

Good Practices for the Meat Industry
 Published by FAO, Animal Production and Health
 Via delle Terme di Caracalla Rome, Italy
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In recent years, public concern about the safety of foods of animal origin has heightened due to problems that have arisen with BSE, as well as with outbreaks of food borne bacterial infections, and food contamination with toxic agents (e.g. dioxin). These problems have serious implications for national food safety, the development of the animal products industry and for international trade in livestock products. The purpose of this manual is to provide updated comprehensive information and practical guidelines for the implementation of the new Code of hygienic practice for meat, when adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission is in the final stages of negotiation of a new Code of hygienic practice for meat. The Code implies a transition from meat inspection towards a risk-based approach covering the entire food chain.

Section 1 of the manual deals with the application of risk analysis principles to the meat sector starting from the point of production, i.e. in the animal population from which the meat is sourced. Standards and practices in primary production are covered in Section 2. Section 3 covers animal identification and Section 4 product traceability.

The following section (5) focuses on transport of animals to the slaughter facilities, duly taking into account growing animal welfare considerations. This is followed by Sections 6, 7, 8 and 9 on ante-mortem inspection; preslaughter handling, stunning and slaughter methods; post-mortem examination; and hygiene,



dressing and carcass handling. The sections on stunning and slaughter methods benefit from the experience gained in the reduction of the risk of BSE. Those on ante- and post-mortem inspection are built on the substantial historical experience of the global meat sector, and are largely documented from FAO resources.

There are sections on design, facilities and equipment (10) and personal hygiene (11). Section 12 of the manual describes the implementation of a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan for the meat industry. Finally, there is a section (13) on the role of governments and other regulatory authorities in meat hygiene.

This publication is intended to guide managers of abattoirs and the meat industry. It will also be of value to veterinarians engaged in meat inspection, with their supervisory roles in meat hygiene. The manual is published in detachable modules and also serves as a training resource.

Characterization of Small Ruminant Breeds in West Asia and North Africa

L. Iñiguez (Ed.)

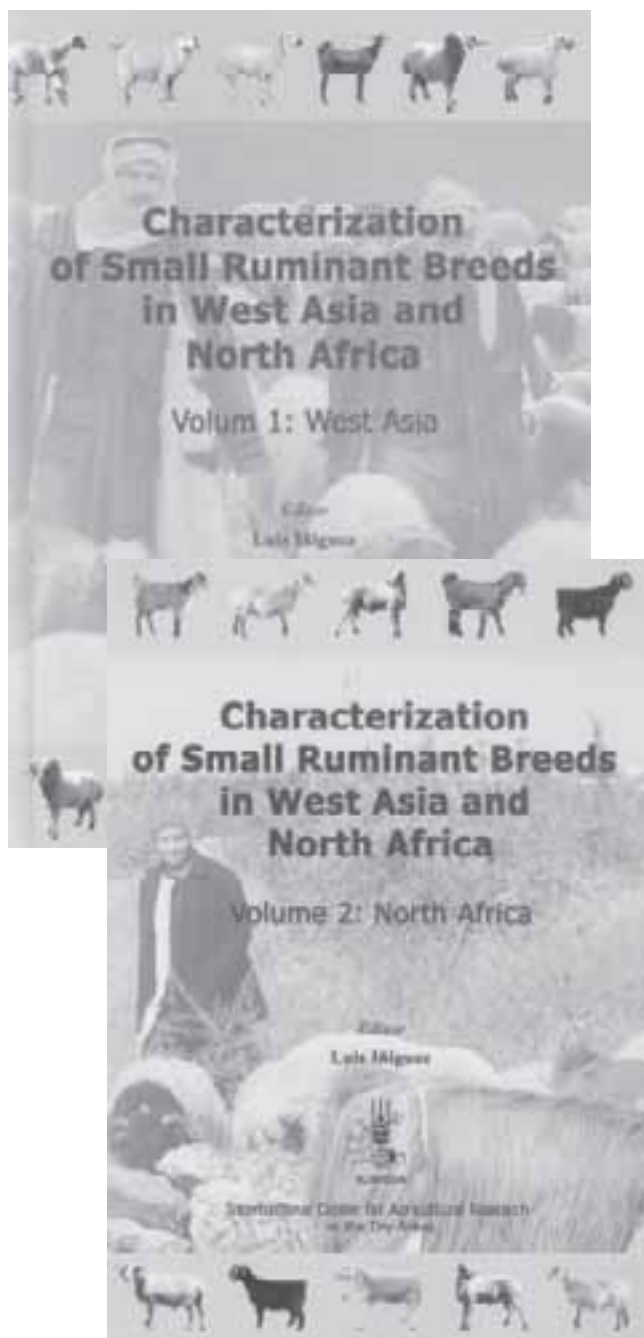
Published by International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), P.O. Box 5466, Aleppo, Syria

Published in 2005

Volume 1: West Asia, ISBN: 92-9127-164-9, pp. 462
Volume 2: North Africa, ISBN: 92-9127-177-3, pp. 106

In 2000, ICARDA, with support from CGIAR Inter-Center Working Group for Genetic Resources, commissioned a series of studies to document breeds of sheep and goats in 11 countries in the Near East. The countries included seven from West Asia, Cyprus, Jordan, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey and four from Mediterranean North Africa, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. Volume 1 of this study is concerned with the countries of West Asia and while Volume 2 deals with North Africa. The books include a chapter on each country prepared by authorities on small ruminants in respective countries, beside an introductory chapter by the Editor on small ruminants in this region. Material in the book has been well structured to follow a skeleton set by the Editor which makes it easy to extract information. The two volumes compile available information on 75 sheep breeds and 32 goat breeds. This information includes characteristics of sheep and goat breeds in term of morphology and performance, development of their populations, description of production systems and how they fit in the whole of agricultural system, effort for their genetic improvement either by selection within the breed or through crossbreeding, any available estimates of genetic parameters and assessment of risk status for each breed. The volumes contain many colored breed photos, illustrations and tables.

Volume 1 is hard-cover while Volume 2 is paperback but both are of high quality production. It is a must reading for those who are concerned with animal genetic resources especially in the Near East.



Animal Production and Natural Resources Utilization in the Mediterranean Area

A. Georgoudis, A. Rosati & C. Mosconi (Eds)

Proc. of the Mediterranean Symposium organised by EAAP, CIHEAM, HSAP
and FAO in Ioanina, Greece 5-7 June 2003,

Published in 2005, pp. 624

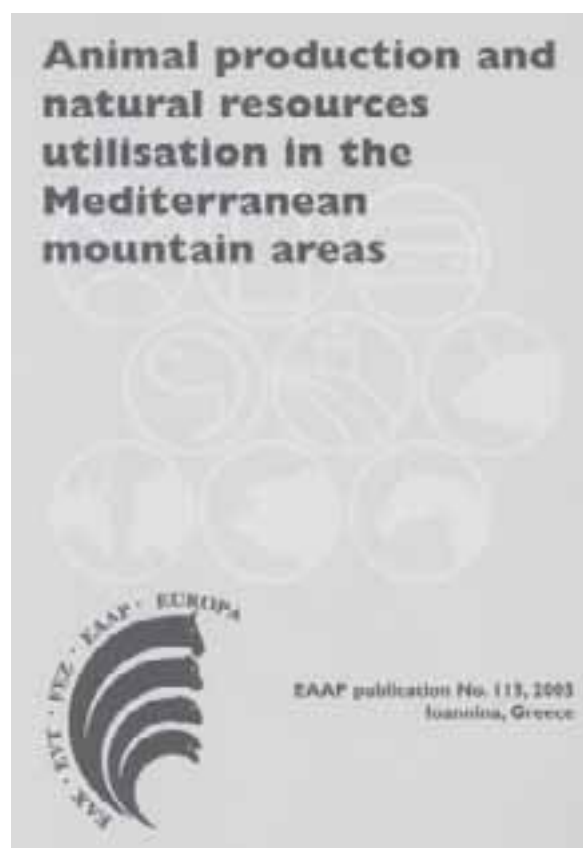
ISBN: 9076998566; ISSN: 0071-2477

Mediterranean mountains contain an integrated complex of natural resources and their inhabitants, depending generally directly on many of these resources for their livelihoods, tend to utilize and manage them through a combination of land-use practices, mainly livestock production and forestry. The specific mountain-related conditions, which the mountain communities face are, the limited land resources, the marginal agricultural conditions, isolation, and scanty equipment and infrastructure. Livestock production and forestry are key sources of income yet are carried out under such harsh conditions.

These products are key to the regions' sustainability. Following such considerations, the main topics discussed among the 300 participants of the symposium held in Ioanina, Greece, were:

1. Human geography of Mediterranean mountain territories, with particular relevance to the importance of human communities, basis of agricultural activity, factors of changes and constraints.
2. Livestock production and natural resources with special emphasis on the characterisation and utilisation of land resources by livestock and sustainable utilisation of forest areas.
3. Improving the efficiency of livestock systems in Mediterranean Mountains. In particular, management, feed resources, genetic resources, productivity, typical products, processing, marketing, traceability, use of biotechnologies, biosecurity, non-trade products, administrative and technical supports.
4. Applications of new technologies for environmentally sound management of
- livestock and natural resource as the case for the use of GIS, and other technologies.
5. Livestock as a fundamental factor for rural development and safeguard of natural resources with the presentation of specific case studies; the strategies for preservation and valorisation of endogenous culture and traditional knowledge; development of high value-added animal products.

A final Round Table on "Development and support policies for sustaining and promoting the livestock sector in Mountainous areas" concluded the meeting.



OIE/FAO International Scientific Conference on Avian Influenza

A. Schudel & M. Lombard (Eds)

Developments in Biologicals, Vol. 124

Proceedings of an International Conference held in Paris, France, April 2005

Publisher: S. Karger AG, Basel

Published in 2005, pp. 278

ISSN: 1424-6074; ISBN 3-8055-8031-2

This monograph comprises the Proceedings of an International Conference on Avian Influenza held in Paris, France, in April 2005.

The main topics discussed during the conference were the new scientific discoveries in the domain of avian influenza (AI), with special emphasis on the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

This publication provides important up-to-date information on the virology, epidemiology and molecular biology as well as the history of episodes of avian influenza in different parts of the world and their consequences.

The publication aims at making recommendations to compare and improve the international procedures and standards related to the identification, prevention, control and elimination of AI epizootics as they are a threat to the livelihood of farmers, especially in developing countries, to public health as well as to national economies.

Chief veterinary officers, animal health regulatory officials, veterinarians, poultry-raising associations, consumer associations, specialised journalists and all those who need to understand and control AI episodes will benefit from reading this book. Indispensable for anyone involved in the burning issue of avian influenza



Lithuanian Native Domestic Animal Breeds

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Department of Animal Breeding and Genetics

R. Zebenkos g. 12, LT 82317 Baisogala, Radviliskio r., Lithuania

Published in 2005, pp. 31

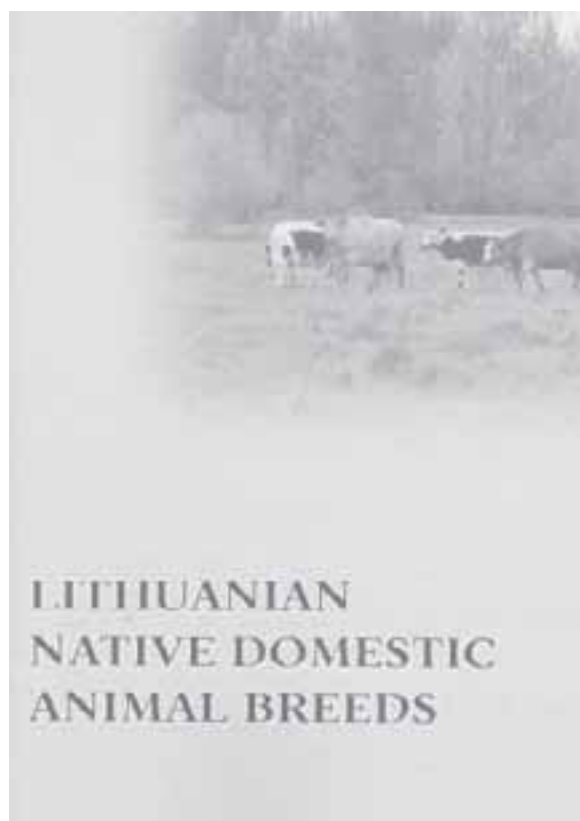
ISBN: 9955-676-22-1

This soft cover publication, written both in Lithuania and in English, lists some of the indigenous animal and poultry breeds of Lithuania that have become extinct, others, such as Zemaitukai horses, wattle pigs, ash-grey and whitebacked cattle, native sheep, Vistines geese, are on the verge of extinction.

Lithuania committed itself to conservation of its genetic resources by signing the Conservation convention on Biological Diversity in Rio de Janeiro.

The publication is based on the attempts performed in the period 1993-1996 by the Lithuanian Institute of Animal Science (LIAS) in organizing the conservation of the endangered breeds. Several expeditions to the remote parts of the country were organized with the aim to collect and purchase the remaining wattle pigs and Zemaitukai horses. Herds of wattle pigs, Zemaitukai horses, and native sheep, Ash-grey and White-backed cattle were established at the Institute. Vistines geese could be found only in the collections abroad. After purchasing and import of eggs, a small flock of Vistines geese was successfully restored at the Institute. Small groups of Ash-grey and White-backed cattle are kept at the Training Centre of the Lithuanian Veterinary Academy (LVA)

At the end of March, 1995, the FAO Mission Conference for Central and East European countries recognized these breeds as watched internationally. All the indigenous animal and poultry breeds were included into the FAO Global Databank for Animal Genetic Resources and the World



Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity. On December 21, 1995, the coordinating board for the conservation of domestic animal diversity was set up.

Coloured pictures of each breed make the publication interesting and useful for those interested in local AnGR.

