

SAVE eNews 2/2006

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

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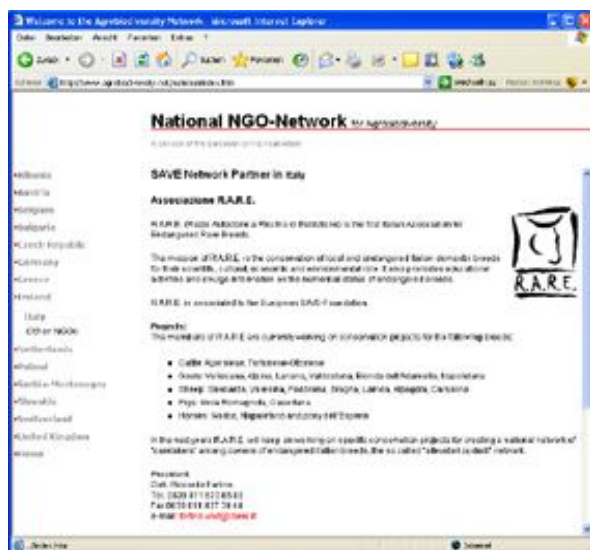
Another website, is that really necessary? To be honest, we have asked ourselves the same question. And we have reached the conclusion: yes! Because we had to experience continuously that it is very difficult for many interested people to find out who is where and how active for the conservation of agrobiodiversity from uncountable link lists with numerous search commands and thousands of results from the search engines. At least as often we had to observe that organisation A knows organisation B, but has not yet received any information about organisation C, being active in the same filed of work. With www.agrobiodiversity.net this should come to an end.

Agrobiodiversity.net is a platform. The website will communicate contacts to individual national organisations and link different activities in Europe. National, regional and European networks are listed that are active for the conservation of agricultural genetic resources – agrobiodiversity.

Partners of the SAVE-Network can use www.agrobiodiversity.net for their presentation, i.e. there is the possibility to include a short text, logo, address and link to their own homepage. Space is also provided for non-partners: under “Other NGOs”, listed under the heading of the individual countries (organisations that wish to be listed please use info@monitoring.eu.com to contact us).

The menu prompt is simple, pages are clearly laid out, country maps allow geographical choice. www.agrobiodiversity.net informs about cross-border regional projects such as Balkan Network or the planned activities in the Carpathians region. Agrobiodiversity.net is only starting, the number of pages is still small, but upgrading in all directions is possible. Agrobiodiversity knows no bounds – the same applies to our website!

Presentation of partners:



Menu prompt via geographical maps:



There is also information about regional cross-border activities, in addition links to the European networks of the public sector.

=> For everybody active in the field of agrobiodiversity, it is advisable to chose <http://www.agrobiodiversity.net> as starting page for her or his browser. Surfing and finding becomes very easy!

Workshop “Network of Rare Livestock Breeds in Greece”

The MAVA Project „Animal genetic resources in Greece” has entered a new phase: A second workshop took place from 18th to 20th May 2006 in Agrinion in Western Greece. During the first workshop in summer 2005 in Athens, the exchange of information and experiences was most important to initiate networking (cf. SAVE eNews 3/2005). In Agrinion, the most important aim was to link the private sector – NGOs and individual persons.

Particularly in Greek areas of high ecological value, freely grazing livestock such as old cattle or horse breeds can still be found. Therefore, particular attention was turned to representatives from nature protection during the preparation of the workshop. The 25 participants of the workshop – from organisations active for the conservation of individual breeds and engaged individuals, joined up:



After the situation and development since summer 2005 was presented and discussed, a working group started to evaluate the possibilities to found a network. A second working group discussed conservation strategies, such as the necessity of herd-books, several monitoring aspects, necessary projects, rescue operations and activities. The results of the workshops are published under <http://www.agrobiodiversity.net/greece>.

After intensive discussions of both working groups, a decision was made that is of historical importance for the conservation of endangered livestock breeds in Greece: On May 19th 2006, the foundation stone was laid for the establishment of **AMALTHIA**, “Greek Society for the Conservation of Indigenous Breeds of Domestic Animals“. Statutes were discussed and the 7 founder members required by Greece legislation to hand in the statutes at court met quickly. In order to be able to found an organisation that has legal capacity, it is required that 21 members register. This hurdle was taken quickly. Even a logo has already been defined: the horns of the Ulokeratiki goat (photo); the breed has recently been rescued from extinction.

Amalthia, a synonym for cornucopia, is a goat from Mythology. Zeus, the Greek god whom she had nurtured, gave her horn magical properties: it was always filled with everything her owner wished. We wish Amalthia a permanently filled horn with energy, persistence and engagement for the conservation of endangered livestock breeds in Greece.



SAVE Annual Meeting 2006 in Bad-Sooden/Allendorf

Within the frame of the "Hessentag", a fair by the German Federal county of Hesse, the "Gesellschaft zur Erhaltung alter und gefährdeter Haustierrassen e. V." (GEH) (engl: German Society for the conservation of old and endangered livestock breeds) celebrated its 25th anniversary. For that reason, SAVE Foundation and the SAVE Network hold their annual meeting at Whitsun from 2nd to 4th June 2006 in Bad Sooden-Allendorf, Germany. Within the frame of the accompanying programme, many old livestock breeds taken care of by the GEH could be seen at the "Hessentag".

One-World-Garden

The introduction to the SAVE Annual Meeting 2006 was very exotic: The project "Eine-Welt-Garten" (One-World-Garden) of the Tropical Greenhouse of the University of Kassel shows more than 380 cultivated plants from all over the world. The project aims to demonstrate clearly how strongly the Western World is linked to the Tropics and that several cultivated plants changed the world dramatically.



GEH Ark Farms

GEH, SAVE partner organisation of the early beginnings, presented its "Archehof" (Ark Farm) concept: In 1995, the first farm received the GEH Archehof label. Since then, criteria for Ark Farms were continuously revised and adjusted. Altogether, more than 70 farms have been approved as Archehof by the GEH. The farm have to meet a demanding catalogue of criteria and they are regularly visited and controlled by Archehof coordinator that is regularly controlled. Furthermore, Archehof farmers are invited to a training workshop annually. Training of co-ordinators and other actors is done regularly. The concept is well established in Germany. The interest of farmers to be approved as "Archehof" is great. The label guarantees an acknowledgement of breeding work, increase of name recognition, and better marketing of breeding animals and products from old livestock breed.

GEH Animal Show

When visiting the above mentioned animal show of the GEH, the broad spectrum of GEH activities was colourfully demonstrated. 16 sheep breeds, 2 goat breeds, 4 pig breeds, 6 cattle breeds, 2 horse breeds, 2 rabbit breeds and 2 chicken breeds, one bee breed and 4 dog breeds in different colour types were exhibited and could be admired. In the arena, a miscellaneous programme included the behaviour and tasks of shepherd dogs as well as draught activities with cattle. The visiting public could observe the broad spectrum of utilisation of old breeds

Migratory Sheep Farming in the Nature Park "Hoher Meissner"

The SAVE Annual meeting was concluded by an excursion to the Nature Park "Hoher Meissner" in Northern Hesse. In the park, a migrating shepherd who also keeps and breeds Leinesheep, an old regional sheep breed, is active. The relation between conservation of diversity in nature protection and grazing with old livestock breeds can well be observed in the Nature Park "Hoher Meissner".



Gobe Flower and Arnica are the most recent proof that traditional migratory sheep farming contributes actively to conserve and extend botanical species diversity. Particularly the strongly endangered juniper heath lands are revived through migratory sheep farming.

Elections and Decisions

This year, the renewal of committees for the next three-years term of office was on the agenda of the annual meeting of the SAVE Foundation and the European SAVE Network. In the Board of Directors, three resignations were replaced by Jean-Emmanuel Eglin (France), Antje Feldmann (Germany) und Sergej Ivanov (Serbia). In the Project Commission, four resignations were replaced by Tibor Baranec (Slovakia), Boris Krska (Czech Republic), Geesje Kuit (The Netherlands), Wieslaw Podyma (Poland), Ullrich Schulze (Germany) und Borut Stumberger (Slovenia). We cordially welcome the "new-comers" and thank all the former members very much for their work.

Product marketing and the production of quality products is becoming more and more important for the economic conservation of endangered livestock and cultivated plants. It was therefore concluded to organise an international workshop on Labelling and Product marketing (presumably beginning of 2007).

The next SAVE Annual Meeting will take place from 28th to 30th September 2007 in Guastalla (Italy), within the frame of a RARE congress during the Italian fair for organic products.

Search Engine on Science in Europe

An interesting search engine now offers access to more than 150000 links on science, technology and innovation in Europe. The Science-in-Europe-Net searches links across Europe or within individual countries (only EU-Countries)

The Science-in Europe net is online under: <http://www.Scienceineurope.net>

Newsflash

Association of Skyros breeders in Greece

Startled by changes in the largest breeding station of Skyros Ponies in the farm of the Aristotelis University in Thessaloniki that resulted in the sale of 50 % of the animals, breeders have met on the island of Skyros and founded a new association. Only just more than 200 animals are left of the smallest Greek horse breed. Here the address of the breeding association:

Union of Skyros Horses, Nikos Kritikos (chairman), Town Hall Skyros, GR-340 07 Skyros
Fon: 0030-222/209 35 30, Fax: 0030-222/209 17 16; eMail: tyskyrou@otenet.gr

Almathia – the new network in Greece

As already mentioned above, the foundation of the "Greek Society for the Conservation of Indigenous Breeds of Domestic Animals" took place during the SAVE Workshop in Agrinion at the 19th May 2006. Here its temporary address:

Amalthia

Greek Society for the protection and conservation of indigenous breeds of domestic animals
c/o Kostas Papaioannou, Plastira 2G, GR-570 01 Thessaloniki
Fon: 0030-2310/40 95 30, Fax: 0030-2310/40 95 00; eMail: amalthia@hotmail.com

VEGH : new Board of Directors and new address

The Austrian SAVE partner organisation VEGH has exchanged its entire board of directors and its address. The new address is:

Andreas Maurhart, managing director, Stiftung 11, A-4294 St. Leonhard / Freistadt
Fon: 0043-664/519 22 86; eMail: andreas.maurhardt@vegh.at; Link: <http://www.vegh.at>

Important dates (extract)

4 Aug.: Meeting "Plants, people & evolution", London, UK; Contact: m.nesbitt@kew.org,
Web: <http://www.rbk.kew.org/scihort/ecbot/ecbot-pickersgill.html>

20 August: 10th "Rare Breeds Expo" in the "Living Heritage Park", Provincial Domain Puyenbroeck in Wachtebeke (near Gent), Belgium. All Belgian rare breeds of farm animals will be present together with a number of rare breeds of neighbouring countries
Contact: staf.vandenbergh@sle.be, Web: <http://www.sle.be>

22-26 August: 1st European Congress of Conservation Biology "biological and cultural diversity in Europe"; at Eger, Hungary. Web: <http://www.eccb2006.org/index.php>, Contact: zsofi@katki.hu

14 September: Days of the Natural Patrimony: Agriculture: which solutions for mountain agriculture? Is there a future for "local" mountain agriculture? How to maintain an agricultural activity securing landscape and local life? How can town be an outlet for mountain products? Contact: lise.ravenaux@frapna.org

15 September: 2nd Cattle Network Workshop "Development Trends in Small Cattle Farms" (joint to EAAP-Meeting), Antalya, Turkey. Contact: secretariat@cattlenetwork.net, Web: <http://www.cattlenetwork.net/antalya.htm>

23 September: RARE-Meeting "Dairy products and autochthonous breeds", Guastalla, Italy. Contact: info@associazionerare.it, Web: <http://www.associazionerare.it>

29 September - 1 October: International Environmental Conference: Sustainable Management and Development of Mountainous and Island Areas; Island of Naxos, Greece. Web: <http://www.fmenr.duth.gr/Naxos-Conference/index.htm>, Contact: emanolas@fmenr.duth.gr,

30 September: **European Agrobiodiversity Day (EAD)**: PR events to the importance of "Traditional Agro-Ecosystems". Various activities of the national organisations of the SAVE Network in their own countries. Contact: office@save-foundation.net



30 Sept. - 1 October: 4th Regional Fair "Balkan Agrobiodiversity and Rural Heritage", Dimitrovgrad, Serbia-Montenegro; Exhibition of indigenous Balkan breeds. Contact: balkanika@ptt.yu

30 Sept. - 1 Oct.: National Rare Breeds Exposition with all rare Swiss breeds. Brunegg/Mägenwil, Switzerland; Contact: info@psrara.org, Web: <http://www.prospecierara.ch>

2 - 4 Oct.: 6th National Colloquium "Des ressources partagées", La Rochelle, France. Contact: BRG@inapg.fr, Web: <http://www.brg.prd.fr>

4-11 October: 5th Iberian Congress on animal genetic resources (SERGA and SPREGA) and Meeting of the International Goat Association "Local goat genotypes and their utilization in management systems as means of conservation" La Palma, Islas Canarias, Spain. Contact: icapote@icia.es; Web: <http://www.webs.ulpgc.es/serga06/>

16-17 October: International Symposium on Pomegranate and Minor Mediterranean Fruits, Adana, Turkey. Contact: ahsen@cu.edu.tr

18-20 October: International Conference of Perspectives in European Fruit Growing, Lednice, Czech Republic. Contact: uov@zf.mendelu.cz; web: <http://www.zf.mendelu.cz>

25-26 October: Exhibition of alpine rare breeds of goats and sheep in Vinadio (Province of Cuneo), Italy. Contact: michele.corti@unimi.it, Web: <http://www.associazionerare.it>

27 Oct. - 5 Nov.: Internat. Fruit Exhibition EUROPOMME 2006 in Naumburg, Hessen/Germany. Contact: kurverwaltung@naumburg.kgrz-kassel.de, Web: <http://www.hessische-pomologentage.de>