



FAO International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

**Interlaken, Switzerland
1-7 September 2007**



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



**Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra**

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Background

The wise management of the world's agricultural biodiversity is becoming an ever greater challenge for the international community. The livestock sector in particular is undergoing dramatic changes as large-scale production expands in response to surging demand for meat, milk and eggs. At the same time, for hundreds of millions of poor rural households, livestock remain a key asset, often meeting multiple objectives, and enabling livelihoods to be built in some of the world's harshest environments. Today, many countries are losing these genetic resources, which are critical for both food security and sustainable development. Strenuous efforts to understand, prioritize and protect the world's animal genetic resources for food and agriculture are required. Sustainable patterns of utilization must be established and an agreed international framework for the management of these resources is crucial.

Objective

The Conference's objective is to achieve consensus on how to best address priorities for the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources, and to raise awareness and appreciation of the various roles and values of these essential resources.

Audience

The Conference will be the first ever inter-governmental conference dedicated entirely to concerns over current and future use of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. The 190 member countries of FAO will be invited. In addition, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations will be invited as observers. A total of 350-500 people is expected to attend.

Outcome

The main outcomes of the Conference are expected to be the:

- ▶ presentation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*: the first-ever global assessment of the status and trends of animal genetic resources, and the state of institutional and technological capacity to manage these resources,
- ▶ adoption of a *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*: including Strategic Priorities for Action – national and regional priorities that emerged from the preparation of *The State of World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, and
- ▶ adoption of the *Interlaken Declaration*: a political declaration reflecting the commitment of countries to the wise use of animal genetic resources to achieve food security and sustainable development.

Programme and content

Regional consultations will be held prior to the Conference, followed by a day of field excursions. Besides the policy negotiations, a scientific forum will inform policy makers on the state of knowledge on various topics, and different stakeholders will organize a range of side events. The Government of Switzerland will organize an exhibition entitled "Biodiversity, food and culture – discover farm animal diversity" in the centre of Interlaken, which will be open to the public (see <http://www.angr-expo.ch/e/>).

Organizer/Sponsor

This Conference is convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and kindly hosted by the Government of Switzerland. Financial support is highly appreciated. If you are interested in co-sponsoring this event, please contact the organizer.

Contact and information



FAO

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