



City farms and rare breeds – a world of difference

Pauline Wolters, EFCF



Dutch Spotted Milk Goat on Elsenhove City Farm (NL) www.elsenhove.nl Photo: ©Margriet Spierings

Many of us have been to a city farm as a child and will remember a city farm as a green space in the middle of a busy, fast and urbanised world. On a city farm children find a safe place to play, other children and animals. But city farms do more. They offer training, information, environmental education, recreation and are social and cultural meeting points for all age-groups, using farming and/or gardening as a platform.

The European Federation of City Farms (EFCF) brings together more than 2,000 city farm projects in Europe and beyond, which together reach millions of people of all ages and backgrounds. Together they provide employment, voluntary work and work placements for thousands of people.

In many countries city farms are known under different names: Ferme d'Animation, Jugendfarm, Discovery Farm, Granja Escuela, Kinderboerderij,

Aktivspielplatz, Ferme Pédagogique, Quinta Pedagógica, Children's Farm, Youth Farm, 4H Gård, Abenteurspielplatz, Urban Farm, Community Farm or Cascina di Animazione. City farms come in all shapes and sizes, from a few hectares or less to over 50 hectares. Many city farms work together with care farms, commercial farms with a school programme, environmental organisations, zoos, museums or are engaged in conservation grazing and forestry projects. City farms may differ in every country and in every city even, depending on objectives and surroundings.

At the city farm the animals are often the main attraction. Because of increasing rules and regulations it gets more and more difficult for many city farms to buy farm animals from production farms. Most modern breeds are not suitable anyway because in general the work on city farms is totally different from the work on commercial farms. Apart from that there are very few modern production farms with a variety of farm animals or breeds. Therefore it is obvious that more and more city farms keep 'ordinary' breeds, indigenous or foreign, pure-breeds or cross-breeds. Many city farms are part of a national or regional network of breeders of traditional breeds or take part in a national survival programme for rare breeds. The Dutch Rare Breed Survival Trust for instance encourages breeders to lend animals to city farms, which has now become a success. Some city farms are official breeding centres themselves. Rare or traditional breeds are more attractive for a city farm than 'modern' breeds because of their diversity and unlike most production farms, most city farms do not focus on a production as high as possible from each animal. They focus more on variety, character, appearance and educational value.

Keeping traditional breeds on a city farm can fit within several agendas: animal welfare, biodiversity, sustainable development, climate change, heritage, culture, food sovereignty, social cohesion, history, land management and stewardship. Education about rare breeds transmits an under

standing of our history, culture, landscape and future through living animals. Rare breeds represent the basic or the beginning of agriculture as we know it today. Agrobiodiversity is an essential and integrated part of ecology and nature conservation.



The "Fjällnära cow", Swedish mountain cow on Eolshälls 4H (SE) www.eolshalls4h.com

Educational programmes, exhibitions and discussions help to rebuild the relationship between producer and consumer. Local food, food miles and traceability of meat become understandable concepts.

Use it or lose it. Direct sale of farm products, including meat, in city farm shops can be found in many places. On some city farms, mostly in the big cities, selling meat may be an issue, because many visitors will only see the animals as their friends and you don't eat your friends. However, more and more visitors think it is a good thing because the animals have had a good life and buyers will know the origin of the meat. City farms cannot provide for everybody but hopefully education and information will make visitors more aware of animal welfare when they have a choice between organic or free-range and 'regular' meat. They can also learn that there is a choice between a lot or less meat or no meat at all.

Hopefully more breeders of rare breeds and city farms will find each other all over Europe

to work together for a sustainable future. Welcome to the city farm!



Schleswig Coldblood at work on the historical building-playground "Red Rooster" in Lübeck, Germany www.geschichtserlebnisraum.de

More information see: www.cityfarms.org
www.facebook.com/europeanfederationcityfarms

Club Varieties



An apple as a standardized product cast in one piece - from production to marketing. This is not a vision of advertising, but reality. As if a car brand would launch a new model, farmers produce new apple varieties that are specifically tuned to the taste of the consumers. The earnings of these varieties are reserved exclusively for a closed circle within a club concept. Such varieties are called Club varieties, of which "Pink Lady" is probably the best known. Anyone who is not a member of the production and distribution chain is not allowed to use the variety. The owner of the brand is the Australian company "Apple and Pear". Pink Lady is not a varietal name, but a brand name for apples of the Cripps Pink variety, which corresponds to certain quality criteria defined by the owners of the rights. Cripps Pink apples are a hybrid of the varieties Lady Williams and Golden Delicious. The bowl is purple-red, the pulp crisp, firm and rather sweet. The variety is good storable and extends the harvest season. These qualities make Pink Lady popular with both producers and consumers. But there are also other club varieties like Jazz, Kanzi, Rubens, Cameo or Greenstar. The Ariane club variety is even used in organic farming.

While in Switzerland, for example, the cultivation areas of classical varieties - from Golden Delicious to Jonagold - declined by one percent according to the 2015 Federal Agricultural Report, the cultivation area of club varieties increased by 3 percent. The German Agrarmarkt Informationsgesellschaft (AMI) sees the emergence of the club cultivations in the barely covered costs of classical fruit cultivation, while the prices of the clubs are much higher. According to AMI, apple consumption in Germany has declined by an average of two percent annually since 2003. Against the backdrop of this shrinking market, price competition is developing.

In practice so far, a variety enjoys protection but the planting and marketing is free. A member of a club

variety has licensing agreements which regulate everything from the product, such as the coloring and size of a fruit through the distribution system and the franchising up to the licensing fees. This all increases the production costs. Behind a club variety stands an apple, which always looks the same and always tastes the same.

All this increases the production costs. Behind a club variety stands an apple, which always looks the same and always tastes the same. For all orchards of this type, cadastres must be created. The coordinates are monitored via GPS. This makes it easier to monitor illegal plantations. The European rights for Pink Lady are owned by the French nursery school Star Fruits since the year 2000 and the marketing rights are exercised by three fruit trading companies. It is the attempt to grow and sell fruits as well as vegetables and cereals like the food industry's top brands - from patenting through the trade chains to advertising. The club members build up a kind of exclusivity and avoid an oversupply. Whether a Pink Lady will ever be like a Nespresso sales hit, however, is doubtful. For this, the apple market is too much split up. Local varieties still play an important role on local markets.

Thomas Cierpka from the organization IFOAM - Organics International, the organic world umbrella organization - cannot hide his skepticism. "For us, the local seed and its further spread is central". IFOAM - Organics International would prefer to dynamize and periodically increase the requirements for the organic label, but also to strengthen the organic brand, but this could not be achieved with a kind of club system. Rather participatory concepts that strengthen the relationship between producers and consumers could strengthen it.

In contrast to a partnership that implies a personal relationship, producing club members carry the risk alone. These one-sided dependencies can quickly become a dangerous boomerang for the producer. It is estimated that only 20 percent of the more than 30 known clubs will be able to compete in the market. A success is not guaranteed for a club.

Animal Genetic Resources in Portugal

Rui Dantas, FERA, Portugal

Portugal, at the edge of the Mediterranean basin, is a melting pot of cultures and trade through the ages, and with that genetic influences came into the country which contributed to the great diversity of breeds. The 50 national autochthonous breeds [along with 11 dog breeds] (see table below) are the main reason why Portugal is considered as a 'hot spot' of biodiversity by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Although Portugal is a small country, it has a huge variety of habitats, with different topography, climates, soil and farming conditions. Numerous social and cultural traditions created multiple niches

where the livestock species were being developed and managed. This led to the appearance of a large number of distinct breeds perfectly adapted to their environment.

The physical and political isolation in which Portugal lived since the founding of the state to the Carnation Revolution in 1974, aggravated by the lack of effective means of communication between regions and within them. This led to a delay in the social and human development of the country, but impeded the introduction of foreign breeds and allowed the development of autochthonous breeds with their well adapted characteristics.

Specie	Breed	Specie	Breed
Cattle	Alentejana	Sheep	Bordaleira Entre Douro Minho
	Algarvia		Campaniça
	Arouquesa		Churra Algarvia
	Barrosã		Churra Badana
	Brava de Lide		Churra do Campo
	Cachena		Churra Galega Bragançana Branca
	Jarmelista		Churra Galega Bragançana Preta
	Garvonesa		Churra Galega Mirandesa
	Marinhola		Churra do Minho
	Maronesa		Churra da Terra Quente
	Mertolenga		Merina da Beira Baixa
	Minhota		Merina Branca
	Mirandesa		Merina Preta
	Preta		Mondegueira
	Ramo Grande (Açores)		Saloia
Donkeys	Burro da Graciosa (Açores)	Goats	Serra da Estrela
	Burro de Miranda		Algarvia
Horses	Lusitana		Bravia
	Garrana		Charnequeira
	Pónei da Terceira (Açores)		Serpentina
	Sorraia		Serrana
Chicken	Amarela	Pigs	Preta de Montesinho
	Branca		Alentejana
	Pedrês Portuguesa		Bísara
	Preta Lusitânica		Malhado de Alcobaça

Source: DGAV site.

Native breeds were selected by the people to meet their food needs (meat, milk and egg), work (traction and transport) and clothing needs (hides, wool and feathers). These breeds are mainly produced in inland areas, in low-density areas, embedded in balanced, sustainable and ecological production systems and contribute decisively to the settlement of the populations in the most disadvantaged areas of the rural world, thus contributing to stability and Social cohesion

By providing quality, safe and high economic value products, they can build a basis to improve the viability of farms, preserve the environment and the landscape, as they are based on extensive production systems that take advantage of meager fodder resources from poor areas or mountain areas which would otherwise not be used.

Beginning of the 1980s the Portuguese State recognized the great economic, social, cultural and biological importance of these breeds and intensified the efforts of inventory and zoo technical record of the most relevant breeds. The Official Services, based in most cases on studies that begun in the 1960s were responsible for this work. This process was extended to all existing breeds. At the beginning of the 1990s, the official services of the Ministry of Agriculture delegated the management of herd books [genealogical books] and consequently the conservation and development of these breeds to breeding associations, which were formed in the meantime.

The joint action between the Portuguese government and the breeders associations, along with the support granted by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), were decisive in order to stop the continuous decline of indigenous breeds that took place in Portugal since the middle of the 20th century. For some breeds and varieties these actions were too late: They disappeared.

Almost simultaneously, in the mid-1990s, the process of protecting the name of the products from these animals began, with the regulation of numerous PDO products - Protected Designation of Origin, PGI - Protected Geographical Indication and TSG - Traditional Specialty Guaranteed. At present, the overwhelming majority of Portuguese animal products with Community protection are based on indigenous breeds, with a consensus on the quality associated with the meat of the indigenous bovine breeds, the sausages and smoked products derived from swine breeds and dairy products from the sheep and goat breeds.

These resources, passed on to us by our ancestors, who have accompanied them along the great journey from the cradle of humankind through extreme climates and demanding ecosystems with their adaptability, endurance and usefulness, needs to be defended and protected as well as the fair and

equitable benefit sharing. The variability of these resources can be a security in a changing world, with unpredictable climate change, new emerging diseases, a growing population and food requirements.

With these threats to livestock biodiversity, in 2007 in Interlaken [Switzerland], and as a culmination of a long negotiating process, the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources was adopted by delegations from 109 countries including Portugal. The signatory countries have confirmed their common and individual responsibilities in the conservation, sustainable use and development of these resources for food and agriculture.

In order to comply with this agreement, Portugal

FERA - Federação Nacional das Associações de Raças Autóctones

The National Federation of Autochthonous Breeds Associations (FERA) was founded in August 2000 and currently has its headquarters in S. Torcato, Guimarães. The Federation represents 17 Breeders Associations, with responsibility in the management of 24 Herd Books of native breeds.

Objectives are:

- ❖ ***Promote, develop and defend the interests of its member organizations;***
- ❖ ***Coordinate actions in the technical, scientific, economic and statistical fields;***
- ❖ ***Define common strategies to be used for the preservation, promotion and improvement of indigenous breeds;***
- ❖ ***Promote professional training, information and dissemination of matters of interest to members;***
- ❖ ***Establish protocols with similar national, community and international organizations of interest to the Portuguese autochthonous breeds.***

FERA is responsible for the management of the only Bovine Semen Collecting Center in Portugal. Within the last 3 years FERA has collected semen of 7 cattle breeds and some native poultry breeds.

approved in 2014 the National Plan for Animal Genetic Resources, in which indigenous breeds continue to be a priority of the national agricultural policy, namely through the implementation of strategies

to prevent the loss of genetic variability, the sustainable use of genetic resources and the promotion of their products.

The management of these genetic resources is in the responsibility of the Portuguese State, in close collaboration and partnership with the Breeders Associations, but the only way to effectively guarantee its conservation and development an intrinsic value of its products, services or functions is needed.

Today, Portuguese autochthonous breeds are a matter of national sovereignty, protected by national and community legislation, and their creation is supported by measures aimed at the promotion and in situ conservation of the rare breeds, particularly those in danger of extinction.

We should be grateful to past generations for the richness of domestic biodiversity that they have offered us, and we should support the actors of today for their conservation and breeding work, support for the environment and landscape and the high quality and tasteful traditional products.

FERA, the Portuguese rare breeds conservation organization will host the SAVE Meeting 2017 (see "Newsflash" page 9). Exciting views and prospects are guaranteed! Of course the plant-based activities of Portugal will not be missed at this event!

Cork 2.0 Declaration



Exactly 20 years after the ground-breaking European Conference on Rural Development in Cork, which concluded with the signing of the Cork Declaration on Rural Development, the European Commission, under the responsibility of Commissioner Phil Hogan has organized a second European Conference on Rural Development. On 5-6 September 2016, 340 rural EU stakeholders met in Cork, Ireland, and developed the "[Cork 2.0 Declaration](#)". Under the headline "A Better Life in Rural Areas", the declaration sets out nine policy

recommendations. In an [Action Plan](#), published in March 2017, a number of concrete initiatives are listed which the Commission, the rural networks, rural and agricultural stakeholders are taking to turn the aspirations of the Cork Declaration into real change on the ground. The Cork declaration and its Action Plan include important aims to simplify the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). For the conservation scene this declaration and Action plan are of importance:

Crosscutting issue: the Cork declaration should reflect the Commission work on the modernization and simplification of the CAP.

1. Promoting rural prosperity: LAGs (Local Action Groups are the mainstay of the implementation of the LEADER approach) shall give more support and events on rural tourism, the production of local products and local investment. Also farm diversification shall be more supported.
2. Strengthening rural value chain: Greening the Rural Economy through research on value chains. The rural value chain shall be strengthened through more research on rural value chains, quality food products, support of local food networking,
3. Investing in rural viability and vitality: Smart Village Action Plan: Eco-social villages pilot project, importance of rural-urban linkages, focus on young farmers, higher education (through IT platforms)
4. Preserving the rural environment: Natura 2000 User Forum on biodiversity and environment, support of the conservation of high nature value farmland, extensive farming systems and grass land conservation, research on ecosystem services.

Managing natural resources: water issues, Agroforestry Innovation Network, natural resources management, water efficiency in agriculture

6. Encourage climate action: nutrient management plans, climate change measures like contribution of organic farming to climate change mitigation,
7. Boosting knowledge and innovation: "Rural Renaissance" (H2020), EIP AGRI working groups and workshops, Digital innovation hubs in agriculture
8. Enhancing rural governance: Launch of a leader 2030 process, multifunded CLLD (Community-Led Local Development) strategies, cooperation conferences

9. Advancing policy delivery and simplification: DG AGRI working group: possibilities for a more performance balanced delivery model, result oriented focus, Proposal simplification for beneficiaries in Omnibus proposal (CAP basic acts).

Declaration and Action Plan are available at:

<http://www.save-foundation.net/en/medias/downloads-en>

More information:

https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/events/rural-development-2016_en.

25 Years Dagene



25 YEARS WITH
.....▼.....
DAGENE

On the occasion of the 25 year jubilee of the Danubian crossborder organisation DAGENE in 2014 a book was prepared, which is available now:

In this publication there is a featured review related to the 25-year-long work of DAGENE (International Association for the Conservation of Animal Breeds in the Danube Region, headquarter 1078 Budapest, István street 2., Hungary).

The organisation which originated initially from the two founder countries Austria and Hungary aims to

promote professional and scientific cooperation of Danube countries in animal husbandry.

This special jubilee book refers to the scientific community of the ten countries currently involved. It guides the reader through the professional scientific-educational process which is characterises the first 25 years of DAGENE. It is written in the two official languages of the association English and German.

By reading the book a better understanding will be gained, of how prevailing current issues affect the member organizations, research and teaching institutions as well as breeders of rare domestic animals and the employees of DAGENE.

The association DAGENE was established in 1989 with the aim to protect endangered autochthonous animal breeds in the Danube-region by researchers and breeders. After several years of activities, the scientific community decided to become an association.

DAGENE is actively involved in the discussion of scientific and economic questions of the areas of its expertise. The Annual Conference gives members the opportunity to meet and discuss current issues as well as the implementation of various methods of conservation. Between the meetings, the association's well-established network connects and supports the work and advocacy of the members.

Contributions are made with joint transnational researchers in relation to the maintenance of native breeds in many countries. Some of the most important tasks DAGENE is involved with are to find varieties not yet registered, the replacement of breeding animals towards blood refreshment, the organization and participation in tenders and projects as vocational training as well as preparing information materials.

Following today's international networking, DAGENE cooperates with similar organizations in the Baltics (Baltic Genofond), the SAVE Foundation (a European NGO network), as well as the ERFP (European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources).

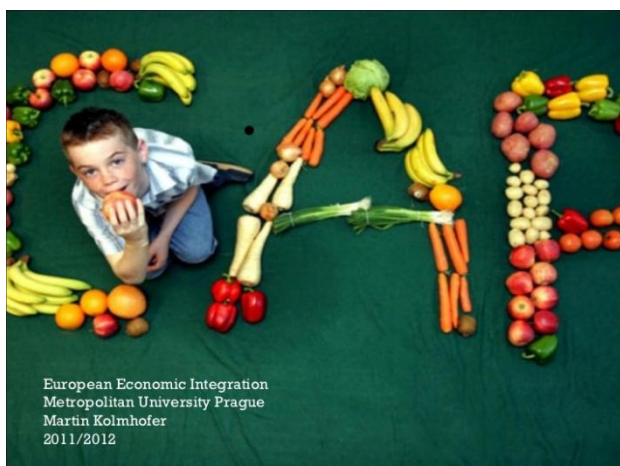
Individual personalities from both the scientific as well as the networking sector and their prominent role in the activities of DAGENE are presented. Also the present conservation work of DAGENE will be presented, such as the conservation of Murinsulaner Horse, repatriation of Carpathian Brown Cattle and ecotypes of Tsigai Sheep. The chapters are completed with a lot of beautiful pictures which illustrate the work of the various events and activities.

Papers and posters presented on the 25th annual scientific symposium, serve as a small example of the great biological diversity of our living environment. We cannot afford to lose this diversity of life. It is of prior importance to maintain it as a living heritage for the next generation.

Dr. Pál Hajas President of DAGENE, and Dr. András Gáspárdy Executive Secretary of DAGENE: 25 Years with DAGENE, ISBN 978-963-12-3101-4, printed by Palatia Printing and Publishing Ltd., Győr, Hungary, 2015, 196 pp.

Newsflash

Public Stakeholder Consultation on the future of the CAP



The EU Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) launched the first phase of the modernisation and simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with a [public consultation](#), open until **May 2, 2017**. The contributions received will support the

Commission's work to define the agricultural policy priorities for the future. A modernised and simplified Common Agricultural Policy would address the key challenges that agriculture and rural areas are facing while at the same time contributing to the Commission's policy priorities (notably jobs and growth), to sustainable development.

The public consultation will give farmers, citizens, organisations and any other interested parties the chance to have their say on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy. The input from the consultation will be used by the Commission to help draft a Communication, due by the end of 2017 that will include conclusions on the current performance of the Common Agricultural Policy and potential policy options for the future based on reliable evidence.

The results of the public consultation will be published [online](#) and presented at a conference in Brussels in July 2017.

Urban Agriculture

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) defines urban agriculture as "the growing of plants and the raising of animals within and around cities" to provide fresh food, generate employment, recycle waste, and strengthen cities' resilience to climate change. The international community is beginning to recognize the integral role of urban agriculture in improving the economy, environment, and health of cities. [Food Tank](#) has put together a list of 12 organizations that are propelling urban agriculture in cities around the world. Two of them are interesting

projects in Europe, which include the growing of rare seeds:

Italy: Economics and Sustainability ([ESTA, Milan](#)): In October 2015, Milan's Mayor, Giuliano Pisapia, and mayors from over 100 cities across the world signed the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact ([MUFPP](#)). The Pact is the first international protocol whose aim is to develop sustainable food systems. ESTA is advancing that mission in Milan by developing sustainable urban agriculture and consumption initiatives throughout Milan, like the Sustainable Milan Project.

Hungary: The [Grund Garden](#) in Budapest is the first urban farm in Budapest's 8th district. The community space provides city residents with plots of land to grow crops of their choosing with an emphasis on rare seed varieties, which are provided by a Hungarian seed bank. Their mission is to utilize abandoned land in the district, while also providing city residents with the opportunity to learn about urban agriculture, grow their own food, and engage with the community.



Foto: <http://mindspace.hu/en/spring-up-smart-living-in-budapest-urban-and-community-gardens>

Jason Roberts in Greece: Art meets Agriculture



Jason Roberts: Oulokeratiki Goat

arrived in Greece. Jason Roberts has established a global reputation thanks to his paintings themed mainly on farm animals. In addition his collections of paintings include important exhibitions on the Royal Ascot horse races in the UK, Indian livestock, and domestic and wild animals of the Arabian Peninsula. His work has been celebrated in special art shows in Melbourne, Singapore, London, Tokyo, New York, Hong Kong and elsewhere. Part of his work can be seen on

<http://www.jasonrobertsartist.com/greece>. Jason Roberts will stay in Greece almost the whole year, hosted by the SAVE Partner "Amalthia" (Greek Rare Breeds Preservation Society www.amalthia.org) and its members. He will mainly paint Greek livestock breeds in their natural environment. With this purpose in mind, he will travel on the Greek Mainland as well as to many islands, where the last remnants of Greek rare livestock breeds threatened with extinction can be found. A number of exhibitions and publications will result from Roberts's work in Greece. The aim is to place the richness of Greek nature, the value of native Greek farm animals and especially the rare Greek livestock breeds threatened with extinction on the international spotlight. Thus helping in raising awareness and conservation.

Mid -January 2017 the internationally renowned painter Jason Roberts from Melbourne-Australia

Saaser Mutten –sweet tailwind for the Breed

Sweet tailwind for „Saaser Mutten“ an endangered sheep breed from the Swiss canton of Valais. Saaser Mutten are a distinctive local strain of the Bergamasker Sheep from Italy (Alpi Orobic). Since Christmas 2016 the endangered Saaser Mutten are available as an excellent Swiss chocolate. This souvenir shall help to make the Saaser Mutten better known to the public as a cultural heritage of



canton Valais. If you visit this very famous region of Switzerland don't forget to buy a piece of "Saaser Muttchen chocolate"! A very nice and innovative idea of our Swiss partner organization ProSpecieRara! See:

<https://www.prospecierara.ch/de/news/suesser-rueckenwind-fuer-gefaehrdete-schafe>.

SAVE Annual Meeting 2017 in Portugal



The next SAVE annual meeting will take place in Portugal in Ponte de Lima at the occasion of the "Feiras Novas" (the new fairs), a three-day fair with rural products, animals and plants which has taken place since 1826 on the second weekend in September. Therefore the SAVE meeting is scheduled for **7-9 September 2017**

Portugal is the westernmost country of the mainland of Europe, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west and south and by Spain to the north and east. The Portugal-Spain border is 1,214 km (754 mi) long and considered to be the longest uninterrupted border within the European Union (more see Article page 4).

Ponte de Lima is located on the southern bank of the "Lima", a small river with source in Spain.

It is one of the oldest towns in Portugal (founded in 4 March 1125). Ponte de Lima was an important historic Roman settlement on the road from Braga to Santiago de Compostela and Lugo, and the first place in Portugal to receive town rights.

The attractive rural area includes the largest concentration of baroque manors in Portugal (Bertandos, Brandara, Calheiros and Pomarchão etc.). Ponte de Lima is also well known for its white Vinho Verde (green wine).

The SAVE Annual Meeting will take place in the



Escola Superior
Agrária de Ponte
de Lima, 706,
Refoios, 4990
Refóios do Lima,
Portugal, which is
part of the Instituto
Politécnico de
Viana do Castelo

The ESA-IPVC is located 4 km distance from the Highway A3 (Porto-Valença), 5 km from Ponte de Lima and 45 minutes from Porto.

SAVE THE DATE! More details and the invitation will follow soon.

