



LIVESTOCK DIVERSITY HELPS COPE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

Livestock diversity or **animal genetic resources** are terms used to describe the pool of **38 species** of domesticated birds and mammals with more than **8 800 breeds** currently used for food and agriculture.

Did you know?

There are 800 breeds of cattle in the world, each with different valuable traits



LIVESTOCK ADAPTIVE TRAITS



Thrive on poor quality feed



Tolerate extreme temperatures



Tolerate or resist diseases



Tolerate drought



Walk long distances for water or food



Produce meat, eggs, and milk, even under stressful conditions



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE

Increase resilience to hazards including drought, floods and disease

Allow lands where no crops can grow to be productive

Allow for relocation of species or breeds better adapted to harsh climatic conditions

Form and maintain landscapes through grazing and manure fertilization, while facilitating biodiversity

Provide diverse income and food sources for millions of people

THE DIVERSITY OF LIVESTOCK BREEDS IS THREATENED

17% ARE AT RISK OF EXTINCTION

58% ARE OF UNKNOWN RISK STATUS

Nearly 100 livestock breeds have gone extinct between 2000 and 2014

IF WE LOSE LIVESTOCK DIVERSITY...

WE MAY FACE



Decreased resilience to climate change



Decreased food availability



Loss of income



Decreased physical well-being and life quality

WHAT CAN WE DO?



Be aware of the value of having a diverse pool of livestock genetic resources



Value products and services from indigenous breeds



Understand that farmers and herders are the custodians of livestock diversity



Encourage institutions to safeguard livestock genetic diversity for future use