completed studies on Biodiversity indicators have been included in the 'UK Biodiversity Indicators in your Pocket 2010' <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4229#download>
2. Progress on harmonisation of the lists of breeds which are eligible for support measures. This has enabled new definitive lists to be issued by Natural England for the breeds covered by agri-environment schemes in England.
3. Work continuing on developing robust criteria for the calculation of population numbers and how these relate to conservation measures.

4. Development of a UK Poultry Structure Report – this will be available on the NSC FAnGR website in Autumn 2010.
5. The NSC has provided advice to the Scottish Government on the conservation and sustainable use of an island population of honey bees.
6. Dialogue with the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) <http://www.fawc.org.uk/> to ensure a joined up approach to issues of mutual interest.
7. Success stories relating to conservation and sustainable use of FAnGR have been uploaded onto the FAnGR Website [http://webpages.lincoln.ac.uk/sthall/fangrpres\\_files/frame.htm](http://webpages.lincoln.ac.uk/sthall/fangrpres_files/frame.htm)
8. Principles of Genetic Improvement (PGI) distance learning CD-ROM adapted from the University of Edinburgh MSc in Quantitative Genetics and Genome Analysis taught by research staff from the Scottish Agricultural College and the Roslin Institute has been added to NSC FAnGR website <http://www.pgi-portal.com/>

#### **Actions planned for the next year**

1. Further discussions on multipliers, calculation of population numbers, definitions and thresholds for support or protection.
2. Further discussions on possible amendments to agri-environment schemes to increase support for native breeds at risk.
3. Potential further work on the costs and benefits of farm animal genetic resources to the rural economy, on geographical endemism and on additional research following the review of molecular characterisation study which reported on the level of characterisation and gaps in knowledge in relation to cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and poultry. The Committee has developed a list of funding priorities and is continuing to work to identify potential funding routes to support these key research areas. The results of research funded to date are published on the website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/fangr/randd.htm>

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

#### **Actions undertaken during the past year**

1. Significant funding for native breeds at risk provided under agri-environment schemes
2. Significant work to ensure that FAnGR is protected in the event of an outbreak of exotic disease.

#### **Actions planned for the next year**

1. Encourage breed societies to submit breed data to establish accurate population numbers for all breed present in the UK

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

#### **Actions undertaken during the past year**

1. The NSC FAnGR has continued to advise Government on FAnGR issues.

#### **Actions planned for the next year**

1. Further work by the NSC FAnGR and Government at national level to ensure that FAnGR are properly identified and taken into account in livestock policies.
2. Continuing support and development of the work of the ERFP.