

# Thematic studies

In addition to the Country Reports and the reports from international organizations, a number of thematic studies were commissioned by FAO. These studies were intended to contribute to the understanding of specific topics likely not to be covered in Country Reports, but relevant to the preparation of the SoW-AnGR. During the period 2002 to 2006, 12 thematic studies were prepared:

- **Opportunities for incorporating genetic elements into the management of farm animal diseases: policy issues.** A review paper on the potential of genetic elements in the management of disease, technical opportunities, and benefits arising from the incorporation of these elements in effective disease management<sup>1</sup> (2002);
- **Measurement of domestic animal diversity (MoDAD) – a review of recent diversity studies.** A survey evaluating the current status of molecular genetic research in domestic animal species, with emphasis on characterization of AnGR<sup>2</sup> (2004);
- **The economics of farm animal genetic resource conservation and sustainable use: why is it important and what have we learned?** A study on the valuation of AnGR, summarizing methodological approaches and knowledge gaps<sup>3</sup> (2004);
- **Conservation strategies for animal genetic resources.** A study contrasting opportunities, challenges, biological characteristics, institutional infrastructure and operational considerations influencing management of plant and animal genetic resources<sup>4</sup> (2004);
- **Environmental effects on animal genetic resources.** An evaluation and synthesis of the evidence available on a spectrum of environmental factors and their effects on AnGR at the individual animal and the breeding population levels<sup>5</sup> (2004);
- **The legal framework for the management of animal genetic resources.** An introductory study of policy and legal frameworks for the management of AnGR including a survey of countries in different world regions<sup>6</sup> (2004, printed revised version 2005 - FAO LEGISLATIVE STUDY No. 89);
- **The impact of disasters and emergencies on animal genetic resources.** A study which provides an overview of potential disasters and their possible impact on AnGR. It also provides an analysis of the effects of emergency responses. It proposes decision support guidelines for disaster management<sup>7</sup> (2006);
- **The state of development of biotechnologies as they relate to the management of animal genetic resources and their potential application in developing countries.** An introductory study of biotechnology applications and their use in developing countries, which includes information provided in Country Reports<sup>8</sup> (2006);
- **Exchange, use and conservation of animal genetic resources: policy and regulatory options.** A study which identifies how exchange practices related to AnGR affect the various stakeholders in the livestock sector (2006);
- **A strategic approach for conservation and continued use of farm animal genetic resources.** A study which outlines patterns of change in AnGR use and their impact on conservation. It summarizes current experience, and the capacity of alternative conservation measures, considering the needs and aspirations of the various stakeholders whose livelihoods depend on animal production<sup>9</sup> (2006);
- **People and animals. Traditional livestock keepers: guardians of domestic animal diversity**<sup>10</sup>. A documentation of 13 case studies from all over the world on how communities manage their local AnGR, demonstrating the value of local knowledge in preserving the equilibrium between farmers, animals and environment (2007);
- **Gene flow in animal genetic resources. A study on status, impact and trends.** A study providing analysis of the magnitude and direction of movement of genetic material of the four major farm animal species: cattle, pigs, goats, and sheep. Determining factors are identified and selected; examples of impacts on economic development, poverty reduction and biodiversity in developing countries are presented (2007), (issue papers in [English/French/Spanish](#) (2006)).

<sup>1</sup> Background Study Paper No. 18

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04 inf. 3

<sup>3</sup> Background Study Paper No. 21

<sup>4</sup> Background Study Paper No. 22

<sup>5</sup> Background Study Paper No. 28

<sup>6</sup> Background Study Paper No. 24

<sup>7</sup> Background Study Paper No. 32

<sup>8</sup> Background Study Paper No. 33

<sup>9</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-4/06/Inf.6

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1057e/a1057e00.HTM>