

## Editorial

Dear colleagues,

The 2nd issue of the ERFP Newsletter for 2007, comes just after the 11th Regular Session of the CGRFA in FAO, Rome and in the middle of our preparations for our Annual Workshop in Dublin.

Several events and activities have taken place in the period after the publication of the 1st issue. The Regional Focal Point of South America and the Caribbean region has been formed. The Call for Action has been completed and the results were circulated to the NC's. A meeting of the ERFP project on Brachycerous Cattle held in April, in Bled. The Interna-

tional Conference in Balice brought together several specialists from Poland and other countries, including members of the ERFP Steering Committee.

In the present issue you will find also a report on the EFABISnet project and information on the latest and upcoming activities, book reviews etc.

The ERFP Secretariat likes to thank you all for the welcome of the edition of the Newsletter and expects a feed back on events and activities in your countries for the next issue.

Just before we were about to circulate this issue, we have been informed about the sudden passing of our

friend and colleague Karin Wohlfender, National Coordinator for Switzerland, in her office, that shocked all of us. This happened on Wednesday 26, July.

Karin was a kind person with a warm personality and was a great pleasure to work with her.

There are no words to describe our deep sorrow.

We express our deepest condolences to Karin's family and friends.

We will all retain a beautiful Karin's smile in our heart!

Andreas Georgoudis  
ERFP-Secretary

Status of the preparation of the International Technical Conference on AnGR. It thanked the Government of Switzerland for hosting the Conference, and other donors and FAO, for their contribution to the Conference.

The full report can be downloaded from

<http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/cgrfa11.htm>

## 3rd AnGR Photo Contest

We are welcome go participate in ERFP CEE Network Development Program and vote for the Best AnGR Photo of 2007.

The voting is free for every website visitors. The winners will be revealed by vote majority. The winner country will be officially nominated on 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the EAAP in Dublin, August 26-29, 2007.

Further information:  
[ekatherine\\_tsurtsumia@hotmail.com](mailto:ekatherine_tsurtsumia@hotmail.com)  
[arunas\\_svitojus@yahoo.com](mailto:arunas_svitojus@yahoo.com)

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## Special points of interest:

- 13th Workshop of the NCs in Dublin, 23-25 August 2007
- Training Course for the NCs, 23-24 August 2007
- International Technical Conference, Interlaken, 1—7 September 2007
- Conference on Native breeds and Varieties, Sibenik, Croatia, 13-16 November 2007

## 11th Regular Session of the CGRFA, 11-15 June, Rome

The 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the CGRFA met in Rome from 11 to 15 June.

The meeting was taking place at an especially important time, when international policies for the management of biodiversity for food and agriculture needed to take into account many factors, including economic growth, human population dynamics, changing consumer patterns, rapid market development, climate change, and priority objectives of achieving food security and reducing poverty.

The Commission considered the progress since the 10th Regular Session, in the preparation of the International Technical Conference on AnGR, including

The State of the World's AnGR for Food and Agriculture.

The Commission endorsed the Report of the Working Group recognizing, that significant progress had been made in finalizing The State of the World's AnGR for Food and Agriculture, and in advancing the preparation for the International Technical Conference on AnGR. It noted that the Friends of the Chair, following the suggestions made by the Working Group, had further developed the text of the Strategic Priorities for Action, as a part of the Global Plan of Action.

The Commission endorsed the proposed goals, outcomes and the draft provisional agenda of the Conference, as contained in the

## The State of Farm Animal Genetic Resources in Slovenia in 2006 Register of Breeds with a Zootechnical Assessment

According to the "Regulation on conservation of farm animal genetic resources" for the continuous monitoring of biodiversity in animal husbandry in Slovenia, a Register of breeds with a zootechnical assessment was prepared, also available on the web site:

[http://www.bfro.uni-lj.si/Kat\\_center/genska\\_banka/Default.htm](http://www.bfro.uni-lj.si/Kat_center/genska_banka/Default.htm)

In 2006 the Register of breeds with a zootechnically assessment included:

### 13 autochthonous breeds.

With the exception of one breed all the other autochthonous breeds have the accepted and legally verified breeding programme. The implementation of breeding programme is one of the basic terms regarding the preservation of autochthonous breeds. Two breeds are found at the critical point of endan-

germent, while four of them are already endangered. Four breeds have not been found in the organised *in situ* gene bank yet. There are eleven breeds whose tissue samples are preserved in the tissue deposit bank. Furthermore, the calculation of breeding value will have to be carried out for eight breeds, and breeding program for one of them prepared. In 2006 a dog species was included with one registered breed – kraševac (the karst dog).

### 16 traditional breeds.

For the whole group of traditional breeds, breeding programmes have been accepted and legally verified, representing the basics for the preservation of these breeds. Two breeds are at the critical point on endangerment level, one is already endangered. Tissue samples of seven breeds were in-

cluded to the tissue deposit bank. Calculation of breeding value will have to be carried out for seven breeds.

### 18 foreign breeds.

With the exception of five breeds in this group, breeding programmes have been accepted and legally verified. In the calculation of the endangerment level, the population of foreign farm animal breeds outside Slovenia has been considered too. In the tissue deposit bank, tissue samples of eight breeds are being preserved. In thirteen breeds no breeding value has been calculated yet. In the year 2006, four new cattle breeds were added to the Regis

The analysis of the most important zootechnically assessed breeds produced in Slovene agriculture, entered into the Register showed, that the state of biodiversity conservation in Slovenia can be

The basic zootechnical characterisation is known for all breeds. There are six breeds without the accepted and legally verified breeding programme. The usage of breeds and the implementation of breeding programmes are considered the most important terms under which the FAnGR conservation can be efficient. The *in situ* gene bank includes nine autochthonous breeds, and there are tissues of 26 breeds preserved in the tissue deposit bank. Breeding value is calculated for nineteen breeds (40.4%), while the zootechnical measures are accepted for 46 breeds (96.9%).

Prepared by:

Andrej ŠALEHAR and Drago KOMPAN, NC

[Drago.Kompan@bfro.uni-lj.si](mailto:Drago.Kompan@bfro.uni-lj.si)

## International Scientific Conference Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources in Poland and in Europe – achievements and dilemma, 30 May– 1 June, Balice, Poland

The National Research Institute of Animal Production has been hosting an international Conference "Conservation of animal genetic resources in Poland and in Europe – achievements and dilemmas". The conference took place in Balice, headquarter of the Institute, from 31st May till 2nd June 2007.

The scientific programme included four sessions devoted to:

The state of animal genetic resources and their characterization

Conservation methods

Legal and practical aspects of utilisation of conservation herds and their products

Role of international coop-

eration in conservation of animal genetic resources

The Round Table discussion provided a platform for range of stakeholders to share views on current situation in animal genetic resources management in Poland. Representatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, breeders' societies, implementation agency of agri-environmental programme, research community and breeders themselves were participating in this debate. Among other subjects, the participants reflected on the potential to increase contribution of native breeds in sustainable agriculture.

The Institute was honored to host invited speakers, members of the family of National Coordinators, including Sec-

portunity to visit Polish Heath sheep flock and Hutsul horses stables; the heavy storm in the afternoon made sightseeing of Cracow a very special experience...

Info:

[Elzbieta.Martyniuk@minrol.gov.pl](mailto:Elzbieta.Martyniuk@minrol.gov.pl)



## EFABISNET Project

The EFABISnet project is an activity funded under the Council Regulation 870/2004 "Establishing a Community program on the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources in agriculture".

After a first training workshop on the setup of the new

EFABIS National Biodiversity Websites 13-16 March in Mariensee, Germany, the project is now in the phase 1 during which these National EFABIS information systems are being set up.

As of this date 5 new Websites have been established:

Slovenia : <http://efabis.si.bfro.uni-lj.si>

Netherlands:

<http://efabis.nl.cgn.wur.nl>

Georgia :

<http://efabis-georgia.ge>

Austria :

<http://efabis.raumberg-gumpenstein.at>

Switzerland:

<http://efabis.ch>

Each Web site is in the local language and character set with Georgia being particularly impressive.

Adding to this, the three websites already in operation from the previous EFABIS project :

Poland :

<http://efabis.izoo.krakow.pl>

EAAP :

<http://efabis.tzv.fal.de>

FAO :

<http://dad.fao.org/>

we already now have an interconnected network of eight biodiversity information systems.

This make the European Region the forerunner in networked country based biodiversity information systems

Eildert Groeneveld  
eg@tzv.fal.de

## ERFP project - Current Status of the Brachycerous Cattle Populations in the South Eastern European Countries and Strategies for their Sustainable Conservation -

The overall goal of this meeting was to overview the current situation of the Brachycerous cattle in each country. For this purpose a questionnaire has been sent previously to the NCs of the region that was filled up and presented during the Workshop. The questionnaire included information on the population numbers of pure-bred animals, on morphological data, production data, breeding programs, conservation *in situ* and *ex situ*, zootechnical characterization, production systems etc.

Drago Kompan has summarized the information collected. During the discussion the large diversity that exists between the countries was pointed out, i.e. on live weight or milk production. All

participants agreed to prepare for the Dublin Workshop a report aiming to give a general view of the diversity of the Brachycerous cattle of the region and prepare future actions.

On the field trip the participants visited a Cika cattle breeder in the Bohinj mountains. The breed is traditionally used for milk in the mountain pastures. The milk is processed to cheese and sour milk, retail on farm. The second visit took place to the Alpine dairy-farming museum in Bohinj.

Next meeting in Dublin, in August 24.

Drago Kompan,  
[Drago.Kompan@bfro.uni-lj.si](mailto:Drago.Kompan@bfro.uni-lj.si)



*During the Workshop in Bled, 20 April 2007*

## Results of the ERFP Call for Action

During the ERFP SC meeting in Brussels 16 March, the following proposals have been selected for funding under the total amount of 45650 euros:

1. Improvement of the existing ERFP - communication and co ordination infrastructure, by the ERFP secretariat
2. Workshop for European NCS on strategies relevant for the genetic management and sustainable use/ breeding of AnGR, by Sipke Hiemstra
3. Various aspects and pos-

sible evolution of in situ conservation in Europe, by Dominique Planchenault

In Dublin on 24 August a special coordination meeting for the projects is planned, as decided in the Antalya Workshop. The NCs in charge of an ERFP project will present a report on the ongoing results and exchange information with the NCs aiming to increase the efficiency of the projects.

During the Annual Workshop of the ERFP NCs, the topics of the Next Call for Action 2007-2008 will be discussed.



*From the Cika cattle farm visit, in Bohinj mountains,*

**ERFP Steering Committee:**

Mike Roper, UK, Chair  
Hermann Schulte-Coerne, DE  
Vera Matlova, CZ  
Drago Kompan, SLO  
Arunas Svitojus, LT  
Andreas Georgoudis, GR, Secretariat

The Newsletter is published, under the supervision of the Steering Committee, from the ERFP Secretariat, with the contribution of:

Christina Ligda, [chligda.arsc@nagref.gr](mailto:chligda.arsc@nagref.gr)  
Evi Danou, [ve46u039@minagric.gr](mailto:ve46u039@minagric.gr)  
Ekaterini Konsultu, [konsultu@agro.auth.gr](mailto:konsultu@agro.auth.gr)  
Eleftheria Dimitriadou, [eldimi@agro.auth.gr](mailto:eldimi@agro.auth.gr)

The ERFP website is updated regularly.

[www.rfp-europe.org](http://www.rfp-europe.org)

## ERFP stand in Interlaken

During the SC meeting held in Rome, 11 June, it was decided to prepare the ERFP presentation to the 1st International Technical Conference in Interlaken. The objective is to show how the ERFP activities have a positive effect on the problems faced by the society.

The main issues that will be presented are:

- maintain the biodiversity
- support the sustainable development
- support the local communities and workers
- saving of energy by promoting extensive production systems

The ultimate goal is to achieve better recognition of the role of ERFP and strengthen position of NCs as moving forces of the whole AnGR issue at national level.

*The ERFP welcomes the new Regional Focal on board and look for a close collaboration!*

**Edition of an AnGR Stamps Collection by Turkey**, a good idea for promoting the AnGR issue...



## NEW BOOK

### Utilisation and conservation of farm animal genetic resources

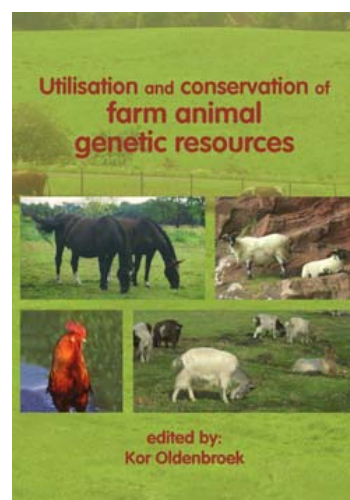
*edited by: Kor Oldenbroek*

2007, 232 pages, Paperback

This book is intended to give insight into the issues of the utilisation and conservation of farm animal genetic resources towards a broad group of readers interested in these subjects. The insight is presented as applications of population, molecular and quantitative genetics that can be used to take appropriate decisions in utilisation and conservation programmes. A previous edition of this book is a key resource in courses worldwide and cited in many scientific publications. The first two chapters discuss the decisions to be made in utilisation and conservation. Chapter 3 surveys the different ways in which the diversity we observe within a species can be characterised. Chapter 4 illustrates recent results using this theory for utilisation and conservation purposes.

Chapters 5, 6 and 7 give theoretical backgrounds necessary to make decisions and chapters 8 and 9 present the operation and practical implications of selection and conservation schemes.

*The book will be used as a text book in the Training Course for the NCs in 23/24 August in Dublin*



## South America Regional Focal Point

The National Coordinators of Latin America and the Caribbean region elected **Dr. Arthur Mariante, Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) as the first Regional Focal Point for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources**. The focal point will assist with coordinating activities and maintain communication among the National Focal Points of the 24 countries in the region for the period of 2007-2009.

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
Faculty of Agriculture  
Dept. of Animal Production  
Animal Genetics and Breeding  
Prof. Andreas Georgoudis

Phone: +30 2310 99 86 83 / 87  
Fax: +30 2310 99 87 19  
E-mail: [andgeorg@agro.auth.gr](mailto:andgeorg@agro.auth.gr)