

SAVE eNews 1/2004

Quarterly e-mail service of the European SAVE Foundation
(Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe)



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SAVE Focus 2003 published

A new edition of the SAVE Focus, published every second year, reports on the development of cross-borderly endangered livestock breeds, their problems, the need for action, co-ordination efforts and their success. SAVE lists the most recent stock numbers for Huzul horses, Mangalitsa porcs, Girgentana goats, Pusteria and Red Cattle, and five sheep breeds, subdivided into the individual breeding countries. The breeds are described and addresses of breeding responsables are given. Each breed is portrayed with a picture.



For the first time, a sheep breed could be released from monitoring. The "Brown Mountain", present in four countries of the Alpine region under five different names, has overcome the status of being endangered. In Germany (Braunes Bergschaf) and Switzerland (red Engadine or Besch da Pader), population numbers have since long exceeded the thousand mark note, in Austria (Paterschaf, Braunes Bergschaf) and Italy (Val d'Ultimo, Ultner-schaf), stocks will soon

reach this level. According to FAO criteria, the entire stock is still considered to be vulnerable and needs further governmental support. The danger of extinction has, however, become very small. Breeders co-operate across national borders and the future seems safe.

The SAVE-Focus may be downloaded from the website of SAVE Foundation under:
http://www.save-foundation/Publications/SaveFocus_2003.pdf

News from the SAVE Board of Directors

In the last eNews, we already reported on the annual meeting of SAVE Foundation and the SAVE network in the border region Liechtenstein/Austria/Germany/Switzerland. During his meetings in Dornbirn and Überlingen, the Board of Directors concluded to assign permanent representatives to the cities Brussels, Rome and Geneva, which are important for SAVE-contacts. For Brussels, this is Staf van den Bergh, for Rome Andreas Georgoudis (ad interim) and for Geneva Hans-Peter Grunenfelder. These persons do not replace direct contacts of project members, but they are available for short-term information or to represent SAVE when necessary.



Additionally, the Board of Directors had to constitute itself for a new three-year term of office. The following new members were appointed to the Board:

- Bluemlein Gabriele, Bonn (D); working with the Information Centre for Biological Diversity at the German Centre for Documentation and Information in Agriculture ZADI-IBV (at the moment in maternity leave).
- Fortina Riccardo Dr., Torino (I); Chairman of the Italian association R.A.R.E. He is giving lectures at the Faculty of Agriculture at the Turin University.
- Hajas Pal Dr., Ecseg/Hungary; working in agrotourism and as agricultural adviser, with FAO he is responsible for the Global Program on Animal Genetic Resources.
- Heisteringer Andrea, Schiltern (A); giving lectures at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna, and working self-employed at the technical college for fruit, wine and horticulture Laimburg/South Tyrol. Committee member of the Austrian association Arche Noah.

The following persons were appointed new to the SAVE Project Commission:

- Bremond Joerg, Leun-Biskirchen (D); working with ZADI-IBV, Bonn; delegate in several cattle breeding societies, engaged with the conservation of red mountain cattle ("rotes Höhenvieh")
- Kaiser Stephan, Rosengarten (D); working for the open-air museum Kiekeberg, Hamburg; spokesman for KERN (German Network for the Conservation and Recultivation of Crop Diversity).
- Koerbitz Eva, Feldkirch (A); working at Rheinhof/Salez (CH) in charge of the project "Conservation of the genetic diversity of crop varieties in Liechtenstein".
- Ligda Christina Dr., Nea Moudania (Greece); working for NAGREF, the Greek National Agricultural Research Foundation.

SAVE Foundation cordially welcomes the new members and thanks the resigned Board members Massimo Angelini (I), Eliseu Bettencourt (P), Isabella dalla Ragione (I), Karl Hammer (D) und Berthold Traxler (A), and the resigned members of the Project Commission Thomas Gass (CH) und Lorenzo Maggioni (I). The complete list of the members of SAVE-committees may be taken from the web:

<http://www.save-foundation.net/english/directors.htm>

SAVE Foundation on the upswing

With the recovery of the economy, SAVE Foundation and the SAVE network are recovering, too. In the eNews 3/03, we still had to report budget cutting, but now we are able to tackle new projects, which we will report on continuously. The following new part-time employees are now working for SAVE at the Head Office in Konstanz/Germany: (see URL: <http://www.save-foundation.net/english/contact.htm>).

- Halka Rsaza: She studied Pedagogy in Brno (Czech Republic) and is familiar with the Slav languages. She is responsible for contacts and the project co-ordination in the Central and Eastern European countries.
- Eduard Cojocariu: He studied Agricultural Sciences at the University of Cluj-Napoca (Romania) with emphasis on animal breeding. He collected professional experience as farm manager of a large cattle-breeding enterprise. With SAVE Foundation he is mainly responsible for the project to safeguard endangered animal breeds in the Carpathian mountain range.

Eveline Dudda is a new collaborator at the Monitoring Institute in St.Gallen. As agricultural engineer, journalist and web publisher, she covers a broad field of tasks. In the first line, she will make the comprehensive databases of the institute "online" available. The SAVE network welcomes all newcomers and wishes a lot of success for the work.

Conclusion of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the highest decision-making body of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Meetings are held every two years.



20 February 2004: At the conclusion of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-7) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the 187 member states, with the European Community, agreed on a more quantitative approach to reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by the end of the decade. Another important accomplishment of the meeting, which was attended by over 2,000 participants, including 80 ministers, is the launch of new talks on the crafting of an international regime on access to and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.





EU Commission launches 1467 replacement program

Good things come to those who wait: The European Commission has accepted the draft of a Council Regulation for a second Common Program for "Conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of agricultural genetic resources". This program is to replace Council Regulation 1467/94, which already expired in December 1999. For a first period from 2004 to 2006, 10 million Euros are earmarked within the EU budget. At present, the draft from 22nd of Dec. 2003 has been submitted to the Council for passing. Presumably, the new Council Regulation will become final in spring 2004. Upon completion of the working program, the first call for project submission may be expected in autumn 2004.

The means of the new EU-program, however, are limited. But the possibilities for NGOs and for *in-situ* /on-farm conservation projects have improved considerably compared to the old regulation 1467/94. We will keep you up-to-date on the future development.

EU Commission battles against animal diseases

The European Commission is going to provide financing of 147 million Euro to battle against BSE and other animal diseases. 92.64 million are provided for the observation and combat against scrapie and BSE, in acceding countries too. A further 54.29 million go to the combat against brucellosis, rabies and for animal disease precaution. All these diseases – with their enormous influence on both human and animal health – result in considerable losses in animal production and pose a barrier for both in-house EU trade and world trade.

With regard to BSE, the commission has created an Internet portal, which is continually updated. In a chronological overview, all EU-decisions and EU-regulations concerning BSE are available, furthermore press releases, statements and statistics. The portal is found under the URL: http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/bse/legislation_en.html



Important dates (extract)

31 March - 2 April: 3rd Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on AnGR, FAO, Rome/Italy; Contact: ricardo.cardellino@fao.org

28-30 April: First International Congress on Organic Animal Production and Food Safety, at Kusadasi near Izmir/Turkey. Contact: info@int-organicprod.org, Web: <http://www.int-organicprod.org/index-eng.html>

30 April - 9 May: Official Inauguration of the Pollenzo Campus University of Gastronomic Sciences. Tours, conferences, tastings, market, meetings with artists and musicians, at Pollenzo, Bra (Cuneo), Italy; Web: <http://www.slowfood.com>

12-14 May: 9th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ERSCP), Bilbao, Spain; Web: <http://www.erscp2004.net>

5-7 July: First International Organic Seed Conference: "Challenges and opportunities for promoting organic agriculture in the seed industry", FAO, Rome/Italy; Contact: seedconference@ifoam.org, Web: <http://www.organicseedconf.org>

2-4 September: Annual Meeting of SAVE Foundation and the SAVE Network at Bled, Slovenia, in collaboration with DAGENE; Contact: office@save-foundation.net



4 September: DAGENE Symposium "Specificity and influence of the autochthonous animal breeds on the quality of the local meat and milk products", Exhibition and tasting of Slovenian Local Products, Bled, Slovenia; Contact: drago.kompan@bfro.uni-lj.si

5-9 September: 55th Annual Meeting of EAAP at Bled, Slovenia. With workshops to the topics: "Animal Genetic Resources" and "Sustainable Recultivation and Land Use on Karst and Mountainous Regions by Use of Animals"; Web: <http://www.eaap.org>

22-25 September: Conference: "The Alps of the next generation - from forecast to action", Kranjska Gora, Slovenia; Web: <http://www.forumalpinum.org>

27-30 September: Congress of the Rare Breeds International (RBI) in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Contact: KeithR@nda.agric.za, Web: <http://www.rbi.it>

20-23 October: "Terra Madre - world meeting of food communities" (Meeting among peasants, producers and agribusiness operators. A new, different way of looking at food production).; Torino, Italy. Contact: s.abbona@slowfood.it, Web: <http://www.slowfood.com>

21-25 October: "Salone del Gusto", Slow Food International food and wine show; Torino, Italy; Contact: s.abbona@slowfood.it, Web: <http://www.slowfood.com>