

***REPORT***

Commission on  
Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture

Rome, Italy  
31 March –  
2 April 2004

**Intergovernmental  
Technical Working  
Group on Animal  
Genetic Resources  
for Food and  
Agriculture**

Third Session



Food and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of the United  
Nations



**CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/REPORT**

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

**REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION**

**OF THE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON  
ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**Rome, Italy, 31 March – 2 April 2004**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Rome, 2004**

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<http://www.fao.org/dad-is>

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## COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Rome, Italy, 31 March-2 April 2004

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Third Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) met in Rome, Italy, from 31 March to 2 April 2004. The list of delegates and observers is attached as *Appendix D*.

#### II. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR, AND *RAPPORTEUR*

2. Ms. Elzbieta Martyniuk (Poland), Chair of the Working Group, welcomed delegates and observers. She noted the importance of this session in guiding completion of the *State of the World* reporting process, and in advancing implementation of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources (Global Strategy). Ms. Martyniuk thanked the Secretariat of the Commission and the Animal Genetic Resources Group of FAO, along with its senior management, for all of the advice and support she received during her period as Chair. She acknowledged the dedication and determination of Dr. Keith Hammond in advancing the Global Strategy.

3. Ms. Martyniuk invited nominations for the Chair, Vice-Chair and *Rapporteur*. The Working Group elected Mr. Carlos Mezzadra (Argentina) as Chair, and Mr. Harvey D. Blackburn (United States of America) as Vice-Chair. Mr. Baitsi Podisi (Botswana) was elected *Rapporteur*.

4. Ms. Louise Fresco, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department, welcomed delegates and observers on behalf of FAO Director-General, Mr. Jacques Diouf. She noted the impressive attendance of the session, and the significant progress that had been made in preparing Country Reports for Animal Genetic Resources, observing that these were indicators of improved understanding of the contribution of animal genetic resources to food and agriculture. Ms. Fresco underlined the importance of developing and using genetic resources in a sustainable manner involving local people and traditional knowledge. She stressed the importance of the Working Group in providing sound advice to the Commission, in particular on how best to complete the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* and the desirability of concluding the *State of the World* reporting process through a first International Technical Conference on animal genetic resources. Ms. Fresco also indicated the need for the Working Group to identify priorities for further development of the Global Strategy. She confirmed the continued commitment of FAO to the *State of the World* reporting process and the further development of the Global Strategy. Ms. Fresco stressed that extra-budgetary support has been essential in the past, and would continue to be necessary in

future, to both continue the strategic planning phases and implementation of priority actions. She urged donors to mobilize the necessary financial resources.

5. The Working Group adopted the Agenda, as given in *Appendix A*.

### **III. REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION OF THE FIRST REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

6. The Secretariat introduced a *Progress Report on the preparation of the first Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources in the context of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources*<sup>1</sup>, and an *Update on the progress Report on the preparation of the first Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*<sup>2</sup>. It also noted that a National Coordinators' Workshop for animal genetic resources workshop had preceded the Third Session of the Working Group.

7. The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources (Working Group) reviewed progress and a revised schedule for completing the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, noting that substantial progress had been made in the preparation of Country Reports for animal genetic resources. It stressed the important financial contribution by FAO and the technical partnership involving FAO, the World Association for Animal Production and other relevant organizations and governments, which had enabled preparation of Country Reports in all regions. It thanked donors for the support that had made regional training and meetings possible. The Working Group recommended that the Commission agree to the revised schedule, by which the Commission would conduct a first review of the *Report* in 2006, and consider its adoption during an intergovernmental technical conference in 2007.

8. The Working Group noted that the revised schedule included the preparation of a *Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*, which would be reviewed by the Commission at its Tenth Regular Session in 2004. It stressed that it should be made clear to the Commission that the *Report* is a draft FAO synthesis report based on priorities identified in Country Reports received up to June 2004. The Working Group indicated its wish to review the draft synthesis *Report* as soon as possible electronically and requested that country comments be received by a fixed date. It also noted the importance of reviewing the outcomes of thematic studies.

9. The Working Group considered options for the initiation of a follow-up mechanism to encourage and support implementation of country and regional priorities that have emerged from Country Reports and regional meetings. It strongly recommended that the Commission establish a follow-up mechanism as soon as possible within the existing structure provided in the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources, building on and strengthening national focal points, regional focal points and the global focal point. The Working Group requested that FAO should explore options for a follow-up mechanism for the Commission to consider, and stressed that the Commission should bear in mind the type of expertise necessary to ensure an effective follow-up mechanism, considering the need to mobilize financial resources, enhance technical assistance, and improve communication to raise the profile of the roles and values of animal genetic resources.

10. The Working Group emphasized the need for immediate follow-up action, as many countries had already identified priorities in their Country Reports; similarly, some regional needs for improved animal genetic resources utilization had been identified, where action is required. It noted that the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) provided one avenue for implementing animal genetic resources projects. It recommended that TCP projects be prepared and implemented in each region to encourage countries to continue to give high priority to animal genetic resources. The Working Group

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/2

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

suggested a review of the project duration provision of the TCP Programme so as to better meet the periods of time necessary for the successful implementation of animal genetic resources projects. It requested that FAO consider opportunities to develop a rapid response to country and regional priorities for animal genetic resources and in this regard, recommended that the Commission request FAO to seek resources for establishing a follow-up mechanism to perform fund-raising, project design, and communication activities.

11. The Working Group noted the important contributions of donors and stakeholders in the *State of the World* reporting process at all levels, and stressed that their involvement should continue and be enhanced, to achieve implementation of country and regional priorities. They recommended that the Commission build and strengthen donor and stakeholder participation in the *State of the World* reporting process through partnerships, including the better engagement of non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

12. The Working Group considered the need for regional consultations in 2005, using the draft synthesis *Report on Strategic Priorities for Action* as a basis. The Working Group strongly endorsed the need for regional consultations, and recommended that the Commission and FAO consider such consultations as a high priority component of the *State of the World* reporting process. The Working Group recognized that extra-budgetary resources will be necessary to undertake these important consultations.

13. The Working Group considered the need to better inform and involve policy-makers in the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, in order to increase awareness of the functions and values of animal genetic resources and to ensure commitment to implementation of priority actions. It recommended that the Commission encourage all countries to better engage policy-makers in the *State of the World* reporting process. It also stressed the need to involve non-governmental and civil society organizations, as well as the private sector, in the process.

14. The Working Group discussed actions that should be undertaken to further encourage countries that had not yet prepared a Country Report. It recommended that FAO continue to mobilize financial resources to support the preparation of the remaining country reports, including through the provision of technical support, and to complete all of the regional follow-up workshops.

15. The Working Group considered completing the development of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, through the convening of the First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources. It recommended that the Commission recommend that FAO convene this Conference, because this would enable all interested parties to fully debate the issues and strategic priorities involved. The Working Group stressed that such a conference would be an excellent opportunity to achieve governmental consensus on ways forward, and to raise awareness of the importance of animal genetic resources for food security and rural development. It also noted that the Conference would play an important role in endorsing and strengthening the partnerships necessary to achieving the priorities that the Conference might decide.

#### **IV. REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED PROCESS AND OUTLINE FOR THE FIRST REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES INCLUDING THE REPORT ON STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR ACTION**

16. The FAO Secretariat introduced a proposed *Draft Outline for the First Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*<sup>3</sup>. This contained a separate section with the outline of the *Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*, which would be prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the Country Reports, and submitted for consideration by the Commission at its Tenth Session.

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<sup>3</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/2 Add.1.

17. The Working Group noted with approval that the outline reflected the guidelines for the preparation of Country Reports. It identified ways of strengthening the outline, including by considering the need for regional and sub-regional collaboration in a number of the sections. The Working Group noted that the term, “Farm Animals”, included those animal genetic resources currently or potentially contributing to food and agriculture, as well as underutilized resources. The first *Report on the State of the World’s Animal Genetic Resources* should report on all roles and functions of animal genetic resources, including their economic and social values. In considering the changing demands on livestock production, disease factors – including the effects of emergencies and the need to identify disease-resistance – should be included. Attention should also be paid to issues of access and benefit-sharing, based on countries’ sovereign rights over their natural resources and subject to national legislation.

18. The Working Group emphasized the importance of providing clear options and guidance on ways to improve the conservation and sustainable utilization of animal genetic resources in Part 6, *The Way Ahead: Mainstreaming Animal Genetic Resources*. It then endorsed the outline for forwarding to the Commission, following incorporation of the changes requested. The Working Group also requested that provision be made for an executive summary or synopsis, in order to inform senior policy-makers and managers of the agreed strategic priorities and actions.

19. A number of countries expressed the opinion that the Commission, at its Tenth Session, should consider initiating a process of negotiation of an international treaty on animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. In this context, it was noted that the Ninth Session of the Commission had left the issue open for consideration in its future sessions, pending completion of the first *Report on the State of the World’s Animal Genetic Resources*.

## **V. REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FARM ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

20. The FAO Secretariat introduced a *Progress Report on the Further Development of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources*.<sup>4</sup>

21. The Working Group reviewed the progress that had been made to advance the Global Strategy since its last session. It considered the need to strengthen national focal points for animal genetic resources, and indicated that support and official recognition from FAO of the importance of national focal points, and in particular, of the national consultative committees for animal genetic resources, would encourage governments to maintain and support these important bodies, or other relevant national committees undertaking the functions of advancing the national animal resources agenda.

22. The Working Group stressed the need for progress in the establishment of regional focal points for animal genetic resources. The Working Group was informed of the operation of the European Regional Focal Point and that its expanding membership was expected to strengthen regional collaboration. It noted that the need for enhanced regional collaboration and coordination had been re-confirmed by the *State of the World* reporting process leading to the preparation of Country Reports. The Working Group suggested that FAO should solicit resources and encourage commitments for the establishment of regional focal points for animal genetic resources.

23. The Working Group reviewed the Domestic Animal Diversity-Information System (DAD-IS) as a global communications tool for animal genetic resources. It noted that many countries had difficulty in accessing the System and that it was in need of updating and further development. The Working Group indicated that financial resources would be needed to enhance the Information System so as to serve as an effective communication tool to enable routine updating of data from countries and

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<sup>4</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/3

other sources, and to link it with other relevant data and information sources. It stressed that future developments of DAD-IS should take full account of developing country requirements.

## VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

24. After reviewing the progress in the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*<sup>5</sup>, and in the further development of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources,<sup>6</sup> the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources recommended to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, at its Tenth Session, that:

- i. The Commission endorse the revised schedule and process for undertaking preparation of the country-driven first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, which now if agreed to by the Commission, would be first reviewed by the Commission in 2006, and would be considered for adoption during an intergovernmental technical conference for animal genetic resources in 2007;
- ii. The Commission initiate the establishment of a follow-up mechanism in 2004 as previously agreed by the Commission, to ensure implementation of priorities that are identified in Country Reports and in the draft *Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*;
- iii. The Commission stress to governments, donors and stakeholders the need to contribute to the establishment of a follow-up mechanism through partnerships and mobilization of funding to complete the *State of the World Report* process;
- iv. The Commission agree that FAO should undertake regional consultations in 2005 using as a basis the first draft of the *Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*, to determine regional priorities and initiate follow-up actions, and thereby facilitate preparation of the first draft of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*;
- v. The Commission agree that the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources meet in 2006 to review the first draft of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, and to provide advice to the Commission to evaluate the follow-up mechanism;
- vi. The Commission encourage the delegates of countries to better inform and to involve their policy-makers in the process of preparing the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* to increase awareness of the functions and values of animal genetic resources, and to facilitate implementation of priority actions identified in Country Reports and available regional priority reports;
- vii. The Commission encourage countries that have not yet prepared a Country Report to do so so as to allow them to contribute to both the *Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*, and the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, as well as to provide a foundation for planning national animal genetic resources use, development and conservation, and the search for donor support in these areas;
- viii. FAO establish December 2004 as the final date for submission of Country Reports that will be included in the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, in order for the first *Report* to be considered by the Commission in 2006 and be available for adoption at an intergovernmental technical conference in 2007;

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<sup>5</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/2.

<sup>6</sup> CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/3.

- ix. The Commission agree to completing the process of the development of the first *Report* at a first international technical conference on animal genetic resources and ask FAO to prepare a budget, search for extra-budgetary funds and seek a host country;
- x. FAO emphasize to countries the need to establish and strengthen their national focal points for animal genetic resources to enhance participation in the further development of the Global Strategy, including implementation of strategic priorities identified in the Country Reports, and consider maintaining their national consultative committees or other committees as appropriate to ensure stakeholder support and participation in the Global Strategy at the national level;
- xi. The follow-up mechanism undertake, as one of its first tasks, the establishment and maintenance of regional networks and regional focal points for animal genetic resources. Until such regional focal points become operational, FAO should continue to support the regional facilitation mechanisms that had assisted countries in the preparation of their Country Reports;
- xii. FAO undertake a comprehensive review of DAD-IS with the aim of making it easier for countries to use the System effectively, and seek the resources to further develop DAD-IS as an effective communication tool;
- xiii. A study be undertaken to identify the ways in which animal genetic resources are currently exchanged, and how exchange practices affect the various stakeholders in the livestock sector. The Working Group was of the opinion that such a study could make an important contribution to decision-making regarding the future management of animal genetic resources and welcomed the offer by the United Kingdom to consider providing the necessary funding for such a study;
- xiv. FAO commission a study on recent developments in biotechnology, and current and potential use of biotechnologies, with a view to understanding constraints, especially for developing countries, in acquiring and using available biotechnologies relevant to animal genetic resources use, development and conservation;
- xv. Countries further develop, with FAO and other Organizations, technical cooperation projects that involve the sustainable utilization and conservation of animal genetic resources, in light of strategic priorities identified in Country Reports;
- xvi. FAO and other organizations, based on the results of the Country Reports and the *Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*, prepare a proposal for ongoing country-based monitoring of animal genetic resources, and in particular those resources most at risk of being lost, and identify options for establishing a country-driven regional early warning and response mechanism;
- xvii. FAO investigate the feasibility of animal genetic resources genebanks, as a possibly cost-effective national conservation measure, especially in light of recent advances in the relevant technologies and methodologies. The Working Group, however, noted that significant capacity would be required by countries to sustain such genebanks, and that in many developing countries, *in situ* conservation was the priority;
- xviii. Donors further support development of the Global Strategy, especially to enable regional training in sustainable animal genetic resources utilization, to provide developing countries with improved capacity to use and develop their animal genetic resources;
- xix. FAO continue to develop decision-support tools and provide training to make possible the improved use of locally adapted breeds in low- to medium-input production systems; and
- xx. FAO continue to develop the Global Strategy, and that the Working Group meet in 2006 to review progress in its further development.

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**APPENDIX A**

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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON  
ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE****Third Session****31 March – 2 April 2004****AGENDA**

1. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair(s)  
Election of the *Rapporteur*
2. Adoption of the agenda and timetable
3. Review of the progress in the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, and of the proposed process and outline of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* including the *Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*
4. Review of activities, and progress in the implementation of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the Report of the Working Group



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**APPENDIX B**

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**LIST OF DOCUMENTS****Working Documents**

- CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/1/Add.1 Provisional annotated agenda and timetable
- CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/2 Progress Report on the Preparation of the First *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* in the context of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources
- CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/2/Add.1 Draft Outline for the First *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* including the *Report on Strategic Priorities for Action*
- CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/2/Add.2 (English Only) Update on the Progress Report on the Preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* in the context of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources
- CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/3 Progress Report on the further Development of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources

**Information documents (in English only)**

- CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/Inf.1 A Regional Focal Point for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources: The European Experience
- CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/Inf.3 Measurement of Domestic Animal Diversity - a Review of recent Diversity Studies

**Background Study Paper (in English only)**

- Background Study Paper No. 21 The Economics of Farm Animal Genetic Resource Conservation and sustainable Use: Why is it important and what have we learned?



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**APPENDIX C**

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**MEMBERS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP  
ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ELECTED AT THE NINTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
Rome, 14-18 October 2002**

Africa	Algeria Botswana Cameroon Eritrea Mali
Asia	China India Korea, Republic of Thailand Vietnam
Europe	Denmark France Netherlands Turkey Slovenia
Latin America and the Caribbean	Argentina Bolivia Brazil Chile Uruguay
Near East	Egypt Iran, Islamic Republic of Sudan
North America	Canada United States of America
Southwest Pacific	New Zealand Samoa



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المرفق دال

附录 D

APPENDIX D – ANNEXE D – ANEXO D

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قائمة المندوبين والمراقبين

代表名单

LIST OF DELEGATES

LISTE DES DELEGUÉS ET OBSERVATEURS

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Baitsi PODISI (Botswana)	:		المقرر 报告员 Rapporteur

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