Urgent action is needed to sustainably manage livestock diversity

**ACTIONS**

**COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

and the **INTERLAKEN DECLARATION**

**Manure for fertilizer and fuel**

**Meat, milk, eggs, fibres and hides**

**Transport and draught power**

**Social and cultural values, economic assets and insurance**

**A source of resilience in the face of climate change**

**Maintenance of landscapes and wildlife habitats**

**BENEFITS**

**Meat, milk, eggs, fibres and hides**

**Transport and draught power**

**Social and cultural values, economic assets and insurance**

**A source of resilience in the face of climate change**

**Maintenance of landscapes and wildlife habitats**

**THE SECOND GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

The Second Report on the State of the World’s Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture updates the first report, published in 2007. It draws on information provided in 129 country reports, 15 reports from international organizations and inputs from 150 authors and reviewers. The second report identifies gaps and needs in the management of livestock diversity.

**THREATS TO DIVERSITY**

- Indiscriminate cross-breeding
- Introduction/increased use of exotic breeds
- Weak policies or institutions
- Lack of profitability/competitiveness
- Production system intensification
- Disease/disease management

**Gaps and needs**

- To improve knowledge of the characteristics and trends of animal genetic resources
- To strengthen institutional frameworks
- To improve awareness, education, training and research
- To strengthen breeding strategies and programmes
- To expand and diversify conservation programmes

**Genetic erosion**: 17 percent of breeds are at risk of extinction - 58 percent are of unknown risk status

**Introduction**

Animal genetic resources comprise more than 38 species and 8774 separate breeds of domesticated birds and mammals used in agriculture and food production.

**The Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources** is an international framework for the management of livestock diversity. The second report provides the basis for a review and potential update.

**www.fao.org/ag/angr.html**

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