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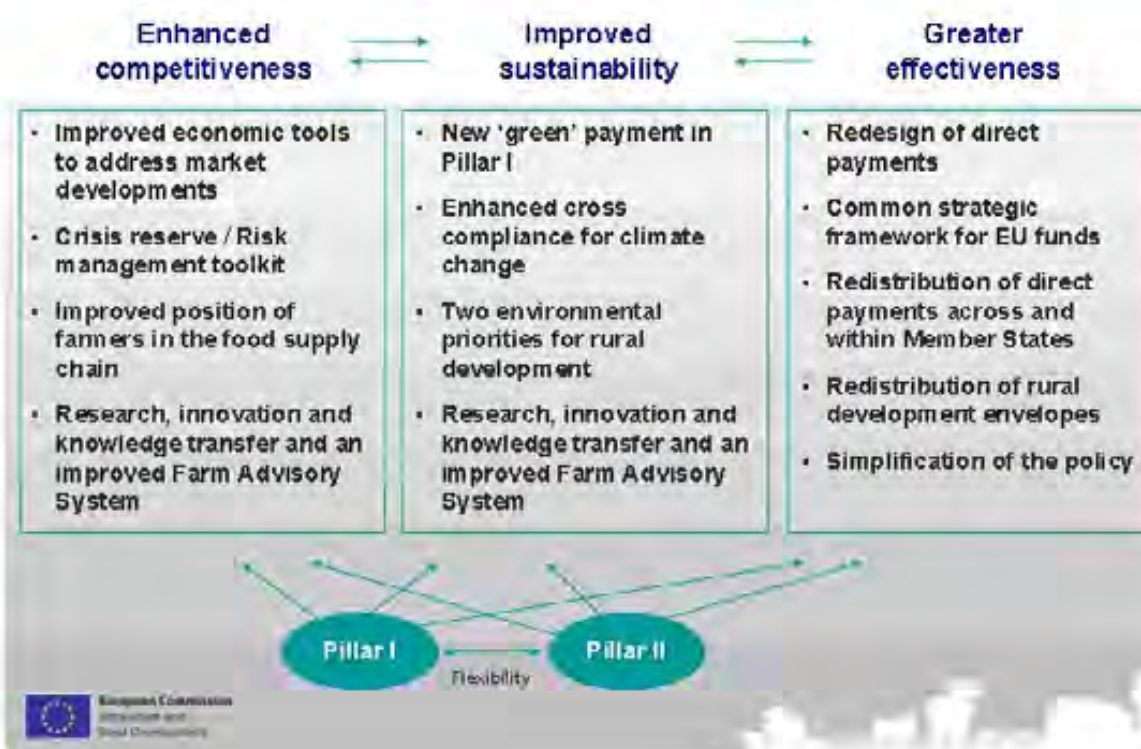
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EU launched a debate on "The CAP towards 2020" in order to engage people throughout Europe in the new policy directions that the CAP should take. After almost two years of negotiations between the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council, a political agreement on the reform of the Common Agricultural policy was reached in June 2013. The CAP reform will enter into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

Over 77% of the European Union is classified as “rural” and about half of the population lives in rural areas. The enlargement of the EU in the last years has led to a greater diversity in European agriculture, which now encompasses a wide range of traditions and practices, livestock breeds and cultivated plants as well as expectations and needs. The reformed CAP needs to address this heterogeneous situation, which sees some areas industrializing further towards agribusiness whilst others face marginalization and land

abandonment; this means that different areas need different strategies. However, the basic principles remain the same: European citizens want to see the conservation of the uniquely European landscapes. They wish to have a wide choice of high-quality products, including those of local origin; they wish to see sustainable and inclusive growth in rural areas and equality of opportunity

## What CAP instruments to meet the reform objectives?



The reformed CAP aims to make farming more attractive, and to give young people help in entering the sector. The 2013 reform introduces a new type of aid for young farmers: a bonus payable to young farmers in their first five years of working in the sector. Furthermore CAP seeks to safeguard the vitality of the countryside by supporting programmes to invest, modernize and support activity – both agricultural and non-agricultural – in rural areas. The CAP budget for rural development from 2014-20 for all 28 member countries totals €95 billion. Funds for rural development can be used for both agricultural and non-agricultural activities, ranging from knowledge transfer through enhancing ecosystems to promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas. Furthermore, individual countries can add support for, for example, small farmers and mountain areas. Each rural development programme must also include action to protect and improve the EU's natural resources and landscapes in rural areas. All these factors combine to help to support the aims of SAVE Foundation and the SAVE Network.

## **Sustainable Agriculture in Remote Areas of Romania: Conservation and Adding Value to Fruit Varieties**

Within the Project “Sustainable Agriculture in Remote Areas of Romania: Conservation and Adding Value to Fruit Varieties”, The Mihai Eminescu Trust and the SAVE Foundation deployed in 28-29 August 2013 in Mălâncrav / Malmkrog (Sibiu county, Romania), a workshop with experts and stakeholders from Romania and Switzerland.

The workshop enabled an experience exchange, generating knowledge and supporting the development of solutions that will be used in this project and in similar future projects. The event brought together over 20 experts, researchers, farmers, and representatives of local authorities, NGOs and relevant institutions. Romanian and Swiss experts and researchers held presentations, creating a clear image of successful projects and of good practices related to the determination, inventorying, conservation and utilization of native fruit varieties. Presentations revealed the current situation in the two countries, needs, challenges and opportunities. They also described research methodologies, instruments, work processes and collaboration systems that produced good results in previous projects, serving as good practices for the current project and for future initiatives. Topics also included European and international rules, possibilities of collaboration between the three sectors: government, NGOs and scientists, and financing opportunities.

A round table discussion completed the exchange of knowledge, analyzing the possibilities and solutions for the inventorying, conservation and utilization of native fruit varieties from Transylvania. The participants analyzed the questionnaire and the inventorying list that were used within Swiss projects and discussed the ongoing process.

In the ongoing project, these variety registration forms and questionnaires were used to interview farmers about their fruits in the Sibiu county. More than 90 interviews lead to nearly 70 samples of fruit varieties. The identification of the fruit varieties took place end of November. Most of the varieties were identified. 20 samples were taken to the Horticultural Faculty of the University of Bucharest to make some molecular genetic analysis. With these activities the collaboration between science and practitioners could be strengthened. The confirmed autochthonous varieties will be collected (as grafting and planting material) to build a nursery and a demonstrative orchard in Mălâncrav.



The members of the fruit network and the local farmers involved in the project reunited in an Association of fruit growers from Transylvania. The association will become a legal entity by the end of this year. In early spring the public of Mălâncrav. and the surrounding villages will be actively involved through a training course for grafting fruit varieties.

The outcomes of the meetings and additional information can be seen at:

[www.agrobiodiversity.net/national](http://www.agrobiodiversity.net/national) → Romania → Rare Fruit Varieties.

contact [office@save-foundation.net](mailto:office@save-foundation.net) or [mtuerk@mihaieminescutrust.org](mailto:mtuerk@mihaieminescutrust.org).



## 20 Years SAVE Network – Activities of the last 10 Years

This year the SAVE network has been celebrating its 20th anniversary by looking back in the eNews through SAVE history. The last instalment brings us to the present day and looks at the last ten years.

### In 2003:

- The book “**Agricultural Genetic Resources in the Alps**” was updated and published with the inclusion of a detailed study on the situation of cultivated plants.
- In November, **Staf Van den Bergh** was elected as the new chairman of SAVE at the **10th anniversary network meeting**. Participants from 12 countries took part at the meeting, which was celebrated in the border region of Liechtenstein-Austria-Germany-Switzerland.
- The protection of agro-biodiversity was anchored in Article 11 Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge of the **Carpathian Convention**, which protects: traditional architecture, land-use patterns, local breeds of domestic animals and cultivated plant varieties, and sustainable use of wild plants in the Carpathians.
- The EU ministers of agriculture decided on a basic **reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** - in particular subject to basic change was the subsidies practice.
- The first “**Regional Fair of Balkan Agrobiodiversity and Rural Heritage**” in Serbia took place.



### Events and highlights of the following 10 years - from the eNews archives:

- The SAVE online databases, found on **Arca-Net**, **Agrobiodiversity.Net** and **Fruit-Net**, began with the arrival of **Eveline Dudda** in St.Gallen. Arca-Net has since grown to include 617 entries of institutions that keep endangered livestock breeds or rare cultivated plants.
- The new AgriGenRes programme of the EU Commission as the 1467 replacement program led to increased possibilities for NGOs and for in-situ /on-farm conservation projects to be financed compared to the old regulation. This led directly the successful application for the **European Livestock Breeds Ark and Rescue Net (ELBARN)** project.
- The Annual Meeting of SAVE Foundation and the SAVE Network at Bled, Slovenia, was the genesis of the work on “marketing and labelling” – and thus the launch of **Heritaste®**

In September 2004, SAVE Foundation carried out a first meeting within the frame of the project “**Balkans Network**” in Dimitrovgrad (Serbia) – the Balkans Network has been a very successful instrument for net-



working actors and documenting breeds in the Balkans. The current project in the Balkans is “**BushaLive**” funded by the UN-FAO Funding Strategy for the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

- In November 2005 **Elli Broxham** started work at SAVE as an intern.
- Also in 2005 the workshop “**Network of Rare Livestock Breeds in Greece**” took place – similar in structure to the Balkans project, the focus in Greece has also been on networking and documenting. With the founding of Amaltheia, SAVE gained a new network partner.
- The Interlaken conference in 2007 led to Declaration and the **Global Plan of Action for AnGR** – an important step on an international level.
- Also in 2007: **Riccardo Fortina** became chairman of SAVE Foundation. **Ulrich Donath** started working for SAVE in Konstanz as part of the ELBARN project, responsible for databases and websites.
- 2008 – “**Donkey breeds in Europe**” was published. Besides the origin, domestication and use, special attention was also paid to the distribution and current situation of the donkey in Europe. With the publication of this study, SAVE became one of the leading experts on donkeys and receives many enquiries about them.
- Discussion at the conference “**Alpine Convention and Agrobiodiversity**” organised in collaboration with the Alpine Convention and SAVE-Monitoring Institute in May 2008 in Bolzano, Italy, led to the project “**Documentation and Use of Traditional Knowledge in the Alps**” a wiki-based collection of the knowledge about cultivation, animal husbandry, breeding, use and product manufacturing of rare breeds and varieties that is otherwise being lost as the elder generation passes away. Sometimes the knowledge gets lost faster than the breed or the variety.
- A **Network for Buffalo Conservation in South Eastern Europe** was established with a workshop in Sighisoara, Romania.
- The **Arca-Deli Awards** were launched to draw attention to the range of products and services provided by indigenous livestock breeds and plant varieties.
- The project **Feral Populations in Europe** collected data and information about the occurrence of feral breeds and varieties of livestock, networked key persons from the In Situ - On Farm conservation work as well as nature protection organisations and developed plans for “best management”.
- The years of interest in the Carpathian region and the engagement with the Carpathian Convention bore fruit with the projects **Collection of old, local fruit varieties in Transcarpathia, Ukraine, Conservation of Transylvanian Fruit Varieties and Conservation and Adding Value to Fruit Varieties in Romania**. The latter is still running in collaboration with the Mihai Eminescu Trust and is supported by the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme.
- 2013: **Geert Boink** became chairman of SAVE Foundation at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting in the Netherlands.



**A view to the future:**

Over 20 years SAVE has developed into a competence centre for European agrobiodiversity. Future activities will reflect this expertise. The activities will remain focussed on: the needs in the programme areas, such as South Eastern Europe; free-ranging animal populations; scientifically based documentation of breed and variety occurrence; and the documenting of traditional knowledge.

The subject of marketing and promoting the products and services of breeds and varieties will continue with Arca-Net, Heritaste and the Arca-Deli Awards.

The focus on networking continues as it is an essential part of the mandate of SAVE: annual meetings, informal discussions on Variety-Savers and Facebook or by email and the regular eNewsletter are all components of the networking of actors working for conservation of agricultural diversity in Europe.

The future success of SAVE lies in the hands of those who engage with the work, who offer in-put, support, suggestions, even criticisms – SAVE at 20 has now reached “adulthood” but, like all young adults, still needs guidance and support to step confidently into the future!

***Thank you to all who have worked with SAVE over the last 20 years –  
we look forward to the many years of collaboration to come!***

## **International Year of Family Farming 2014**



The UN General Assembly declared 2014 to be the International Year of Family Farming. Family farming is the most common farming model in Europe, the majority of the 12 million farms in the EU are family farms, passed down from one generation to another, and contribute to the sustainability of rural areas.

According to the EU “family farming is often more than a professional occupation because it reflects a lifestyle based on beliefs and traditions about living and work.”

SAVE Foundation supports the aims of the International Year of Family Farming 2014: to stimulate active policies for sustainable development of agricultural systems based on farmer families, communal units, indigenous groups and cooperatives. This type of farming fits well with SAVE’s aims for creating and promoting sustainable “agro-eco-systems”, in which agriculture works with the local environment rather than against it, in order to enrich the local biosphere and support the local community. “Agro-eco-systems” support small-scale, family farming and production systems which can help improve livelihoods in rural areas. By encouraging economic diversity and redefining agricultural cooperation, rural areas can become vital economic areas that are attractive for work and leisure.

SAVE has joined the Family Farming Campaign, an initiative from the World Rural Forum, to help promote the subject of “family farming” see: [www.familyfarmingcampaign.net](http://www.familyfarmingcampaign.net)

## Newsflash

### SAVE annual network meeting and the 8. European seminar on agrobiodiversity



“Agrobiodiversity and nature conservation” is the theme of the 8<sup>th</sup> European seminar on agrobiodiversity 2014. Under this topic the SAVE Annual Network Meeting 2014 will take place from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in the Lonjsko Polje nature park in Croatia (<http://www.pp-lonjsko-polje.hr/>). The nature park, about 90 km south-east of Zagreb, provides interesting insights between nature conservation, cultural heritage and traditional landscape management. In cooperation with the park

management a comprehensive and interesting program will be provided, in which also the European Heritage Day is integrated. Make sure you save the date! More information at [office@save-foundation.net](mailto:office@save-foundation.net) and in the next SAVE eNews.

### Increased importance of niche markets in the Netherlands



In ten years time the market for farmers in Dutch supermarkets will look different from today. Bulk products – anonymous supply from industrial (animal) production – will not be the main product offered in the supermarkets any more. The relation between farmers and supermarkets will change dramatically. The market for niche products is rapidly growing, and this will actually be the main trend in the near future.

This is the outcome of the study ‘All Markets Included’ (‘Van alle markten thuis’) by the EFMI Business School, commissioned by the main Dutch farmer organization LTO together with the major supermarket chain Albert Heijn. The aim of the study was to review the present and future trends in the fresh food chain in the Netherlands. The study (unfortunately only available in Dutch) especially looked at the consumer trends, partnership models of consumers and producers, as well as value addition, which together promote the sustainability of fresh food chain. See: <http://www.dutchfarmexperience.com/>

### The 2013 Alternative Nobel Prize for Biovision



Eine Zukunft für alle, natürlich  
Un avenir pour tous, naturellement  
A future for all, naturally

The Right Livelihood Award 2013 was presented to four laureates at the Swedish parliament in Stockholm in December. Hans R. Herren, one of the world's leading experts on sustainable agriculture, wins the Right Livelihood Award for his commitment to end hunger and poverty in our world.

The jury of the prize, also known as the alternative Nobel Prize, said the decision to award Herren was based on “his expertise and pioneering work in promoting safe, secure and sustainable global food supply” “for his expertise and pioneering work in promoting a safe, secure and sustainable global food supply”. The prize was awarded jointly with his Biovision Foundation.

For more Information see [www.biovision.ch](http://www.biovision.ch) and <http://www.rightlivelihood.org/index.html>



## Important dates (extract)

17. January: SWIFCOB 14 "Biodiversity & Economy: Diversity pays off"; in Bern, Switzerland. Kontakt: [biodiversity@scnat.ch](mailto:biodiversity@scnat.ch), Web: <http://www.biodiversity.ch/d/events/swifcob/>

17-26 January: International Green Week, Berlin, Germany; <http://www.gruenewoche.de/>

22-23 January: BioVak Fair 2014 in Zwolle, the Netherlands; Web: <http://www.biovak.nl>

22 Feb. - 2 March 'International Agricultural Paris Fair', Paris, France; Web: <http://en.salon-agriculture.com/>

19 March: Federal Summit on Agrobiodiversity: „From value to added value with old breeds and plants“; Bruchsal, Germany. Web: [www.um.baden-wuerttemberg.de](http://www.um.baden-wuerttemberg.de)

20-22 March: EkoSeedForum - European conference on organic plant breeding, organic seeds and crop biodiversity; in Poznan, Poland. Contact: [jansen@ekoconnect.org](mailto:jansen@ekoconnect.org), Web: <http://www.ekoconnect.org>

5-6 April: 4th International Re-enactment Fair; at Roman Villa Borg, Saarland, Germany; [info@reenactmentmesse.de](mailto:info@reenactmentmesse.de); Web: <http://www.reenactmentmesse.de/> (International Fair for Living History, Reenactment and Archaeotechnique)

7-25 April: Training programme on "Contemporary Approaches to Genetic Resources Conservation and Use", in Wageningen, The Netherlands. Web: [www.wageningenur.nl/en/show/CDIcourse\\_contemporary\\_approaches\\_2014.htm](http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/show/CDIcourse_contemporary_approaches_2014.htm)

13-14 April: Natural & Organic Products; London, UK. Web: [www.naturalproducts.co.uk](http://www.naturalproducts.co.uk)

1-2 June: Organic Marketing Forum 2014, Warsaw, Poland. [www.naturalproducts.co.uk](http://www.naturalproducts.co.uk)

5-6 June: Sustainable Foods Summit 2014; Amsterdam, the Netherlands: Contact: [info@sustainablefoodssummit.com](mailto:info@sustainablefoodssummit.com), Web: <http://www.sustainablefoodssummit.com>

3-5 Sept.: ECOMUSEUMS 2014, 2nd International Conference on Ecomuseums, Community Museums and Living Communities, in Montalegre, Portugal. [ecomuseums2014@greenlines-institute.org](mailto:ecomuseums2014@greenlines-institute.org); Web: <http://www.ecomuseums2014.greenlines-institute.org>

16-19 September: Forum Carpaticum 2014: "Local Responses to Global Challenges", in Lviv, Ukraine. Contact: [ikruhlov@gmail.com](mailto:ikruhlov@gmail.com), Web: <http://www.forumcarpaticum.org>

17-19 September: ForumAlpinum 2014: "Valorization, use and management of Alpine resources", at Darfo Boario Terme (Val Camonica), Italy. Web: [www.forumalpinum.org](http://www.forumalpinum.org)

18-20 September: Annual Meeting of the SAVE Foundation and the European SAVE Network, at Lonjsko Polje Nature Park, Croatia. Contact: [office@save-foundation.net](mailto:office@save-foundation.net), Web: <http://www.save-foundation.net>

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