

SAVE eNews 3/2012

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



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Arca-Deli® Award Awarded Prestige and Marketing Value

Most producers selling direct to customers, from the farm gates or on local markets, realise how important it is to let consumers know that their product is special – however, it is often hard to communicate this quickly enough. The Arca-Deli® Award was launched by SAVE Foundation to help producers show consumers how special their product is. The award tells customers that producers value the heritage and culture of the local community. It tells them that there is a local person standing behind the quality of the product. This connection between the producer and the community of consumers tells customers that they are an important part of the conservation of their living heritage. The logo can be used on labelling of products and services as a means of adding value.



This was shown at the recent Arca-Deli® Awards 2012 very impressively: In Greece, the Arca-Deli® - award for innovative products made from buffalo milk found a lot of publicity: The Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food pointed out the award in a special press release, which found a lot of attention in the country. Buffalo milk products have now the chance for opening new markets and income and the preservation of buffalo will thus be encouraged.





The Arca-Deli® Awards are presented annually to products and services of locally adapted livestock breeds and cultivated plants. The award is presented to products and services seen as being recommendable as a model or example of good practice. The Arca-Deli® Award label can then be used on labelling of products and services as a means of adding value. The award can be valuable especially on local markets and encourages other farmers and producers to improve the quality of their own products and services. This means that the niche products associated with locally adapted breeds and varieties become, on a small scale, more competitive and more economically viable.

The Arca-Deli® Awards are presented at the annual meeting of the SAVE Foundation and the SAVE Network. All members of Variety-Savers (www.variety-savers.net) and Arca-Net (www.arca-net.info) are eligible to enter the Arca-Deli® Awards. A small committee judges the entries and the SAVE Board of Directors approves the awards. The awards are then announced to the participants of the annual meeting. The winners are presented with a certificate and are allowed to use the Arca-Deli® logo on the winning products.

The 2012 winners:

- **The Ark Region Amt Neuhaus in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in the Elbe river basin:**

18 farms showing a range of endangered animals, offering quality products and various events, craft activities, places to stay and to eat. From the Arca-Deli judges: "probably the first example of a real Arca-Net; brilliant idea"

See: <http://tinyurl.com/8h7vax4>



- **Tagliatelle made with eggs from the Deutsche Sperberhuhn:**

"Good packaging, good taste, excellent solution for conserving eggs". The Sperberhuhn is the German "endangered breed of the year 2012" so it is appropriate that a product made from its eggs is also an Arca-Deli winner in 2012. For more about the breed:

<http://www.g-e-h.de/geh/index.php/pressemitteilungen>



- **Soup powder and cake made with milk from Greek Buffalo:**

From a family farm in the surroundings of Lake Kerkini. Generations of the Giantsidis family have kept Buffalo in this region. The area of Lake Kerkini is a national park - the Buffalo are an important part of



the biotope balance and an endangered breed. The Buffalo and the recipes that make up the award winning products are also an important part of the cultural heritage of the area. Soup: "Old recipe recovered with modern and safe drying methods, good packaging, good taste." Cake: "Excellent, excellent cake, very good taste!" A short video about the soup powder production is available on youtube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsmNc4tCI_8&feature=youtu.be

- **Extraordinary Pigs!** 100'000€ raised through crowdfunding for rearing rare breed pigs in the Netherlands, producing good tasting pork and for increasing animal welfare. An innovative project which combines conservation of the old with modern methods. "Like" their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/BuitengewoneVarkens?fref=pb>) to keep up with their news or visit their website: <http://www.buitengewonevarkens.nl/>



- **The Alpine Steinschaf-Wool office set:** Laptop cover, notepad case and pencil case made from felt. "selling wool is often a problem in Europe, sometimes it is just thrown away; this is a very good solution for making special products from wool". Each item is labelled with a picture of an Alpine Steinschaf. A high-quality product that will certainly provide a conversation opener about rare breeds! <http://www.alpines-steinschaf.de/wolle/4-4-6.php>



Annual Meeting of SAVE Foundation and the SAVE Network 13th-15th September 2012 at Urnaesch, Switzerland

In 2012 the annual meeting of the SAVE Foundation and the SAVE Network was organised by the SAVE Project Office in St.Gallen. As part of the programme, the 6th European Seminar on Agrobiodiversity took place with the theme of “the economic value of local breeds and varieties” Experts from 16 European countries discussed possibilities and ways of adding value to traditional livestock breeds and cultivated plants.



During the seminar, various themes were presented and discussed such as the marketing of organic marsh lamb in Denmark, product-marketing and rural development in Poland, and the re-valuation of old varieties through their special cultural value through the example of a fruit conservation project in Switzerland. New features of old varieties were introduced through the latest research into nutritional content and the pitfalls and chances in marketing local breeds and varieties were presented with examples from Switzerland. The cooperation between the three pillars of conservation work – State, Science, Civil Society – in Switzerland was particularly highlighted and was of interest to the participants. In a presentation from the Federal Office of Agriculture about the conservation strategies in Switzerland, it was clear how closely the State and Civil Society work together. Many aspects of this cooperation can be used as a model for other countries. The role of agriculture and its cultural heritage were not only presented by representatives of the Canton and the Municipality, it could also be directly experienced at Urnäsch's traditional “Alpabzug” – when animals are moved down from the summer pastures. All the presentations from the seminar can be found on the SAVE website: <http://www.save-foundation.net/Conferences/Urnaesch.htm>



The concept of an Ark Farm was introduced with the practical example of the Ark Farm Mühlstatt. Participants were shown how important diversification is for a small farm with traditional breeds and varieties: direct marketing, guided tours and courses for adults and school classes are a part of the concept of this Ark Farm. Alongside this it was possible to see how the keeping of small, light-weight breeds such as the Rhaetian Grey cattle, has a positive effect on mountain pastures – the stark contrast in effects of keeping modern breeds by conventional methods could be seen on the neighbouring slope.

At the orchard in Höri, unique and curious examples of old fruit varieties could be seen directly on the trees: tiny pears that can be eaten seven at once ("Sept-en-gueule"), the „Sternapi“, the oldest apple variety in Switzerland, already known in Roman times. The apple variety „Faibella“ does not have any petals on its blossom and the subsequent fruit does not have a core.

The Appenzeller Ziegenprodukte AG, a producer of goat's cheese from a local breed, impressed with its modern concept of how to successfully market the milk of the Appenzeller goat. This allowed the traditional breed to gain economic value.

Throughout the whole meeting, participants were able to try a diversity of local and typical products – from the Appenzeller Siedwurst (a traditional sausage), local products from the Slow Food Ark of Taste, products from the Appenzeller goat and, also, Ribelmals, a local corn variety. Participants were lucky enough to try a new Ribelmals product - Tortilla chips – which only were available on the market after the SAVE Meeting.



Alongside the presentations, discussions and excursions the Arca Deli Award 2012 were presented (see above) and the obligatory meetings of the SAVE bodies took place. In 2013 the SAVE Network will be 20 years old. It was decided that a fundraising campaign called "20 for 20" will be launched along with a series of eNews about the history, the partners and projects of the SAVE Network. We are sure that you will find it interesting!

The event took place with the generous support of the Federal Office for Agriculture, the Department of Agriculture Appenzell Ausserrhoden, the Municipality of Urnäsch, the St.Gallen-Bodensee Tourism, ProSpecieRara, Fructus, Slow Food and Goba Mineralquelle Gontenbad.

Rio+20 – A Milestone for Sustainable Agriculture

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), also known as Rio 2012, Rio+20, or “Earth Summit 2012” was the third international conference on sustainable development aimed at reconciling the economic and environmental goals of the global community. It took place in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The primary result of the conference was the non-binding document, “The Future We Want,” a 49 page work paper. In it, the heads of state of the 192 governments in attendance renewed their political commitment to sustainable development and declared their commitment to the promotion of a sustainable future. They declared agriculture and food chains as a key element to fight against hunger and to keep our planet for future generations.



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

The initial draft did not even include a chapter on sustainable agriculture. Thanks to the engagement of several NGOs a clear commitment to the need to support sustainable agriculture survived the strong attacks of various interest groups. The “Zero Hunger Challenge”, the vision of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stresses the key role of sustainable agriculture in fighting hunger. Ban Ki-moon urged that all food systems had to become sustainable and demanded greater opportunities for smallholder farmers – especially women – who produce most of the world’s food, to empower them to double their productivity and income. Smallholder farming has been proven to generate the best benefits for the environment and food security. The chapter “Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture” of the Declaration mentions in Article 111 clearly also the plant and animal genetic resources:

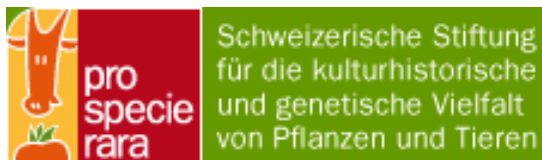
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“We reaffirm the necessity to promote, enhance and support more sustainable agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, that improves food security, eradicates hunger and is economically viable, while conserving land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters. We also recognize the need to maintain natural ecological processes that support food production systems.”

NGOs should keep on working on conservation of agrobiodiversity, working for trustable, clear food chains and added value to plant and animal genetic resources.

More information: <http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/>

ProSpecieRara – 30th Anniversary



The Swiss ProSpecieRara foundation was initiated by Hans-Peter Grunenfelder in 1982 in order to prevent the extinction of endangered livestock breeds and cultivated plants. Mirror sheep, Mangalitsa pigs, Red Orach, Gelbmöstler pears and many others enliven, since then, fields, meadows and farms. In signing the Convention of Biodiversity in Rio 1992, Switzerland committed to the conservation of animal and plant resources. ProSpecieRara works today closely together with the breed organisations that were created as well as active breeders and growers. Breeding animals, fruit trees and vegetables are cared for by over 2600 people and institutions. At the beginning, in St.Gallen, the co-workers were all volunteers. These days, the head quarters in Basel employs 14 people. There are also centres in the south and west of Switzerland, each with two co-workers. 26 livestock breeds and 1100 varieties of plants are in conservation programmes. In roughly 120 ProSpecieRara orchards circa 1800 fruit varieties are conserved. But the work for ProSpecieRara is not yet over – adding value and marketing of products is an important task, as well as the conservation of berries and decorative plants.



We congratulate our dedicated partners who have been working with us since the beginning and we look forward to a fruitful future collaboration.

In Memoriam



On 15th August 2012 Dr. Martin Schneider-Jacoby died after a brief, severe illness at the age of 56. He was project manager for EuroNatur for 25 years and was particularly engaged in the Balkan region. Martin Schneider-Jacoby was one of the first experts on nature protection who recognised the importance of autochthonous breeds. Thus he was a leading figure in the cooperation between SAVE and EuroNatur. During the rescue of the Turopolje pigs in Croatia, one of the first SAVE projects, he was an enthusiastic partner, just as he was during the ELBARN project in his role of coordinator of the South East European activities. Martin Schneider Jacoby is remembered as a valued project partner and friend.

Kokopelli – Hurdles preventing sales of seeds remain in place



As reported in the SAVE eNews 1/2012, in a process of the French organisation Kokopelli versus Graines Baumax SAS at the European Court of Justice (ECJ), the rules of the seed directive have been questioned (Kokopelli was accused of selling unapproved varieties). Contrary to usual practice, in the judgment of the ECJ of 12 July 2012 the claims of Advocate General Kokott were unfortunately not followed. It was confirmed, on the contrary, that only approved varieties may be sold. In accordance with the regulation in place since 2009, farmers who want to sell rare seed varieties, must apply for admission and coordinate with others so that the total amount authorized is not exceeded in the market. The cost of admission and the resulting administrative burden for small-scale seed conservers hardly bearable. A legal risk still exists: in summer 2012, the owner of the farm Neslanko in Latvia was prosecuted for selling seeds at a garden-club event. The objectives of the "varieties conservation directive" aim for the conservation of biological diversity, their specific rules and the consequences for the holder appear to speak a different language. Thus, more disputes regarding the current reform of the EU seed law are to be expected. For more information: Kokopelli: <http://kokopelli-semences.fr>; Dr. Susanne Gura: www.kulturpflanzen-nutztiervielfalt.de; Judgement of the ECJ: <http://curia.europa.eu/juris/documents.jsf?num=C-59/11>; Press Release ECJ: <http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2012-07/cp120097de.pdf>;

Campaign for seed sovereignty



On World Food Day, the 16th October, NGOs and their sympathizers protested in many European countries against the actions of the seed industry and against the seed policy of the EU. The G8 countries have in the context of the "New Alliance for Food Security" agreed "to promote licensed seed in Africa" and "to prevent open access, traditional seeds." The Europe-wide "Campaign for seed sovereignty", part of the worldwide campaign for "Seed Freedom" by Vandana Shiva, winner of the Alternative Nobel Prize, protested against such policies and strategies in Europe. Particularly against further restrictions in the EU seed legislation. Protests were held in many cities and regions of Europe:

- In **Brussels, Belgium**, was a demonstration against the annual meeting of the "European Seed Association," the lobby group of the seed industry. This organization is committed openly, to want to influence the new EU Seed Directive.

- In **Luxembourg**, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) a seed-exchange meeting took place held in protest against the judgment of the ECJ in the dispute between Graines Baumax and Kokopelli (see report above).
- In **Vienna, Austria**, a demonstration was held in front of the European patent office to protest against the registration of patents on animals and plants.
- A demonstration took place in **Mainz, Germany**.
- In **Greece**, in many regions events from the seed network PELIT have taken place, also on previous weekends.
- In **Spain**, in 16 regions actions and protests took place about seeds within the general national "Week of agricultural biodiversity."
- In **Portugal**, traditional barley seeds were given to the representatives of the EU, together with the "Seed Freedom Declaration" and the people on the street were also presented with small bags of seeds.

For more information: <http://www.seed-sovereignty.org/16-10-2012.html> .

Newsflash



SAVE Activity Report 2012

The SAVE Activity Report 2012 for the period summer 2011 – summer 2012 is available. In this report programs and projects, activities and actualities are listed and described. The actual SAVE networking activities Pan-European, regional and thematic and also basic actions and model projects of SAVE Foundation are explained. Weblink:

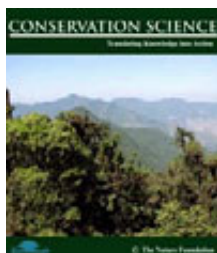
http://www.save-foundation.net/docu/reports/SAVE_activity_2012.pdf

Pop Rep - from Population pedigree to report

POPREP is a software package that, on the basis of pedigrees, calculates a number of statistics and thus serves the management of animal populations. PopRep helps represent the current status of a given population in a number of conditions. After calculating the data, comprehensive reports are created, which may serve further population planning. Weblink: <http://poprep.tzv.fal.de>

Donkey Breeds in Europe: Database online

Within the framework of the project "Uses of donkey breeds in Europe" (see SAVE eNews 2/2012) a first version of the database could be placed online. In the database one can find the information collected up to now about the uses of donkeys in Europe. The database will be continuously updated. We are happy to receive your suggestions and ideas. Web: <http://www.agrobiodiversity.net/regional> →Topic networks →Donkeys.



Conservation Science

Conservation Science is a peer-reviewed open access journal, which primarily focused on the dissemination of current knowledge on global, regional and national conservation issues and the ways to overcome them. It promotes interdisciplinary research with implications for the conservation of natural products and services.

see: <http://www.thenaturefoundation.org>

Important dates (extract)

6 -9 November: "N.I. Vavilov's Ideas in the Modern World" III International Vavilov Conference in St.Petersburg, Russia. s.filimonenko@vir.nw.ru, Web: www.vir.nw.ru/test/

9 -11 November: How to protect our Seeds, International Meeting of European Seed Saving NGOs in Vienna, Austria. iga.niznik@arche-noah.at, Web: www.arche-noah.at

14 -15 November: Quo Vadis, Farmland Biodiversity? Baltic Sea Regional Conference in Tartu, Estonia. Contact: conference@pmk.agri.ee, Web: http://pmk.agri.ee/pkt/index.php?valik=25&keel=1&template=mak_sisu.html

16 November: Round-Table-Discussion "Conservation of rare fruit varieties in Transylvania"; at Malancrav, Romania. Contact: office@save-foundation.net

21-23 Nov: 3rd Internat. Symposium on Medicinal Plants, their Cultivation and Aspects of Uses, Petra, Jordan. Maa973@yahoo.com, Web: <http://3ismp.bau.edu.jo/spo.html>

28 Nov - 29 Dec.: 4th International Forum on Food and Nutrition; in Milan, Italy. Web: www.barillacfn.com/en/forum/forum-2012/

29 Nov - 1 Dec.: Workshop "Feral Populations in Europe", Review of the current situation and develop a network for the management of feral and semi-feral animal populations; in Sevilla, Spain. waltraud.kugler@save-foundation.net, Web: www.save-foundation.net

30 November: No Patents on Seeds! Demonstration on 30 November in Munich, Germany. Contact: info@no-patents-on-seeds.org, Web: www.no-patents-on-seeds.org/en

2013

18 - 27 January: International Green Week 2013, the world's biggest fair for food, agriculture and horticulture; in Berlin, Germany. Web: www.gruenewoche.de/en/

23 Feb - 3 March: Salon International de l'Agriculture 2013; Porte de Versailles, Paris, France. Web: www.salon-agriculture.com

28 Feb - 3 March: Natur Messe Basel, with "Natur Kongress" on 1st of March; at Congress Center Basel, Switzerland. Web: www.natur.ch

7-10 March: Biologica in Athens 2013, Athens, Greece. Web: www.helexpo.gr

7-8 April: "Natural and Organic Products Europe 2013", The Natural Food Show, Natural Beauty & Spa, Health & Nutrition and Natural Living; at Grand Hall, Olympia, London UK. Web: www.naturalproducts.co.uk

12-16 May: Quantitative traits breeding for multifunctional grasslands and turf; 30th Meeting of the EUCARPIA Fodder Crops and Amenity Grasses Section; at Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia. Web: www.eucarpia2013.ikbks.com

=> Further dates see: <http://www.save-foundation.net/english/actual.htm>