

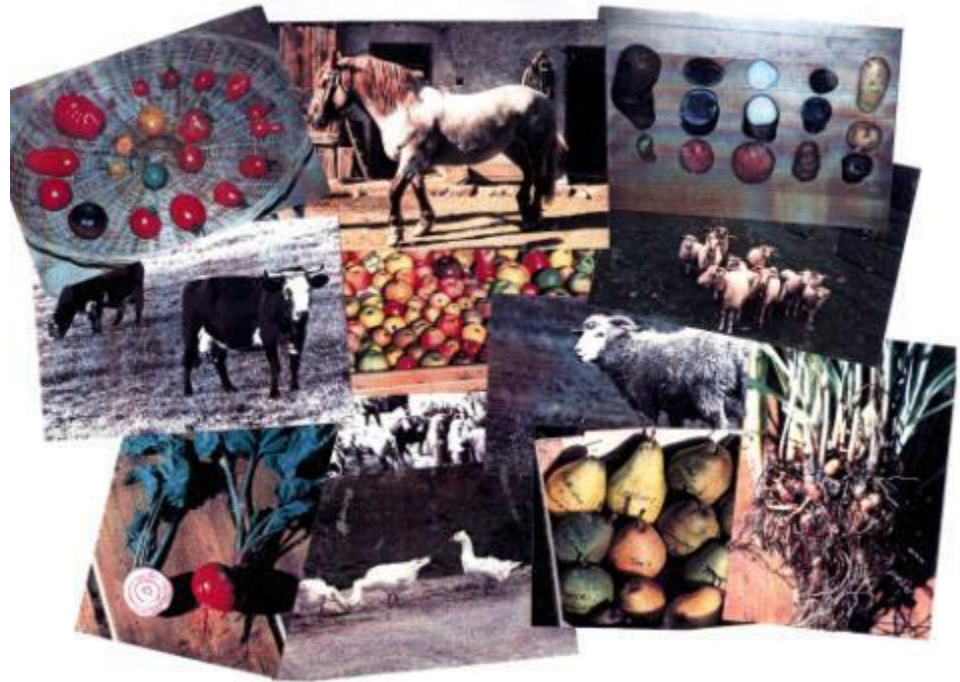


SAVE foundation

Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe
Sicherung der landwirtschaftlichen ArtenVielfalt in Europa
Sauvegarde pour l'Agriculture des Variétés d'Europe

2017

SAVE Foundation Activity Report



Activity Report for the period September 2016 – September 2017

Foreword

The spectrum of the work of the SAVE Project Office in St. Gallen, Switzerland, is in the field of tension between highly official conference rooms, villages and stables somewhere in remote rural areas of Europe.

Although the project office has very few employees, we are active wherever this seems important for the SAVE matters. This is only possible with the help of voluntary workers. Above all, however, we owe the mastery of our broad work spectrum to the very committed and efficient work of the project direction, who has also gained more than twenty years of knowledge on the subject of endangered breeds and varieties. This boosts our reputation and causes several invitations and consultations from the Quaker United Nations Office for a farmers' rights consultation in Geneva to the expert consultation on EU guidance documents on the Nagoya regulation.

The relevance of the conservation of agrobiodiversity is widely acknowledged today. But the development needs to go on through various projects like Heritaste to promote agrobiodiversity products or the participation in the project IMAGE to bring science, authorities and NGOs together to initiate and strengthen the dialogue of ex situ and in situ conservation issues. The project "Fundus Agricultura Alpina" (<http://fundus-agricultura.wiki/>) is coming to an end. Besides monthly publications in various online media and other PR activities for that wiki-based knowledge platform, editing of articles and translations are in the foreground now. But with

a final conference the project does not end. The Internet platform will be continued and we will go on to motivate people to collect and edit their traditional knowledge into the unique "Fundus".

Projects for the monitoring and conservation of Mocanitsa cattle and a European collection of wild fruits are in preparation and will be implemented as soon as we have funds for these important projects.

We also maintain Internet platforms like ARCA-Net with the indispensable help of volunteers. The continuous collection and actualisation of contacts, information and data are as much daily work as projects in the field. Up-to-date information is published through the SAVE eNews as well as through facebook. Become a follower on: www.facebook.com/agrobiodiversity !

Networking and communication are very important instruments for awareness raising, but also to bundle and strengthen the conservation work. Therefore SAVE initiates a network of the stakeholders of central European poultry breeds – a field where a lot of work is to do until common standards will be on place.

Last but not least we are still fundraising for the conservation of agrobiodiversity on the Aegean Islands. But unfortunately funding is missing – money is not growing on trees and is not lying all over the streets. But we still are in a good mood to realize ideas, projects and activities together with YOU!

The SAVE Project Office Team

Network Office 2016 - 2017

GREENING CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

In the period from 31 May to 12 July 2017, Obe attended an online course offered by the United Nations Development Programme, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on biological diversity, the NBSAP Forum, and The Nature Conservancy. The course is aimed at policy makers and professionals working in the field of green consumption and production patterns. In these six weeks of online learning there was an overview of the key issues regarding the "greening" production, consumption and supply chains from the point of view of biodiversity studied, supported by lectures and homework. Obe was looking for new points of view in the mechanisms for promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns in our own country. There was an opportunity to get in touch with specialists of the UNDP, the private sector, NGOs and national ministries. It was certainly educational to different important considerations that were discussed. For a real application for our projects "heritage seeds" we need to search for a simple regional application. More information can be found at:

<https://www.conservationtraining.org/course/view.php?id=284>

DIVERSIFOOD

Workshop "Enabling Crop Biodiversity on the Market"

The heart of the project DIVERSIFOOD will embedding diversity within crops, farming systems and in the agricultural food chain for resilience, performance and quality. Actions have been formulated to support multi-actor interactions, taking into account the complexity of agricultural and food systems including agronomic, genetic, qualitative, legal and economic aspects. DIVERSIFOOD is an international project funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme. By integrating existing networks across Europe, the project will strengthen the "food

culture" to achieve local high quality food systems. In this workshop we talk about our corporation with the Genebank CGN.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.diversifood.eu>

EKLIPSE

In June there was a call from the EU, looking for experts in the Eklipse project. EKLIPSE is developing a European Mechanism to answer requests from policy makers and other societal actors on biodiversity related issues. The call aims to create working groups that address a targeted, policy-relevant question within a transparent and open framework. Title: "Understanding Farmer Uptake: What measures are most promising to deliver on supporting biodiversity and ecosystem services in the next round of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)?" We also react on that call to draw attention and to contribute in this way to our living cultural heritage. The call for experts resulted in 43 applications being received. The quality of applications was extremely high, and the final selection of only 11 experts with a broad range of expertise and geographical representation was difficult.

Their response: *"Whilst you have not been selected to be part of the expert group, there are many other ways of continuing to be involved in this and future EKLIPSE processes, including:*

Supporting the expert group by suggesting sources of information on understanding farmer and Member State; and highlighting gaps in our current knowledge; Reviewing the outputs of the expert group (both the methods protocol and the report); Taking part in online discussions on understanding farmer uptake and other topics; Applying to other calls for expertise."

More information about ELKIPSE can be found on

<http://www.eclipse-mechanism.eu/>

SLOWFOOD

Another survey has been send out by Carolina Modena (CAP Project Coordinator, Slow Food International). SAVE network team supported Carolina with a list a Dutch rare breed smallholders that sell products or organize activities with the rare breeds.

When it became clear that the phosphate laws would have dramatic effects for the rare breed farmers, Slowfood also spread the word. Together we published an article for the Slowfood network:

<https://www.slowfood.com/dutch-rare-cattle-breeds-threatened-phosphate-laws/>

PROTECTED RARE BREED FARMS

Excursion and knowledge exchange SZH and SLE

In June an excursion was organised for the SLE (Belgium rare breed survival trust) by the SZH

(Dutch rare breed survival trust) to exchange knowledge on the 'certificated rare farm breed farms'. In the Netherlands over 100 locations got a certification from the SZH which made them 'certificated' as rare breed centre. These certifications give great opportunities for promotion of the breeds, of the breeders/farmers, but also might give protection when a disease outbreak might occur. SLE and SZH visited three farms and discussed the investments and advantages with farmers too.

NEW NETWORKPARTNERS

We have the pleasure to welcome three new partners in the SAVE cooperation:

- FERA (Federação Nacional das Associações de Raças Autóctones); Portugal
- Pro Patrimonio Montano; Alpine Region

SAVE Foundation Network Office Team



Pan-European Actions

EC Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).



learning and discussing the Common Agricultural Policy

The EU Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) launched the first phase of the modernisation and simplification of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with a public consultation. The SAVE partners were asked to give their statements. SAVE Foundation was amongst 322'000 submissions from a wide range of stakeholders, including farmers, citizens, organisations (9% NGOs) and other interested parties who participated in the public consultation on modernising and simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Agriculture and its role in society become increasingly important also for the wider public.

Currently 38% of the EU's budget is spent on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). In the first pillar – the direct payments – 70% of the whole CAP spending is used. Out of this, 750'000 farmers in the top decile receive 55% of all direct payments. Small farmers with a low income receive roughly 25% of the direct payments (source: Bertelsmann Foundation).

The statement of SAVE Foundation in this first consultation for a CAP reform is laid down here:

The current CAP is only very few addressing the needs of extensive livestock farmers across Europe. The EU priorities lay in jobs, growth, investment and a deeper and fairer internal market. In the EU 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) are mentioned. Goal 2 addresses responsible consumption and production, goal 13 concentrates on Climate Action and goal 15 targets Life on Land. As a whole the goals aim to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. On the other hand one of four of farms has disappeared between 2003 and 2013. Actual 40% of the EU is under agricultural use. Up to now rural development was mainly seen as a development of technology and industrialization. The tighter predatory competition led to the loss of small farmers. But especially farmers with a few hectares of land and small herds are an important part of rural development and sustainability of rural structures in Europe. They have hardly a market or any support for marketing of their local products. Therefore projects and ideas should be launched and supported on a local and regional level with European wide reach (easy but traceable labels with self-declaration systems need to be supported).

Furthermore the way of traditional and adapted breeding and keeping of livestock breeds is nearly not recognized or supported. Pastoralists are still under pressure because of the meaning of the term "pasture". Often pastures are created by grazing and include also trees and shrubs. If traditional landscapes should be

conserved and not be turned into biodiversity poorer forests in different European areas, these wood pastures have to come (again) under EU support in an uncomplicated way as possible.

The cultural heritage in context with European agriculture, which can be found within breeding and grazing practices as well as within fruit-, crop growing and harvesting is often gone to be forgotten. This aspect needs more attention within future rules.

Overall a completely new approach needs to be discussed which is capable of supporting the sustainable development of the European rural landscapes: The payments for farms need to be seen in a more holistic way, that includes the way of farming in context with the area, their traditions, cultural and genetic heritage and advanced diversity supporting practices. The new CAP needs to be aligned to the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Often it is seen, that there are good regulations on EU level, but they are nearly not used on a regional or local level. Especially payments should be under EU control and less under national governmental control. Mechanisms are needed, which support especially small and medium farmers in the rural areas and not the national bureaucracy. An easy and uncomplicated access to the possibilities of the CAP regulations, rules and support with lesser bureaucracy for these framers is needed.

This statement was agreed by all SAVE Partner Organizations.



The next steps

The outcomes of the consultation have been presented at a conference in Brussels in July 2017

(https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/events/cap-have-your-say_en). The outcomes of the consultation, together with other consultation activities, will feed into the Impact Assessment process and will be taken into account in the forthcoming Communication on "Modernising and Simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)".

EU food supply chain

Additional processes and consultations will be launched. A three-month public consultation on how to make the EU food supply chain fairer was launched by the European Commission on 16 August 2017. All citizens and organisations, ranging from farmers to public institutions, are invited to contribute their views on how to improve farmers' position in the food supply chain, specifically concerning unfair trading practices; market transparency; and producer cooperation here:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/food-supply-chain_en

The consultation will run until 17 November 2017 and the results will complement work on the simplification and modernisation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

SAVE will keep you informed about the process and development of the EU rules.

Topic Network: Fundus Agri-Cultura Alpina



The Fundus Agri-Cultura Alpina is on track! The online encyclopedia for the traditional agricultural knowledge in the Alps launched in summer 2015 is in its last year now. Nearly 500 posts are online in the four categories plants, livestock, cultural techniques and customs. The editors are continuously working on new articles but also on additions and corrections of already written articles. In several online media the “Fundus of the month” is published especially to foster the interest of the German-speaking audience. But also main and cover articles are on the way for translation at least in English but also in e.g. Italian. A final conference with all editors is planned for the End of 2017. But the end of the project is not the end of

the search and collection of traditional knowledge in interrelation with rare traditional breeds and plants in the Alpine region: The community of editors and SAVE project office will go on to keep the platform <http://fundus-agricultura.wiki/> growing. Additional partners especially for the French-, Slovenian- and Italian-speaking regions of the alpine circle are looked for! We will be happy to welcome you as a new editor. Sign up on <http://fundus-agricultura.wiki> . Of course you can also ask questions and give suggestions directly to us: office@save-foundation.net

Networking: IMAGE: Breeding, Science and Animal Health Rules



IMAGE stands for Innovative Management of Animal Genetic Resources. In seven workpackages different aspects of genebank material for breeding and science are addressed.

In August 2017 the second Dialogue Forum in the frame of IMAGE took place in Tallinn, Estland. Sanitary regulations and the exchange of material with gene banks will become increasingly important the next years also for small breeders and NGOs: Today a professional breeding scheme and conservation strategy is indispensable bound to collaboration with the scientific sector and gene banks. With the

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) governments have the obligation to conserve agro biodiversity and to make it available for development and improvement – on the other hand there is the international obligation to prevent epidemic disease outbreaks. Regulations hinder the exchange especially of old material of the gene banks. Material for breeding and science which was stored in the past does not comply with the animal health rules of the OIE terrestrial health code (Office International des Epizooties, since 2003 “World Organisation for Animal Health”). Also the EU Animal Health Law, “regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health”, request material which is clean from any pathogens which can cause a (known) contagious disease. This is to prevent outbreaks of diseases. But these rules hinder the collaboration of breeders to prevent inbreeding and improvement of their breeds.

One of the next aims of IMAGE will be a closer contact to the responsible persons in the commission to discuss possibilities for any solution of this conflict. Should the adequate testings of the material be paid by the governments or other public bodies? Is there a possibility for mobile entities to collect material? We need to be aware: the material we have today will be old material tomorrow.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017 is stated for goal 2 "Eradication of Hunger": "Genetic material from animals has been cryoconserved for 15 per cent of national breed populations, according to information received from 128 countries. However, the stored material is sufficient to reconstitute only 7 per cent of the national breed population. Therefore, accelerated progress is needed to conserve animal genetic resources in order to achieve the SDG target". In situ conservation and ex situ conservation needs a closer collaboration. This may be the case in the plant sector – but the animal sector has to learn a lot about the possibilities and chances of collaboration.



Networking: Poultry Breeding in Europe



Sulmtaler; Source: Handbuch der Nutzgeflügelzucht für Österreich und die Donauländer, Wien, Leipzig 1914

Poultry conservation breeding is discussed controversially: Many breeds are kept exclusively under hobby keeper conditions. For this group of breeders the right phenotypic characteristics of the breed asked in exhibitions, lays in the foreground of breeding. A documentation of the single animals of a group, performance testings of the agricultural interesting information and the degree of relationship is done very rare. Additional poultry breeding in the EU does not underlie the Animal breeding law rules.

Within the ratification of the FAO Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, Germany, Switzerland and Austria have committed themselves to the conservation and sustainable use of their poultry genetic resources. Sustainable use includes also a valorisation of the breeds through any kind of economic manner. But to do this, a clear breeding documentation and selection according to the performance of the breed is needed.

The poultry breeding in general is under pressure. In times of diseases, alternatives to the culling of male chicks of hybrid layer there is a good chance on the market for several indigenous breeds, especially for two-purpose-breeds.

In the frame of the national exhibition of poultry breeds in Leipzig, Germany, on the 2nd December 2017 a workshop will take place under the umbrella of the German Federal Ministry for consumer protection, food and agriculture and the Information and Coordination Centre for Biological Diversity (IBV) of the Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food (BLE) and with collaboration of SAVE Foundation. Representatives of Germany, Switzerland and Austria will present the state of the art within their countries and possibilities for a better breeding scheme and documentation within these countries will be discussed in a first step to face the problem.

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References

Collaboration with international organisations

- Animal Genetic Resources, UN-FAO, Rome
- Bioersity International, Maccarese-Rome
- GEF (Global Environment Facility) United Nations Development Programme
- IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature), Gland
- ERFP (European Regional Focal Point), Bonn
- Rare Breeds International, Thessaloniki
- EuroNatur, Radolfzell

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