

Annual Report of Activities on AnGR in Sweden, Year 2000

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The management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources is coordinated by the Swedish Board of Agriculture and the basis for the work is the national "Action plan for AnGR" of 1996.

A strong structural change is still going on within the animal production sector. The statistics for the year shows bigger and fewer stocks of dairy cattle and slaughter pigs. The total production of milk and pork, however, is well preserved on account of permanent higher efficiency within the used breeding- and production systems. The number of horses amounted to about 225 000, breeding pigs to 245 000 and poultry to about 6000 000 individuals.

The number of cows within the modern production of dairy breeds during the year 2000 was about 430 000. The number of breeding pigs was 220 000 and the number of sheep 193 000. Milk from goats is of small importance and the number of goats accounts only about 3000. The most modern recording- and breeding evaluation systems are used and monitored in accordance with national legislation.

The production of meat from cattle and lambs has decreased during the year 2000. About 30 percent of meat from cattle and 60 percent of lamb meat, consumed in Sweden, was imported.

Realized activities

1. All non governmental organisations, working to preserve small local breeds of all farm animal species are obliged to follow a breeding plan which is approved by the Swedish Board of Agriculture. Until now applied breeding plans are under correction and going to be approved for a new 5 year period.
2. The semen activity on endangered breeds has increased and nowadays includes males of cattle- as well as sheep- and goat breeds. Most of the collected semen are thought to be stored as gene banks for the future.
3. About 4 million SEK are distributed as an environmental aid to farmers involved in the preserving work of endangered, small local animal breeds in according with the EU legislation. All Swedish farm animal species, without horses and poultry, are authorized for this economic aid. The absent of support for keeping poultry has lead to often expressed disapproval. The problem is an object to be introduced to the EU-Commission.
4. Information about all farm animal breeds, used in the country, are reported to DAD-IS and supplementary data will be updated before the end of this year.
5. The inventories from the beginning of the nineties of small endangered breeds were followed up as earlier. For the first time it was possible to put together a complete account for the number of all registered individuals within these breeds over a five year period (1995 –1999). It appears from the below tabular statement for breeds of cattle-, sheep- and goat species that the work has been successfull for many of the breeds.

Cattle	1995		1999		1999	
	Stocks	No. of animals	No. of stocks	No. of animals	Males	Females
Fjällras		800	525	1925	1)	1925
Rödkulla		250	149	456	1)	456
Väneko	13	60	29	148	42	106
Ringamåla	3	40	12	104	40	64
Bohuskulla	4	12	6	17	2	15
Sheep						
Gutefår		1635	133	3084	2951	133
Ryafår		615		1218	1)	1)
Finullfår	43	1200	83	1913	174	1739
Skogsfår	8	150	56	651	131	520
Dala pälsfår	3	38	8	187	28	159
Roslagsfår	4	31	15	177	28	149

1) Not registered separately

Gradually improved data systems facilitates communication between the National Coordinator, Farm Animal Organisations and other involved central authorities. The above table is a model for accounting of the preserving and development of all endangered breeds in the country.

Future activities

1. The department Animal Genetic Resources is for a year expected to be dominated by the work with the country report, ordered by FAO. The preparation work, in order to provide a good and practicable country report in good time, is in full progress.
2. The national strategic plan for the management of AnGR is under revision and thought to be finalized during the next year. This work is purposed to be carried out together with the country report.
3. The regional cooperation within the Nordic countries has been more and more intensive. NGH is going to be an organisation, permanently connected to the Nordic Ministry Council. A new regional working plan for the management of the AnGR is going to be introduced by the Nordic Gene Bank (NGH). The plan includes management within all nordic countries and is thought to become valid for a three year period.
4. The population of horses is in comparison to the amount of people very high in Sweden. 1 horse /45 inhabitants. This has led to a political interest and demands for a strong "horse-politics". The government is going to accomplish evaluation of farm Animal Genetic Resources together with sports, breeding, betting, education etc. during the next coming year.