

AgroBiodiversity – a crucial part of Biodiversity
4th European Seminar on Agro- Biodiversity
3-5 September, 2010
Criewen, Germany



Rescue of endangered local pig breeds and building up farmers network in the Velipoja Nature Reserve, Albania

a successful conservation program

by
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First information about the local pig breeds

On 1998 in the International Symposium “*Current Status of FAnGR and their use as factor for sustainable economic development of marginal rural areas in Balkan regions*” Thessaloniki, Greece, Mr. H. Grunenfelder, was presented the results of an identification mission carried out in the regions of Shkodra and Malësi e Madhe, who had identified few pigs, in some family farms, that could be classified as native pigs of Siska Type



The first serious efforts for identifying native pig breeds were accomplished by the support of GEF/PNUD in 2005's. Outputs of this mission, enriched by

↳ the results of missions carried out in the frame of TCP/FAO project "Capacity building to support *in – situ* conservation and use of FAnGR", 2005-2006,

↳ the information collected by EURONATURE & SAVE FOUNDATION, 2005-2006

have evidenced the existence of native pigs in Albania.

Among these results, the most important informations was:

Existence of Siska type pigs, Spotted of Scutari and Pig with wattle identified in Back Rrjoll, Velipoja region

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The situation of local pig population at the beginning of the project :

Name of local breed	Sows	boars	Number of farms
Siska type – White of Scutari	8-10	3-4	8
Spoted of Scutari	10-15	5-7	10
Pig with wattle	1-2	1	2



Spoted of Scutari



White of Scutari-Siska type



Pig with wattle

According to the farmer`s interview, the main reasons that they farming the pigs of native breeds was:

- Farming of native pigs is a tradition and effect of the inherited hobby
- Under the conditions of family farms, where inputs are very limited, pigs of local breeds are suitable to be farmed because:
 - (i) are resistant to diseases
 - (ii) have low nutritious requirements, utilize pasture and by products of farm very good
 - (iii) produce high quality meat
 - (iv) have relatively good performance of reproduction and
 - (v) have no requests for expensive housing
- Pig production from local breeds is enough to meet family needs
- Under the condition of lack or great difficulties of meat pork marketing, the farmers are not interested and don't consider efficient the investment for the management of high genetic capacity breeds

Nevertheless

The trend of population is - **decreasing** ↓

Risk status - **at risk of extinction**

Among the factors that was affected this situation was listed:

Firstly, lack of program for conservation and development of local pig breeds. As a result, selection of reproducers, drafting and monitoring mating schemes, prevention of crossbreeding phenomenon (boars come from Monte Negro) was almost impossible.

Secondly, concerns of farmers to preserve these breeds and increase number of animals have been low.

Thirdly, lack of mechanisms, especially economic ones, related to marketing of products, which would promote collaboration between farmers as a necessary condition for applying a program for conservation and sustainable economic use

Objectives of project

- Implementation of urgent measures, necessary to stop the process of genetic erosion and decrease of animal numbers in the population of local pigs “ White of Scutari”, “Black Spotted of Scutari” and “ Pig with Wattle”
- Awareness of farmer`s communities, informal groups or/and associations of farmers, domestic and international institutions to support any effort that will have as objective, conservation and development through sustainable economic use this genetic fund.
- Support and promoting collaboration among farmers.
- Building up and strengthening the capacity of Local Network of farmers to support *in situ/on farm* conservation
- Building up the Rescue Station and Ark farm in Back Rrjoll village



In-situ/on farm conservation program

Target of the program was:

Local pig breed “ White of Scutari”, “Black Spotted of Scutari” and “ Pig with Wattle”.

Main objectives was:

Establish a farm where breeding 4 -5 sows and 1-2 boars for each local breed. This farm will serve as nucleus heard for *In – situ / on farm* conservation and as a Rescues Centre.

Setting up the Network of small private farms of 1-2 sows that will serve as units of applying *in-situ* conservation program

Producing pure breed breeding boars in order to create, for each local breeds and for a medium term period, up to 10 male lines.



Results after 2 years:

1. Size populations

1.1 Situation at the beginning of the project in 6 small scale farms were involved in project:

Farm of Gjon Zhuri:

1 sow and 1 boar of breed “White of Scutari-Siska type”
3 sows and 2 boars “Spotted of Shkodra”

In 5 other farms, in Back Rrjoll village

8 sows and 3 boars (6 sows and 2 boars of breed “Spotted of Shkodra” and 2 sows and 1 boar of breed “White of Scutari-Siska type”)

and in Noshi Farm that was granted by SAVE Foundation:

2 sows and 1 boar of breed “Pig with wattle”

1.2 Situation after 2 years

Farm of Gjon Zhuri

5 sows of breed “Pig with wattle”,
12 sows of breed “Spotted of Shkodra”,
3 sows of breed “White of Scutari-Siska type”.
5 pregnant young sows
3 boars and 5 pigs (males) of 6-8 months old

In 5 other farms, I

In total, 9 sows and 3 boars as well as 6 gilts and 4 pigs (males) of 6-8 months old are managed.

In total, 29 sows, 6 boars, 11 gilts and 7 pigs (males) of 6-8 months old are included to *in-situ/on farm* conservation program

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The main activities of the project:

1. Support of farmers

1.1 Purchase of the animal for the future reproducers

35 piglets (f), 10 piglets (m), 3 young board and 2 young sows



**Animals purchase with
the financial support of
project**



1.2 Subsidies for keeping, fodder and vet.service-animals

The group of farmers are support with a quantity of concentrated feeds according the number of animals that farming in their farm. Support for veterinarian service have be done during all the project period.



1.3 Building the new stable in the Farm-Rescues station and reconstruction the stables

New stable was constructed on the farm of Mr Gjon Zhuri.



This stable is going to be used as the Rescue Station :
Successful use during the inundation period, January – February 2010.

Renovations of the existing stables have been carried out to other farms



The renovation stables

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1.4 Training of farmers

During the training process different issues are develop. The field open days was carried out.



1.5 Support the farmers to building – up a marketing concept of the products

☺ During the period October, 2008 – November, 2009, Gjon Zhuri, owner of breeding nucleus farm, have been sold 110 pigs, at age 4- 5 month.

☺ The price of selling has been 80-90 % higher than usual one.

**The consumers prefer pig of local breed, because:
There is a low percentage of subcutaneous fat.
The meat is very tasteful.**

Actually, the demands of consumers to this product are to be increased.

Therefore

Interest of farmers for farming local pig breeds has been increased.



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1.6 Awareness

A regional seminar was carried out in frame of European Biodiversity Day–EAD, 29 September, 2008.

In this seminar was present:

Program of *In-situ/on farm* conservation of rare breeds, first results of project of Rescue of endangered local pig breeds and building up farmers network in the Velipoja Nature Reserve, Albania



Regional Seminar, 29 September 2008, Shkoder

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National Symposium – EAD- 29 September 2009.

In this Symposium was present:

1. ELBARN program – Rescue Station/ Ark Farm – a successful project in Back Rrjoll, Velipojë.



National Symposium, 29 September 2009, Tirana

2. Ark Farm – an alternative way for conservation and promotion of the local genetic farm animal resources

Sustainability of the project

Current situation – 1 year after the project was finished

Population data in Nucleus farm:

28 head sows , 4 boards, 7 gilts, 16 piglets (f), 7 piglets (m)

Size population in Back Rrjoll village

145 sows in 62 family farms

All family farms use for breeding the boards of Nucleus farm.

The price for the service is 5 Euro/service.

A very new important development:

Farmers from other region have expres their interest for farming the pig of local breeds

Distribution of the local pig breeds in other regions of Albania:

Lezha Mirdita and Dibra

43 piglets (f) and 16 piglets (m) that will be use as breeding animals



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An other important effect of the project

Establishment the Ark Farm for *in-situ* / on farm conservation the local farm animal breeds.

The farmer Gjon Zhuri, by his investments, has begun to set up a Ark Farm, where, local cattle and goat breeds are going to be breeding in parallel to local pig breeds.

CATTLE – Busha type – local name "Red of Scutary"

13 cows, 3 heifers,1 bull and 5 young stock.

The size population of local cattle breeds In Back Rrjoll village estimate to 100 cows and 6 bull for natural matting



GOAT - Local goat breed – "Velipoja"

80 goats 3 Bucks 33 Yong stock

Birth weight	2,1 - 3,1 kg (m)	2,0 - 3,0 kg (f)
Age at weaning	80-90 days	
Weaning weight	15-16 kg	
Body weight – adult animal	65 - 70 kg (m)	44 - 45 kg (f)
Milk production	Lak. I	130 -180 kg
	Lakt III	250-300 kg .
Average length of lactation	6.5 months	





Thank You!



On behalf of Community of farmers of Back Rrjoll
village I want to

THANK VERY MUCH !

SAVE Foundation & Heidehof-Foundation

for their important support.

