

May 1997



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

**Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda**

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

**Seventh Session**

**Rome, 15-23 May 1997**

**REPORTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
ON THEIR POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES  
ON AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

The attached reports were received following the preparation of document CGRFA-7/97/7.

They are circulated in the languages in which they were received only.

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**UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION**

**WORLD BANK**

**World Bank Programs, Policies and Activities on Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture**

1. The World Bank is happy that FAO's "Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture" has broadened its mandate and revised its terms of reference, to cover all aspects of biodiversity conservation in productive landscapes. The World Bank recognizes that environmentally sustainable development of crop and livestock production and forestry is an imperative across a broad range of land use systems and that conservation and use of biodiversity is a key resource to accomplishing this goal.

2. The World Bank is actively engaging client governments in policy dialogue to incorporate environmentally and socially sustainable development objectives in economy-wide and sectoral policies and programs. Given the need for an effective incentive structure to promote biodiversity conservation in these policies and programs, the World Bank is assisting client countries in this endeavor on several fronts: First, as part of its overall initiative to promote sustainable intensification of agricultural production systems, the World Bank is examining the enabling policies, institutions and practices that allow farmers to increase productivity of their farms in an environmentally, socially and financially sustainable manner - particular attention is being paid to examining how these factors are integrated into farming systems which meet the objectives of increased productivity and conservation of biodiversity.

3. Second, as part of its commitment to help country partners implement their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the World Bank is taking steps to: (i) integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity within its overall policy dialogue and Country Assistance Strategies (CASs); (ii) facilitate cross-sectoral planning for biodiversity conservation, including integration of biodiversity conservation in National Environmental Action Plans and preparation of national Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans; (iii) help countries design biodiversity-friendly sector policies and programs, including reform of economy-wide and sectoral policies to internalize global externalities into national economic planning; (iv) ensure that Bank policies and practices help countries mainstream biodiversity; and (v) foster and expand strategic partnerships in support of biodiversity conservation. This action agenda is described in the World Bank's *Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development: A World Bank Assistance Strategy for Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity* (1995).

4. The Bank along with other agencies, has actively supported conservation of valuable plant genetic resources at Vavilov Institute in Russia. Agricultural sector work is increasingly paying attention to the issue of conserving plant genetic resources in agricultural projects. For example, Armenia has a diversified and unique assemblage of plant genetic material, but does not have a gene bank. Sector Work pointed out that foreign financial technical assistance is needed to preserve this germplasm under both *ex situ* and *in situ* conditions, and recommended that immediate steps be taken to prevent the destruction of progenitors of wheat in the biological preserve and park complex near the city of Yerevan.

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encouraging the Governments concerned to phase out distortions (e.g. subsidized Artificial Insemination Services, other inputs) favoring the use of exotic breeds, which displace valuable local breeds.

6. In its investments, the World Bank's concern for Agrobiodiversity is illustrated by a biodiversity-friendly range of activities. The China National Afforestation Project is establishing approximately one million hectares of forest with 75 percent native species. Genetic uniformity is being avoided by planting blocks of single species that do not exceed 100 hectares; further, the blocks are divided by strips of natural or planted broad leafed trees. A mosaic of different species including natural vegetation characterizes this afforestation project, unlike many others that tend to involve planting of a single species over vast areas.

7. Germplasm conservation is illustrated by the Zaire Agriculture research Project which includes the subject among twelve priority research programs identified in a master plan for research in the country. The Congo Wildlands Protection Project supports capacity building at the national herbarium, while the Gabon Forestry and Environment Project finances refrigeration facilities for seed storage at the country's national arboretum. Through Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project in Lake Chilka, India, the aquatic biodiversity in the form of fish species of economic and ecological importance, other aquatic organisms and migratory birds are maintained. In fact through a number of Seeds Projects, the World Bank is encouraging client countries to conserve (both *ex situ* and *in situ*), characterize and utilize national genetic diversity. The Bank through GEF has supported establishment of centers for germplasm conservation in Poland and Turkey. It is also supporting Integrated Pest Management in agricultural projects that contribute to biodiversity conservation and use. In the area of domestic animal genetic diversity, the World Bank is following the strategy of conservation through improvement, and is funding several improvement schemes for local breeds, for example, in operations in Ghana, India and Senegal, covering cattle, buffaloes, small ruminants and pigs. Typically, such operations consist of the establishment of a broad based, village level, recording and selection scheme for the local breeds, and the creation of small elite herds or flocks, using breeders associations.

8. The World Bank supports, as well, regional efforts, such as the Initiative for Collaboration to Control Natural Resource Degradation (Desertification) of Arid Lands in the Middle East, which focuses on arid land germplasm as one of its four areas for collaborative adaptive research and demonstration of existing technologies.

9. Finally, the World Bank will continue to participate in national and international efforts to promote biodiversity-friendly sector policies and programs through consultations, dialogues, investments, and dissemination of good practices.

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## INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

### FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DE ZOOTECHNIE

#### **Rapport sur les activités de la FEZ dans le domaine des ressources génétiques animales domestiques**

1. Ce rapport étant le premier que la FEZ est amenée à présenter devant cette instance (CGRFA), il est nécessaire de donner un bref historique. La diversité animale domestique observée aujourd'hui en Europe est le résultat d'une longue histoire de pratiques humaines à travers un continent géographiquement très divers. Cependant, des actions concertées de conservations n'ont réellement commencé en Europe qu'avec la création en 1980 d'un groupe de travail FEZ ressources génétiques (EAAP WG-AGR). Ce groupe a fonctionné sans interruption depuis cette date, avec comme premier objectif, comme indiqué dans ses termes de référence, de "promouvoir l'étude, la documentation, l'inventaire, la conservation et le développement approprié des ressources génétiques animales, particulièrement celles qui sont menacées de disparition en Europe et dans le Bassin Méditerranéen".
2. Une activité importante de la FEZ fut d'organiser des enquêtes sur les races et populations animales européennes, pour les espèces bovines (incluant le buffle), ovine, caprine, porcine et équine (incluant l'âne). De telles enquêtes furent menées en 1982, 1985 et 1988. Cette dernière fournit les données que furent enregistrées dans une banque de données électronique établie à Hannover en 1987, avec l'appui de la Fondation Allemande pour la Science et de la FAO, et appelée EAAP-Animal Genetic Data Bank (EAAP-AGDB). Le questionnaire de recueil des données établi en 1988, conjointement par la FEZ et la FAO, est toujours en vigueur aujourd'hui et sert de base de recueil des informations et à leur mise à jour, tant au niveau européen (EAAP-AGDB) que mondial (FAO-DAD-IS).
3. La FEZ a d'une manière continue apporté son concours au programme mondial de gestion des ressources génétiques animales, en fournissant notamment les données relatives au continent européen incluses dans la "Liste Mondiale d'Alerte" FAO/UNEP, publiée pour la première fois en 1993. En 1994/95, la FEZ a également participé avec la FAO dans l'établissement des points de contact dans chaque pays européen, les "National Focal Point" (NFP).
4. La FEZ s'est proposée en 1996 pour coordonner un projet d'inventaire permanent des ressources génétiques animales, qui fut soumis à l'Union Européenne, et retenu pour un financement couvrant une période de 18 mois (1997/98). Cette action concertée vise essentiellement à assurer une meilleure coordination des activités ressources génétiques aux niveaux national (NFP), régional européen (UE et FEZ) et mondial (FAO).
5. Le groupe de travail (WG-AGR) de la FEZ est rattaché à la Commission de Génétique, une des 8 Commissions d'Etude de la FEZ, et exercé ainsi une fonction d'expertise scientifique sur les questions liées à la gestion et à la conservation des ressources génétiques.
6. Soulignons enfin que la FEZ bénéficie du statut d'observateur à la Conférence des Parties de la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique, et insert donc ses activités dans le cadre général des objectifs de cette Convention. La FEZ a participé notamment aux COP qui ont eu lieu depuis l'entrée en vigueur de la Convention.

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## **INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ANIMAL RECORDING (ICAR)**

1. ICAR is a non-government, nonprofit making voluntary association for farm animal recording and genetic evaluation of animals. ICAR's aim is to promote extension and improvement of animal recording and genetic evaluation of animals through formulation of standards for the measurement of traits of economic importance. ICAR functions through its constitution, the agreement that member country signs and the Special Stamp Regulations. Currently ICAR has 42 countries as its members. ICAR elects its Board from the representatives of its full members' organisations. It operates through permanent subcommittees, working groups and task forces, to cover specific areas of recording and evaluation which require regular updating, such as:

- i. Recording methods and standards
- ii. Standards for recording and analytical equipment
- iii. Animal evaluations
- iv. Publications and enquiries
- v. Rules review/membership
- vi. Other activities as the Board may decide.

2. ICAR follows national and international legislation. Its guidelines and recommendations are to be regarded as minimum requirements set up to ensure a satisfactory degree of uniformity of recording among member countries, with maximum flexibility in the choice of methods. If they so wish, ICAR member countries may enforce more stringent rules.

3. Every two years the proceedings of the biennial meeting are published. The constitution, Special Stamp and the International Agreement on Recording Practices are also published with its guidelines and regularly updated. A newsletter is published three times a year and circulated to all member organisations and to other organisations and individuals interested in the work of ICAR.

### **Developing countries**

4. The International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR) has recognised the importance of an integrated animal recording system combining production performance recording with animal reproduction, health and feeding information for improving production and productivity of animals in developing countries. Considering the fact that only a very few organisations from the developing countries have so far become a member, the ICAR in 1994 decided to set up an ICAR Development Fund specifically with objective to further the development of animal recording in developing countries. A special Task Force for the Development Fund has been set up to assist in setting up animal recording programmes in developing countries. FAO participates in this Task Force. The Task Force carried out a survey on animal recording and genetic evaluation practises in developing countries. Now it intends to organise a workshop in India and prepare working guidelines for developing practical animal recording systems in developing countries. The Workshop has been organised at the National Dairy Development Board of India (NDDB) in Anand that has done some work in developing animal recording and genetic evaluation systems for small holders in cattle and buffaloes.

### **Genetic resources**

5. ICAR does not support a special breed or task without recording activities and neither is a breeding, management or genetic resources programme possible. Through its activities ICAR opens borders in the field of comparison, improvement and conservation of animals/breeds. The activities of the Task Force Development Fund can be of great importance to the programmes on genetic resources.