

Editorial

Dear colleagues,

I have the pleasure to present you the 5th issue of the ERFP Newsletter.

Inside the present issue you will find information on our 14th ERFP Annual Workshop held last August in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Our events started with the Workshop on the implementation of the Global Plan for Action in the European countries, including the role of NGOs, continued the 2nd day with the presentation of the tools available in EFABIS and finished on Saturday 23 with the Annual Meeting of

the NCs.

During the ERFP Annual Meeting, Asko Maki-Tanilla, NC of Finland was elected as the new Chair of the ERFP SC, succeeding Mike Roper, NC of UK, who chaired successfully the ERFP since 2002. From this position I would like to express our thanks to Mike for his instrumental role in the ERFP and for his efforts to overcome challenges and find solutions.

The next ERFP Annual meeting will be held in Barcelona on 22 and 23 August 2009, while on the 24th of August ERFP organizes a

Workshop in collaboration with EAAP WG_AnGR within the 60th EAAP Annual Meeting.

As we are in the last days of 2008, I would like to wish you all to enjoy the Christmas holidays and have a happy and successful New Year 2009!

Hoping to see you all in January in Rome during the FAO Technical Workshop of the NCs and the ITWG meeting.

Andreas Georgoudis
ERFP – Exec. Secretary

14th ERFP Annual Meeting 23 August 2008, Vilnius

This year the ERFP Annual Workshop (14th) held in Vilnius, Lithuania, in “Le Meridien Villon Resort”.

The ERFP Annual meeting took place on Saturday 23 August. The ERFP Annual Report was presented by Andreas Georgoudis, with reference to all points of the ERFP activities since Dublin. These include the development of the ERFP website and the efforts on improving the communication and coordination tools of ERFP, the cooperation with FAO in the frame of the preparation of the International Technical Conference in Interlaken, the development of ERFP relationships with other European and Caucasus region countries, the activities related with EFABIS and several meetings and events. Interesting presentations covered the issues

of climate change and livestock biodiversity, the sustainable management and fair trade of FAnGR and the FABRE TP activities. There was an update on the progress of several AnGR projects, as the EFABISnet, the HeritageSheep, EURECA, ELBARN and several reports and announcements.

During the business meeting decisions were taken on the ERFP policy and the NCs voted on the new Chair of the SC, Prof. Asko Maki-Tanilla, NC of Finland, and two new members of the SC, Marc Maguire, NC of Ireland and Eléonore Charvolin, NC of France. The minutes of the 14th Annual meeting, the country reports and the presentations can be downloaded from the ERFP website (www.rfp-europe.org).



Inside this issue:

ERFP Training Workshop—Implementation of the GPA	2
ERFP Training Workshop—EFABIS tools	2
Conference Biodiversity and Agriculture—Workshop Genetic Resources	2
International Symposium in Corte	3
Projects Coordination meeting	3
Global Workshop for the NCs—ITWG session	4
Other news	4

Special points of interest:

- Global Workshop for the NCs, 26-27 January 2009, Rome
- 5th Session of the ITWG for AnGR, 28-30 January 2009, Rome
- 15th ERFP Annual Workshop 22-23 August 2009, Barcelona
- 60th EAAP Annual Meeting 24-27 August 2009, Barcelona

ERFP Training Workshop 22-23 August 2008

Current status of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in Europe

The objective of the Workshop was to discuss the **status of implementation of GPA** in European countries. Detailed information on the status of implementation were provided by the NC annual reports for the ERFP Workshop. The session was chaired by Sipke Hiemstra. During the Workshop, the views and the role of different stakeholders, in particular NGOS, were presented. As case studies, the implementation of the GPA in Slovenia, Finland, Poland and Turkey were pre-

sented. The gaps and priorities were discussed in order to further enhance the implementation process of GPA. In this context, the role of Europe/European member states to support other regions/global process was discussed and the possibility to investigate opportunities for collaboration between countries and between stakeholders. All reports and the presentations are available in the ERFP website.

The reports of the FABIS-net and their use for the management of AnGR

During this session, chaired by Gustavo Gandini there was a detailed presentation of the tools available to NCs to complete and update their national data. Also the available training material from DAD-IS was presented. The second part was devoted to the presentation of the reports for all users. Z. Duchev gave a presentation of the new reports and charts, M Wieczorek, on the analytical tools and the generation of cumulative statistics and G. Gandini explained the parameters to monitor risk status in EFABIS.

A half hour was dedicated to the discussion within the group of NCs in order to discuss their experience, the difficulties in the updating of the database and other issues related with the degree of completeness and the steps towards the achievement of the target of an updated European Database that can be further exploited.

All presentations are available on the ERFP website www.rfp-europe.org

Conference « Biodiversity and Agriculture: today's challenges, tomorrow's research for more sustainable farming », Montpellier, France 4th -5th of November 2008

Workshop Genetic Resources, Strasbourg, France, 15th of October 2008

The Conference was held in 4 and 5 November 2008 in Montpellier. The event was organised by the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research and the French Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries in collaboration with the local communities of the City of Montpellier (*Région Languedoc-Roussillon, Montpellier Agglomération and Ville de Montpellier*) and targeted European and International decision makers and stakeholders. Its programme focused on an area of research that is currently seeing considerable growth, exploring the enhancement of biodiversity through agriculture as well as the impact of agriculture on biodiversity.

During the Conference, presentations, and feedback from preliminary events and discussion panels were provided by researchers, decision-makers and representatives from civilian society. Four principal topics were discussed: the services provided by ecosystems and agricultural landscapes, impacts and driving forces in northern and southern countries, the role of landscape structures and the international organisation of research and knowledge.

During the Workshop on Genetic Resources in Strasbourg (15 October 2008), 20 experts from the principal European structures involved in the research and management of plant, animal and microbial genetic resources and also researchers and personalities active in the domain of genetic re-

sources from France were invited to work together and prepare the document to be presented in the Conference in Montpellier.

The participants communicated in advance their responses to the questions that were on line in the forum. The main outcomes of the workshop included the following :

- Recognition of the importance of the European dynamic, in the research and in the management of genetic diversity, in particular on the crop sector, the forests and the farm animals
- Need for regional coordination in order to harmonise the practices, the regulations mainly regarding the international negotiations and the interface between

the European level and international and the local actors owners or users of genetic resources and for the reinforcement of the collaboration between research and management

- Crucial role of national correspondents in order to assure the coherence between the different sectors related with the genetic resources (research, agriculture, environment, industry, international relations...)
- Needs that are not yet satisfied: European structure in the domain of micro organisms, continuity and permanence of the national (politic and finance) engagement for the management of genetic resources.

By *Andrée Sontot and François Lefèvre*

X International Mediterranean Symposium EAAP-FAO-CIHEAM "New Trends for Innovation in the Mediterranean animal production" November 6-8, 2008, Corte (France)

A seminar was held in Corte (France) under the title "New Trends for Innovation in the Mediterranean animal production", organised by the EAAP-FAO-CIHEAM Mediterranean Working Group. This group is dealing with specific scientific and development issues related to animal production in the Mediterranean area, by encouraging collaboration between scientific communities and technical sectors from Mediterranean countries. Among other activities, the group organizes a Mediterranean Symposium every two years. The topic in the 2008 Seminar was to exchange information on the main innovation trends concerning the whole animal production chain, from basic aspects at a farm scale, to product diversification and organizational aspects.

Contributions in the form of

invited papers, oral communications and posters came from countries from the whole Mediterranean basin, which gave a very broad view on what has been done and what remains to be done on Innovation in Mediterranean livestock production systems. The innovations presented concerned new ways of producing, organizing and selling, and even new products, developed as an answer to new demands from farmers or from the society. Their final aim was to develop production systems that are technically sound, labour- and cost-efficient and that provide the market with products that meet consumer demands on quality, ethical and environmental aspects, and at competitive prices.

In the actual scenario of competition between food,

feed and fuel innovation may be the key to the survival of many current livestock farming systems, but it is necessary to consider the chances and effects of innovation analyzing the risks and with a multidisciplinary approach, because the many components of the system are strongly related. Therefore, the seminar covered different topics related to innovation: theoretical aspects, research needs in Mediterranean systems, innovations improving the efficiency of livestock systems (genetics, breeding, reproduction, feeding systems, nutrition, health, animal identification, data management), and also concerning socio-cultural aspects, ethical and environmental issues (pastoralism, traditional practices and products, organic farming, animal welfare), and finally applica-

tion of innovation by private companies arising from applied research was also presented.

It was concluded that innovation should arise from thorough system diagnosis and exploration, be collaborative, and involve the many different stakeholders who may have a role in the production chain, in order to provide a variety of solutions for the wide variety of production systems, target consumers and general public who may be concerned about how food is produced today.

Further information can be found at <http://www.corte.inra.fr/symp-med/index.php>

*By Isabel Casasus, President of the EAAP Mediterranean WG,
icasasus@aragon.es*

14th ERFP Workshop- Projects Coordination Meeting, 22 August 2008, Vilnius

7 projects were presented in total. Drago Kompan presented the draft of the booklet on the Brachycerous cattle in the South Eastern European countries that will be published soon, Eleonore Charvolin presented the status of implementation and the next steps of the project on the development of a common methodology to evaluate and monitor the population-genetic status of farm animal breeds, Dominique Planchenault, referring to the project Various aspects and possible evolution of in situ conservation in Europe informed the NCs on the case studies he already received asked for more

input in order to present the document on our next workshop in Barcelona. Frank Begemann presented the outcomes of the discussion during the project meeting in Bonn, on the improvement of the existing ERFP - communication and coordination infrastructure and the developments of the ERFP website, Tamas Szobolevski, Sipke Hiemstra and Ante Ivancovic presented the objectives and first steps of their projects that were selected in the last ERFP Call for Action.

During the discussion that followed on the topics of the next ERFP Call for Action, several subjects were proposed including, the coordi-

nation of the actions of different stakeholders for the threat factors of AnGR (governmental /research/ breeders association/NGOs), the assessment of the endangerment of breeds, including also political, social, economical etc factors, issues related with farm animal taxonomy, the exploitation / utilization of local breeds for the production of local products, the economical evaluation of breeds and sustainable breeding programs.

The 6th ERFP Call for Action is expected to be announced on February 2009.

The presentations are available on :

www.rfp-europe.org

EFABIS update

ERFP is working together with FAO and EAAP in coordinating the European Database for AnGR, on the acquiring and updating the information on the European farm animal breeds and on the roles of access to this information.

As, ERFP gives attention to have an updated and well developed database for AnGR at European level we urge you to continue your efforts on updating and completing your national data in EFABIS database.

ERFP Steering Committee:

Asko Maki-Tanila, FL, Chair
Eleonore Charvolin, FR
Drago Kompan, SLO
Marc Maguire, IE
Vera Matlova, CZ
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
Evi Danou, ve46u039@minagric.gr
Ekaterini Konsultu, konsultu@agro.auth.gr
Dimitrios Tsiokos, dtsiokos@agro.auth.gr
Mina Kotsaftiki, minakots@agro.auth.gr

The ERFP website is updated regularly.

www.rfp-europe.org

Global Workshop for the Ncs, 26-27 January 2009

5th Regular Session of the ITWG-AnGR, 28—30 January 2009

The Technical Workshop for NCs is scheduled to precede the meeting of the ITWG-AnGR in order to facilitate consultation between NCs and delegates to the ITWG-AnGR. Its main objective is to facilitate exchange among NCs on experiences gained after the adoption of the *Global Plan of Action*, particularly with regard to the continuation of working groups (National Focal Points, National Consultative Committees) developed during the State of the World process, and the implementation of the strategic priorities contained in the *GPA*.

This Workshop will provide another opportunity for your technical input into the process. FAO will provide hands-on DAD-IS training and introduce new elements of DAD-IS 3 for use by NCs.

Documents related to the 5th Regular Session of the ITWG-AnGR will be posted on: <http://www.fao.org/ag/a gainfo/programmes/en/genetics/angrvent2009.html>

New publications

New Book

Adaptation and Fitness in Animal Populations

Evolutionary and Breeding Perspectives on Genetic Resource Management

van der Werf, J.; Graser, H.-U.; Frankham, R.; Gondro, C. (Eds.)

Articles

Conservation *in situ* de 11 races bovines françaises à très faibles effectifs: bilan génétique et perspectives

L. AVON, J.J. COLLEAU

<ftp://ext-ftp.fao.org/AG/Data/Upload/ANGR/DAD-Net/Avon.Colleau.045.pdf>

Sustainable long-term conservation of rare cattle breeds using rotational AI sires

J.J COLLEAU & L. AVON

<ftp://ext-ftp.fao.org/AG/Data/Upload/ANGR/DAD-Net/GSEJCOLLEAU07089.pdf>

International Training Module on Geographical Indications, a way forward for local development 4 – 15 May 2009, Chateau de Bossey (near Geneva), Switzerland

Labeling food and artisan products with Geographical Indications (GIs) contributes to regional development, by facilitating the participation of local entrepreneurs in the regional, national or international markets, with their specific skills and know-how. This training module is addressed to participants from all countries active in/as:

- Local development agencies and experts
- GI registration administration (ministries or intellectual property offices)
- GI producer organizations,

Agris Mundus Masters Course

The **Agris Mundus Masters course** is a two-year training programme of 120 ECTS (European Credits Transfer System) in agricultural development and management of natural resources. The **Agris Mundus Masters course** objectives are to train students to cope with the current global/international concerns in agriculture and rural development.

The Agris Mundus Master of Science call is now open.

The deadline is 20Jan 2009

For further information: <http://www.agrismundus.eu/agris-mundus/>

supply chains or inter-professional bodies

This is the third edition of this training. A summary of the 2008 training in Montpellier, is found on the link

<http://www.cirad.fr/en/actualite/communiqu.php?id=966>

For more detailed information on the content of this two-week training module please see the program and the application form on <http://www.srva.ch/scripts/ig.php>

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