



Shoqata Kombetare per Ruajtjen dhe Zhvillimin e Resurseve Gjenetike Shtazore

Albanian Association for Conservation and Development of AnGR – AACDAnGR

Rr."Abdyl Frasherit" Pall. 3/3 Ap. 5 Tirane Tel /Fax ++355 42 41 03

Project title: *Rescue of endangered pig breeds and building up farmers network in the Velipoja Nature Reserve, Albania*

Name of the local NGO : ALBAGENE

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In collaboration with SAVE Foundation, Project Office, St.Gallen-Switzerland
www.save-foundation.net

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- GEF Small Grant programme, Tirane-Albania

Project title

Rescue of endangered local pig breeds and building up farmers network in the Velipoja Nature Reserve, Albania

Period

2 years

Objectives of project - second year

- Strengthen the capacities of farmer's communities in Velipoja region, Back Rrjoll village, to support *in-situ* conservation and sustainable use of local pig breeds.
- Promoting and support the collaboration among farmers through implementation of the Local Network of Farmers that farming the pigs of local breeds
- Carried out the main objectives of *in-situ* conservation programs for local pig breed "White of Scutari", "Black Spotted of Scutari" and "Pig with Wattle":
 - ❖ Establishing farm of 4 -5 sows and 2 boars, which will serve as nucleus for applying *In – situ / on farm* conservation and as a Rescues Centre
 - ❖ Setting up the Network of small private farms of 1-2 sows that will serve as units of applying *in-situ* conservation program and producing male and female reproducers
 - ❖ Producing pure bred breeding boars in order to create, for each of above mentioned local breeds and for a medium term period, up to 10 male lines.
 - ❖ Promotion of genetic, historical and cultural values of local pig breeds "White of Scutari", "Black Spotted of Scutari" and "Pig with Wattle"
- Establish the necessary capacities to support build of a Rescue Station for local pig breeds in Back Rrjoll village.
- Implementation of the first steps to building –up a Ark Farm for farm animal local breeds of Velipoja region.
- Support the farmers for marketing the pig meat.

Results - second year

1. Size populations

1.1 Situation at the beginning of the project

6 small scale farms were involved in project. Group of farmers is represented by Mr. Gjon Zhuri. 1 sow and 1 boar of breed "Siska type of Shkodra" and 3 sows and 2 boars "Spotted of Shkodra" were raised at the farm of Mr. Gjon Zhuri at the beginning of the project.

In addition to that, in Back Rrjoll village, 8 sows and 3 boars (6 sows and 2 boars of breed "Spotted of Shkodra" and 2 sows and 1 boar of breed "Siska type of Shkodra" were raised at 5 other small family farms. Save Foundation granted to Noshi's farm, which raised 2 sows of breed "Pig of wattle" and 1 boar.

There was no concern from farmers to continue the management of these animals. Pigs were endangered to be extinct. The trend of reducing population size was high. This gene pool was also threatened by matching sows with boars come from Montenegro.

1.2 Actual situation

In-situ conservation program implement in 6 farms in Back Rrjoll village, Velipoja Natural Reserve. For implementation of this program, the project has supported the setting up of local network made up of small family farms, where 1-2 sows of different breeds have raised. In collaboration with farmer Gjon Zhuri, who is leader of farmers' group included in program, is set up a farm, which serves as breeding nucleus. Breeding animals of three local pig populations are managed in this farm. Pig population size increased by about 60-65 % compared to the beginning of project. So, at the farm of Mr. Gjon Zhuri are actually managed:

- 5 sows of breed "Pig of wattle" , 12 sows of breed "Spotted of Shkodra" , 3 sows of breed "Siska type of Shkodra". Now, 15 sows are pregnant.
- 5 gilts out of which 1 head is of breed "Pig of wattle", 3 heads are of breed "Spotted of Shkodra" and 1 heads of breed "Siska type of Shkodra"
- 3 boars and 5 pigs (males) of 6-8 months old

At 5 other farms, in total, 9 sows and 3 boars as well as 6 gilts and 4 pigs (males) of 6-8 months old are managed.

In total, 29 sows, 6 boars, 11 gilts and 7 pigs(males) of 6-8 months old are included *in-situ* conservation program, actually.





2. Support of farmers

2.1 Purchase of the animal

During the reporting period are purchase :

10 piglets (f), 3 piglets (m) and 1 young board



Animals purchase with the financial support of project

2.2 Subsidies for keeping, fodder and vet.service-animals

The group of farmers are support with a quantity of concentrated feeds according the number of animals that farming in their farm. Support for veterinarian service have be done during this period.



2.3 Building the new stable in the Farm-Rescues station and reconstruction the stables

New stable constructed on the farm of Mr Gjon Zhuri is going to be used as the Rescue Station. Renovations of the existing stables have been carried out to other farms



The new stable



The renovation stables

2.4 Training of farmers

During the training process different issues are develop. The field open days was carried out.



2.5 Support the farmers to building –up a marketing concept of the products

Recently, 110 pigs have been sold by the farm –breeding nucleus. Price of selling has been 80-90 % higher than usual one. There is a low percentage of subcutaneous fat at local pigs meat. Their meat is very tasteful. That is the reason that demands of consumers to this product be increased. Therefore, interest of farmers for managing local pig breeds has been increased. Actually, three other farmers of Back Rrjoll village have expressed their will to be involved into local network of farmers, who cooperate in implementation of *In -situ* conservation program and sustainable economic use of autochthonous pig breeds.

2.6 Support for building up the Ark Farm for *in-situ/ on farm conservation* the local breeds

Results of project have excited the concern of farmers to manage local breed animals. The farmer Gjon Zhuri, by his investments, has begun to set up such a farm, where, local cattle and goat breeds are going to be raised in parallel to local pig breeds. Actually, 15 cows of local breed-Busha Type and 35 goats of ecotype “Velipoja” are raised on his farm



Prof.Dr. Kristaq Kume

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristaq Kume".