



LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES - 2013 -

Country: Italy

SECTION 1: SUSTAINABLE USE, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

This section targets information on legislation and policies related specifically to the management of animal genetic resources, i.e. to:

- characterization, surveying and monitoring;
- sustainable use and development;
- conservation; and
- research and development related to animal genetic resources management.

It also includes issues related to patenting and access and benefit sharing. Instruments in these fields of action may or may not include specific provisions related to animal genetic resources or to relevant broader categories such as living organisms or genetic resources for food and agriculture.

1. Overall management of animal genetic resources

Note: In the policy field, this might include, for example, a national strategy and action plan for animal genetic resources.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry - Department of development policies - General Directorate of Rural Development has approved on 14th February 2008, the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The NBS is aimed at preserving the plant, animal and microbial genetic patrimony in the Regions and Autonomous Provinces.

Future needs

The purpose of NBS is to establish a service at central level and keep up to dated the list of varieties and local breeds properly identified and characterized, on the (bio-) territory as well as the various local initiatives associated with them in order to allow the dissemination of information and to optimize the management of genetic resources.

2. Integration of animal genetic resources management with the management of other genetic resources for food and agriculture (plant, forest or aquatic genetic resources)

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Convention of Rio de Janeiro in 1994 was ratified by Italy in 1997 with the approval of the National Plan for Biodiversity (NBS) with DM 97/5568 of 15/05/1997.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The objectives of the Convention are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources (Article 1).

Future needs

To achieve the objectives of the Convention is necessary:

1. to identify the components of biodiversity and species most at risk;
2. to monitor the status of natural resources;
3. to establish a system of protected areas defined on the basis of guidelines envisaging special measures of biodiversity protection;
4. to establish a center for the exchange of information to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation;
5. to promote the use and exploitation of genetic resources and, therefore, the resulting technology transfer.

3. Surveying and monitoring of animal genetic resources

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

In Italy there is no national law for biodiversity but the NBS assumes great importance locally through the efforts of some regions, that contribute to the management and monitoring of animal genetic resources by adopting some regional laws [(Lazio Regional Law n.15 of 1 March 2000; Umbria Regional Law n.25 of 4 September 2001; Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Law n.11 of 22 April 2002; Marche Regional Law n. 12 of 3 June 2003; Toscana Regional Law n. 64 of 16 November 2004 ; Campania: implementing Article n. 33 of the Regional Law n.1 of 19 January 2007 (Regional Finance Act 2007) for the protection of agricultural genetic resources at risk of extinction; Emilia Romagna Regional Law n.1 of 29 January 2008; Basilicata Regional Law n.26 of 14 October 2008; Sardinia: bill, Sicily and Calabria has been proposed a draft law)]. These laws are the only example of regional institutional / legislative - in the scope of protection of agricultural genetic resources - which seeks to combine the development of land and the conservation of agricultural biodiversity.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Regional laws allow: 1. to know, classify, and protect the natural heritage and local animal; 2. to interchange from material retained between farmers and breeders, in order to facilitate their use and dissemination, and to limit erosion. About these regional laws, the institutions concerned have established Voluntary Regional Registers (VRR) in which the local resources present on bio-territory are cataloged. For example, the Lazio Region, through ARSIAL (Regional Agency for Development and Innovation of Lazio Agriculture) and ConSDABI (Consortium for Experimentation, Dissemination and Application of Innovative Biotechniques), have launched a census and constant monitoring of the regional genetic resources, which, by opinion of Technical- Scientific Committee, can be recorded at VRR and to be allocated in the regional Rural Development Plan after their areal of "in situ" conservation and their erosion degree were established. This activity has allowed so far to catalog and to protect 12 new latial animal genetic resources, 6 of which have been recognized in their respective RR.AA.. All those who raise these breeds are invited to join the Network of Conservation and Safety which include public and private entities concerned with the conservation of indigenous genetic regional resources.

Future needs

Characterization and typing of local populations present in VRR in order to show a link between these populations and the (bio-)territory in which they live.

4. Official recognition of livestock breeds

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry established in 1985 the first Anagraphic Register (RR.AA.) of bovine native populations and ethnic groups at limited diffusion entrusting its management to the Italian Breeders Association (named "AIA"). Then with the Law n.30/91, in which norms were established for animal reproduction, it emerged the need to establish the Genalogical Books (LL.GG.) and RR.AA. for the different species; for example, Law n.280 of 3 August 1999 set up sheep and goats Anagraphic Register whose management was entrusted to the 'National Association of Pastoralism' (named "ASSONAPA") as well as established pigs Anagraphic Register entrusted to the 'National Swine Breeders Association' (named "ANAS") which collaborates with ConSDABI.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The LL.GG. is a tool for recording the ancestry of animals for the selection. It is held by National Breeders Associations for cattle while for sheep and goats, swine and equine it is held by Species Associations with legal personality. LL.GG. contains information about the reproductive sphere, the production process, as well as the morpho-functional characteristics. The RR.AA. has its focus on the preservation and enhancement of local breeds and populations - often at risk of extinction - also for their great cultural and historic value, and promotes productive attitudes as well as their use in specific geographical areas. The RR.AA., in which the animals of a given breed are registered, are managed by AIA, which has legal personality, or by a body governed by public law.

Future needs

The LL.GG. is the primary tool of the selection process; the collected data are used to estimate the additive genetic value for one or more characters, using specific models of genetic evaluation; in addition, this information enables the breeders to make summary statements of the farm situation from different points of view that affect the reproductive efficiency of animals and that are closely associated with the choices of farmers. The RR.AA., thanks to the activities of the associations, can:

1. constantly to monitor the demographic situation of the populations admitted to the register;
2. to define patterns of reproduction that seek to reconcile the needs arising from their limited consistency with the

preservation and improvement of genetic variability .

5. Animal breeding and genetic improvement strategies

Legislation No

Policy Yes

Details of the measure(s)

All regional initiatives have focused on the identification of resources, their morphological and genetic characterization, conservation and enhancement.

These important regional initiatives are supported through various operative programs due to three forms of interventions: Rural Development Plans (RDP), Regional Operational Programmes (ROP) and Leader + programs. In 2000-2006, 50 programmes were carried out (21 PSR, 7 POR, 22 Leader + programs). For the subsequent period (2007-2013) the National Strategic Plan (NSP) has identified the most important areas of intervention for the national strategy for biodiversity.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The Plan provides financial support for the conservation of local breeds indigenous to the area and threatened with abandonment. The action establish aids targeted to both farmers concerned with 'in situ' breeding of purity heads and to organizations as well as to public or private Research and Experimentation Institutes that promote "ex situ" and "in situ", conservation, characterization, collection and utilization of animal genetic resources.

Future needs

Preserving operations include:

1. targeted actions to promote "ex situ" and "in situ" conservation, characterization, collection and utilization of animal genetic resources, as well as the compilation of web-based inventories, both of animal genetic resources currently both conserved "in situ" and "ex situ" collections such as, for example, the seed banks and DNA databases;
2. concerted efforts to promote the exchange of information on the conservation, characterization, collection and utilization of animal genetic resources;
3. accompanying actions: information, dissemination and advisory actions involving non-governmental organizations, training and preparation of technical reports.

Do these measures address:

5.1 Animal identification and recording

Note: Sections 2 and 3 include questions on traceability and on animal identification as it relates to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation No

Policy Yes

Details of the measure(s)

In the frameshift of the NBS, the Guidelines for conservation of animal genetic resources of agricultural interest use morphological descriptors as tools for a fast outline a reliable assessment of animal genetic resource. Only breeds recognized and included in the LL.GG. or RR.AA. These morphological descriptors correspond to the breed standard of their LL.GG. or RR.AA.. In addition to using morphological descriptors, it is essential to have cultural, demographic and geographic information. This first "field" phase must always be followed by a genetic characterization.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The description and characterization of breeds and populations, both morphologically and genetically, is an essential and necessary for the subsequent choice of strategies and techniques for the conservation of native breeds.

Future needs

The morphological and genetic characterization using descriptors allows to set up a reference *dataset* for each specific population and can be used as a tool for tracking and authentication of animal products .

5.2 The establishment and operation of breeders' associations

Legislation No

Policy Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The implementation of international and Community law on the preservation of biodiversity in agriculture gave rise, in Italy, a number of initiatives both legislative and technical-scientific from Institutions, Research Institutes, Universities and Breeders Associations.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, AIA has the task of coordinating the activities concerning population size, preservation and selection of different farm populations; in addition, it guarantees data elaboration on milk recording carried out by the Provincial Breeders Associations ("APA") on animals registered into LL.GG. and RR.AA.. For example, the AIA at the national level for cattle, through the APA, performs: 1. the demographic monitoring

of the population admitted to RR.AA; 2. database management of anagraphic data to facilitate processes that affect the conservation activities. For populations strongly threatened by extinction, AIA implements plans designed to contain inbreeding and provides information on the genetic indexes periodically prepared by the Research Department. In collaboration with CNR, the AIA performs a periodic screening of genetic variability in order to identify the bulls to be used for artificial insemination. ASSONAPA and ANAS have been entrusted for the management of sheep-goats and pigs RR.AA respectively .

Future needs

All initiatives of the Breeders Associations are directed to: 1. locate 2. characterize (morphologically and genetically) 3. store 4. enhance the animal genetic resource.

6. Use of reproductive biotechnologies (excluding zoosanitary issues)

Note: Zoosanitary issues are covered in Section 3.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Law n.30 of 15 January 1991 and subsequent amendments of 1999.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

At the national level there is a framework - law (Law no. 30 of 15 January 1991 as amended in 1999) which defined the various aspects concerning the selection and animal reproduction.

Future needs

In particular, it emphasized the importance of identifying the bull through LL.GG. and RR.AA., as well as the organizations who have to manage the LL.GG. and RR.AA., as well it underlined the importance of a prior authorization to use the bull. The operative management of the reproduction is delegated to Regulations. The supervisory activities of reproduction is entrusted to the Regions, supported by the Institute for Animal Disease Prevention for hygienic aspects of reproduction and by specialized bodies for the official semen control (the control of the semen is performed on a sample of all batches of frozen semen, produced or imported in Italy).

7. Genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture

Legislation

No

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

In Italy the use of genetically modified animals in agriculture is not allowed. The two European regulations 1829 and 1830/2003/CE, translated into law on 2004, allow the use of GMO seeds used for animal feed and crops. The GMO content must be less than 0.049% and strictly indicated on the label. There is a National Plan for the Official Control of GMO presence in food (2012-2014).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

8. Suitability of imported genetic material for use in local production environments

Note: For example, rules requiring a "genetic assessment" before genetic material can be introduced.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Law n.30 of 15 January 1991 and subsequent amendments of 1999 (Chapter VII, art.40).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Trade of semen and embryos is made according to the genealogical and attitudinal requirements of the Community legislation. The zootechnical border check by competent customs offices is exercised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policy through officials specifically designated by the regions.

Future needs

The exchange of genetic material contributes to the establishment and sustenance of germplasm banks.

9. Conservation programmes for animal genetic resources

Legislation

No

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The answer to the need of animal genetic resource safeguard has been the adoption of a conservation strategy based on the degree of threat of the same resource, through the adoption of incentives for their farming. At the national level the programs implemented are expressed in the form of the RDP and ROP to finance initiatives that protect and enhance animal genetic resources.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The conservation strategy is defined:

1. "risk strategy" when it aims at preserving endangered breeds;
2. "strategy of maximum diversity" when it decides to preserve a breed characterized by the highest genetic diversity; if more aspects of a race are considered, the "strategy of maximum diversity" is transformed into "strategy of maximum utility." This type of strategy is far more suitable and more effective even if it requires a multiplicity of information on the breed that you want to protect.

Future needs

Continuous monitoring of populations and data on their population size will remain key elements to justify and initiate safeguard actions.

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

9.1 *In vivo* conservation

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The techniques of conservation of animal genetic resources are divided into two categories: "*in situ*" and "*ex situ*" (FAO 2006).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The "*in situ*" conservation aims at farming a local breed in its native agro-ecosystem for productive purposes.

Future needs

The selective plans should aim at increasing of population size and improving their productivity, keeping the genetic variability of the breed. The EU directives favor the "*in situ*" preservation of the endangered European breeds .

9.2 Cryoconservation

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

In 2011, the FAO has provided some general guidelines and technical-scientific support regarding the methods of cryoconservation of animal genetic resources. They can be found in the document "Guidelines for cryoconservation of animal genetic resources"; the full text is available on the website <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-meetings/cgrfa-comm/thirteenth-reg/en>. Italy also adopted these guidelines.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The guidelines for the cryoconservation set out a list of patterns, equipment, structures and procedures necessary for the collection, storage and use of the material to be cryoconserved in order to achieve a National Germplasm Bank.

Future needs

The maintenance of the germplasm of a greater number of breeds and their genetic diversity allows to create a germplasm bank that preserves the maximum genetic diversity thus putting into practice the information provided by the "strategy of maximum diversity". Cryoconservation also acts as a support for "*in situ*" conservation programs in which the conservation objectives of the different breeds have been individuated according to their characteristics.

10. Research and development related to animal genetic resources management

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

There are numerous initiatives carried out by universities, public and private research institutions, associations and individual farmers involved in activities and projects for the conservation of animal genetic resources.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

In recent years, great importance has been given to research in the field of indigenous breeds. These activities are aimed at understanding the characteristics of native species, as well as at promoting studies for the characterization and optimization of the products obtained from these breeds.

Future needs

Thanks to the results obtained from these studies, in many cases, it was possible to demonstrate not only the cost effectiveness, but also the social, ecological and scientific aspects of many local breeds.

11. Patenting

Legislation

If legislation is in place or under development, does/will it include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

Living organisms in general

Details of the measure(s)

The European Parliament excludes from patentability any type of plant and animal products.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

12. Access and benefit sharing arrangements

Note: The Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, on 8 August 2013, invited countries to report on the conditions under which genetic resources for food and agriculture are exchanged and used (Circular State Letter C/ NRD-5). Please coordinate responses within your country.

Legislation

Policy

If instruments are in place or under development, do/will they include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

Genetic resources for food and agriculture in general

Details of the measure(s)

CGRFA-14/13/7 "THE NEED FOR AND MODALITIES OF ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS FOR GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE"

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Reference is made to the Report prepared during the meeting held in Rome (15-19 April 2013). The distinctive features of genetic resources for food and agriculture require specific solutions for access and benefit-sharing. The characteristics of the genetic resources for food and agriculture, because of their peculiarities, are distinguished from other genetic resources.

Future needs

There are three main types of mechanisms that can be used to address issues relating to access and benefit-sharing at the national level:

1. government measures;
2. contractual agreements between users and providers;
3. non-binding instruments to which self-regulatory bodies are committed. The different types of mechanisms can be interconnected.

SECTION 2: MARKETING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION AND PROTECTION

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing the marketing of animal products, including those addressing:

- the production and marketing of organic products;
- the production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels;
- production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to animal-welfare-related standards; and
- food safety.

While some policies and legislation in these fields of action may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Consumer demand for animal products often has a major influence on the use and development of animal genetic resources. A lack of demand may place a breed at risk of extinction. Marketing initiatives for breed-specific products, or products from production systems in which locally adapted breeds are kept, can provide a means of promoting the use of at-risk breeds and reducing the risk that they will become extinct. Legislation and policies that facilitate initiatives of this kind can have a positive effect in terms of the maintenance of animal genetic diversity. Conversely, legislation and policies that inhibit the marketing of particular types of products, or products from particular locations or production systems, may inhibit the use of animal genetic resources associated with these products, locations or production systems.

1. Marketing of animal products in general

Note: This question refers to measures that are not specifically focused on market subsectors such as organic products or products with designated labels of origin.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Regulation (EC) No. 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific rules for the organization of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The competent authorities shall grant authorization to factories that comply with the EU regulations on food hygiene. The food business operators must provide the competent authority with all the assistance required in the execution of the control, in particular concerning the access to the premises and the presentation of documentation or records. Official controls shall include audits of good hygiene practices and procedures based on HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points), as well as specific controls whose needs are defined according to the sector (fresh meat, live bivalve molluscs, fishery products, milk and dairy products).

Future needs

Regulations relating to the "fresh meat":
Regulation (EC) No. 2074/2005 [Official Journal L 338 of 22.12.2005];
Regulation (EC) No. 2076/2005 [Official Journal L 338 of 22.12.2005];
Regulation (EC) No. 1663/2006 [Official Journal L 320 of 18.11.2006];
Regulation (EC) No. 1791/2006 [Official Journal L 636 of 20.12.2006];
Regulation (EC) No. 1021/2008 [Official Journal L 277 of 18.10.2008].
Regulations concerning raw milk, colostrum, dairy products and colostrum:
Regulation (EC) No. 1663/2006 [Official Journal L 320 of 18.11.2006].

2. Production and marketing of organic products

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 of the Council of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labeling of organic products.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

This Regulation establishes a new regulatory framework for organic products, sets out the objectives and principles applicable to this type of production and illustrates the rules governing the production, labeling, controls and trade with third countries.

Future needs

The regulation contains the objectives and general principles which form the basis of organic farming. The objectives include the sustainability and quality of agricultural production, which must meet the needs of consumers. The general principles concern, in particular, the specific production methods, the use of natural resources and the strict limitation of the use of production factors obtained by chemical synthesis. The Regulation also sets out specific principles applicable to agriculture, processing of organic food and organic feed.

3. Production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Regulation (EC) n. 510/2006 of 20 March 2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

This Regulation lays down the rules for the protection of designations of origin and geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

Future needs

This Regulation lays down provisions on agricultural products and foodstuffs (excluding all wine-sector products, except wine vinegar) from a defined geographical area. There are two types of geographical reference:

1. PDO (Protected Designation of Origin, in Italian it is named "DOP") used to describe foodstuffs which are produced, processed and prepared in a given geographical area using recognized know-how one (such as "Mozzarella di Bufala Campana")
2. PGI (Protected Geographical Indication, in Italian is named "IGP") indicates a connection with the area in at least one of the phases of production, processing or preparation (such as "Coppa di Parma"). The link with the territory is therefore stronger for PDOs. The use of matching symbols on the labels of these products provides consumers with clear and concise information on their origin. The introduction of these two terms also benefits the rural economy, as it increases the income of farmers and keeps the population in less favored areas or remote.

'ItaliALLEVA' brand is an example of labeling or marking in order to guarantee that the milk and meat (as such or as ingredient in cheese or sausage) are of 100% Italian origin, are traced in each step of the production process and are safe. It is a system for guaranteeing Italian Breeders Association (AIA) for livestock production. The use of the 'ItaliALLEVA' brand is granted for livestock productions that meet certain requirements established by AIA and enshrined in documents. AIA defines how to use the ItaliALLEVA brand and the system of governance, the control levels and the system of sanctions. Food companies members (dealers) have: (i) to provide assurances about compliance with the requirements foreseen; (ii) to subscribe a "pact of transparency" with AIA; (iii) to accept the arrangements for assessment and monitoring established by AIA. The quality system to guarantee ItaliALLEVA is managed and certified according to UNI EN ISO 9001:2008. Thanks to ItaliALLEVA, the wealth of knowledge and experience of the system is made available to farmers and society, starting from farms, reaches the tables of consumers to ensure 100% Italian products and safe.

4. Production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to particular animal welfare-related standards

Note: For example, rules relating to the marketing of products as "free range" or under similar designations. Basic animal welfare legislation (i.e. not specifically related to marketing) is covered in Section 3.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 (art. 23).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), in his role as a representative of civil society and by virtue of the diversity of its composition, has prepared a report in May 2007 on the establishment of a labeling system that provides consumers with the opportunity to make an informed choice in the purchase of animal origin - products where the criteria applied in the field of animal welfare are more stringent than the minimum requirements in the EU. The labeling would provide a visible guarantee on the basis of reliable and suitable for communication with consumers. You may evaluate the results of the Welfare Quality project. The Welfare Quality project established a solid platform for the development of scientific indicators based primarily on the animal welfare and behavior, hence indirectly also on systems and production methods. These indicators can be further developed to establish a classification providing consumers with transparent and reliable information. The Welfare Quality® project is an initiative of EU-funded research, conducted in 2004-2009 and carried out by about 250 researchers from 39 institutes and universities from 13 European countries and third countries concerned. In the framework of this project, specific standards and practical strategies have been defined with scientific methods, to integrate animal welfare in the agricultural production chain and in the subsequent phases of processing and marketing, including the information to the consumer. It is important to define the framework and the principles that determine the common labeling system, so it is possible to prepare the work and integrate the system with standardized welfare indicators. This would allow the experts, and possibly also the center for the welfare of the animals whose institution is recommended, to develop all objective criteria needed. In this process you can evaluate different indicators covering the entire life cycle of animals which must be translated into practical and realistic production conditions, in order to promote better synergy between research, development and

application of new technologies. These indicators cover all elements that are of fundamental importance for the animal species in question, namely reproduction, the conditions related to the available space and housing, daily checks, pathological and health aspects, weaning, surgical interventions, transport to the slaughterhouse, stunning before slaughter and slaughter itself.

Future needs

Though a specific mandate, the results of this work will take the form of rules applicable to all species of livestock feed and to main animal-origin products; these standards will be used for the proposed labeling scheme, defining also requirements for measurability and subsequent verification of individual indicators. The labeling for animal welfare will have to rely as much as possible on measurable and reproducible welfare indicators and not just on the production systems used.

5. Safety of food products from animals

Note: If relevant, include measures related to the marketing of products derived from genetically modified organisms.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 lay down the general principles and requirements of food law, establish the European Food Safety Authority and lay down procedures in matters of food safety.

Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 concerns food and genetically modified feed.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 ensures the quality of the food for human consumption and of feed, thus ensuring the free movement of safe and wholesome food in the internal market .

Food law of the European Union (EU) also protects consumers from fraudulent or deceptive business practices. This legislation also aims to protect the health and welfare of animals, plant health and the environment.

Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 is stricter than previous legislation, complements the Regulation (EC) No. 1830/2003 concerning the traceability and labeling of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

The regulation applies to three types of products:

- genetically modified organisms intended for human or animal consumption;
- food and feed containing GMOs;
- food and feed produced from or containing ingredients produced from GMOs.

The regulation provides a single authorization procedure for food products containing GMOs.

The industrial operator may submit an application in accordance with this Regulation for any food product containing GMOs, respecting the provisions of Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms. When an industrial operator has submitted the application, the national authority acknowledge receipt in writing within 14 days of receipt and informs the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), responsible for risk assessment in the food industry. This makes the assessment within a period of 6 months.

The Commission is responsible for risk management. Based on the risk assessment carried out by EFSA, the Commission shall draw up a draft decision accepting or rejecting the application within a period of 3 months. It then presents the draft decision to the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health. If the committee adopts the proposal, the Commission shall adopt the definitive, otherwise the proposal is examined in the Council of Ministers. If the committee does not comment on the proposal within a period of 3 months or does not reach a qualified majority in favor or against, the Commission adopts its proposal.

The authorization for placing a product on the market is valid for a renewable period of 10 years.

The food products containing GMOs must be labeled as such. Their label must be clearly marked 'genetically modified' or "produced by [name of the ingredient] genetically modified".

Future needs

The presence of GMOs in conventional crops is difficult to avoid. Traces of GMOs in food are tolerated if their presence is accidental or the result of technically unavoidable contamination during cultivation, harvest, transport or processing.

6. Traceability of animal-origin products

Note: Sections 1 and 3 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Regulation (EC) No. 931/2011, in force since 1 July 2012 across the EU.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

This Regulation lays down rules for the application of traceability requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) n.178/2002 for operators in the sector of animal - origin food. This Regulation applies to processed and unprocessed food products defined in Article 2, paragraph 1, of Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004. In the case of claims from the competent authority, operators should provide all data in their possession, namely:

- detailed description of the food;
- the volume or quantity of the food;
- the name and address of the food operator who sent food;
- the name and address of the sender (owner) if different from the food operator who delivered the food;
- the name and address of the food operator to which foods were shipped;
- the name and address of the recipient (owner) if different from the food business to which food is shipped ;
- reference to the lot, or batch, if necessary;
- the date of shipment.

Future needs

Not always the documentation was effective to quickly retrace the origin of the suspected food, at the expense of consumer safety.

Experience has shown that generally the food operators do not have the information necessary to ensure the adequacy of their systems for processing and storage of food, particularly in the field of animal - origin food.

This has resulted in excessively high economic losses in this area due to the lack of a rapid and full food traceability.

With the entry into force of the EC Regulation No. 931/2011, at the European level, a considerable step forward has been made concerning food security because it laid down clear and uniform rules, able to ensure a quick and full traceability.

From now on, therefore, the control authorities can rely on standardized documentation, able to allow rapid response times in the case of emergencies.

SECTION 3: ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing animal health and animal welfare. While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Animal genetic resources and their management can be affected both by the direct effects of animal diseases and by the effects of measures taken to control animal diseases. For example, a disease epidemic may threaten the existence of at-risk breeds, particularly if their populations are concentrated geographically. Animal diseases, as influenced by the presence or absence of effective animal health services, can also influence the type of animal genetic resources that can be kept in particular locations, influence breeding objectives and/or affect the economic sustainability of livestock-keeping livelihoods. Compulsory culling measures used to control disease epidemics may pose a threat to geographically concentrated breed populations. Legal restrictions on the import of genetic material because of zoonosis reasons may affect breeders' access to genetic resources. Legal restrictions on livestock movements, restrictions on particular husbandry practices, or onerous requirements for animal health-related actions on the part of livestock keepers (or in the food processing and marketing chain), may inhibit the keeping of animal genetic resources associated with the production systems targeted. Zoosanitary legislation related to the use of semen, embryos and other genetic materials may have implications for cryoconservation programmes.

Legal and policy frameworks related to animal welfare might promote or inhibit the keeping of animals in particular production systems or the use of animals to provide specific products or services. In turn, these developments might promote or inhibit the continued use of the animal genetic resources associated with the respective production systems, products or services.

1. Delivery of animal health services and control of animal diseases

Legislation Yes

Policy No

Details of the measure(s)

In our country, the protection of animals, including fish, reptiles and amphibians, bred or kept for food, wool, skin or fur production or for other farming purposes is regulated by the Legislative Decree n. 146/2001, implementing Directive 98/58/EC and specific rules for rearing calves, pigs and laying hens.

In addition, some specifications are given in the EC Directives listed below:

1. Regulation No. 778/2006/CE for identification of inspection criteria in accordance with the provisions of the Decision;
2. Regulation No. 882/2004/EC, which states the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to control systems, through the application of multi-year national plans taking into account the risk assessment.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Health (General Directorate for Animal Health and Veterinary Medicine), Regions and Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano and territorial public health authorities were designated, through the execution of inspections, to ensure compliance with the provisions on the animal protection kept for farming

purposes and to verify their application.

Future needs

In addition, in the plan of rural regional development, the animal welfare has been the subject of possible measures; for example the measure 215 "payment for animal welfare" promotes the dissemination of farming technologies that improve the animal welfare according to Good Animal Husbandry Practices; this measure intends to offset the additional costs that operators incur in its application.

The "National Plan on Animal Welfare" has prepared in order to establish uniform rules for the implementation and programming controls also in the awareness that it is necessary to improve the training of veterinarians and farmers concerning the issue of animal welfare.

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

1.1 Animal identification

Note: Sections 1 and 2 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and on traceability. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation Yes

Policy No

Details of the measure(s)

The livestock register is a vital tool for epidemiological surveillance, for food safety and, totally, for the public health. For these reasons, the management system of livestock registers, starting from that of cattle, imposed a considerable investment in terms of human, technological and financial resources to give adequate answers to both all operators in the meat chain and to consumer world. The route has been undertaken since 1996 with the transposition of Directive 92/102/EEC into national law through Presidential Decree 317/96. Directive 92/102/EEC provides the establishment of systems for animal identification and registration. Since 2000, in Italy, a National Data Bank (NDB) of farm animal registers, physically located at the National Service Center at the Zooprohylactic Institute of Abruzzo and Molise has been activated.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The systems of identification and registration of animals, or livestock registries, have the following objectives:

- to ensure traceability of animals and their products;
- to ensure the protection of public health and livestock (e.g. networking epidemiological surveillance);
- to represent the source of information for planning and implementing the control of animal identification;
- to ensure the provision and control of Community aids;
- to provide the necessary support for the transmission of information to consumers.

Future needs

Are currently operating in Italy the following systems of identification and registration:

- Register of cattle and buffalo (all Bovidae);
- Register of sheep and goats;
- Register of equids;
- Register of pigs (all Suidi);
- Register of poultry;
- Register of bee-keeping;
- Register of aquaculture farms;
- Register of circuses.

1.2 Control of the import of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The import and export of livestock and breeding material is regulated by the Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 403/2000 Article 40. In addition, for import of ungulates from non-EU countries it is possible to refer to DL 47 of 31/01/2007.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Intra-Community trade of live animals is regulated by the animal veterinary concerning both health guarantees at the place of origin and the movements of the animals in places with uniform health status. The conditions of movement for commercial purposes require that all live animals must travel accompanied by a health certificate issued and validated by an official veterinarian certifying that the animals comply with the conditions stated by the European legislation. All consignments of animals intended for importation into the European Union must be subject to veterinary controls at qualified Veterinary Offices Peripheral (VOP) for each specific animal category.

Are checked several steps:

1. the trade of live breeding animals, as well as semen and embryos, are carried out according to the genealogical and attitudinal requisites of Community legislation;
2. the import of live breeding animals, as well as semen and embryos originating in or coming from non-EU countries, have to comply with the genealogical and attitudinal requirements of Community legislation, on condition that the official bodies of the exporting country, authorized to keep the herd book or population register of a species or race, is registered in the list drawn up by the European Union. The exporting third countries must also ensure conditions of reciprocity to live breeding animals, semen, ova and embryos coming from Countries of the European Union;
3. in the matter of requirements of breeding live animals and their reproductive material, countries and official bodies who keep studbooks authorized and necessary documentation for import and export, the provisions stated by Decree of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry 11 January 1988, n .97 and subsequent amendments and additions are applied;
4. the zootechnical control at the border with the competent customs offices is exercised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policy which uses the officials specifically designated by the regions;
5. the national production centers, each for the specific races or species, must preserve, also for third account, the frozen semen and frozen embryos of origin or coming from the European Union or from third countries, from the time of arrival in Italy and only for the period necessary to perform quality investigations in accordance with Article 37. The same centers are responsible for these findings.

Future needs

Since 1998 Italy makes use the National Information Integrated Veterinary System denominated SINTESI (Integrated System for Trade and Imports) to collect information regarding animal traceability and animal products coming from other EU countries, as well as to collect data relating to imports of products for which there is a national regulation. Since 2006, the control activities of Veterinary Offices Peripheral (VOP) uses the information system TRACES-Imports, ensuring the management and recording of data on imports of all goods subject to veterinary and the computerization of import licenses issued by VOP, as Common Veterinary Entry Documents - CVED). The new information system allows each Member State to have data concerning imports of goods allocated to it, through all EU VOPs, with a complete view of the data on the total number of consignments of live animals and products of animal - origin that are imported from third countries.

1.3 Control of the export of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture no. 403/2000 Article 40 and legislative Decree 158/2006.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The import and export of livestock and breeding material is regulated by the Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture no. 403/2000 Article 40 and by legislative Decree 158/2006.

Future needs

TRACES (Trade Control and Export System) is a computer platform for the reporting, certification and control of imports, exports and trade of animals and animal products.

The system is inserted, as a link between organizations (traders) and institutional control figures Traces - intra-Community trade

Field of application:

- live animals (especially harmonized and non-harmonized species);
- genetic material (semen; ova and embryos of the bovine, porcine, ovine, caprine and equine; ova and embryos of other animal species);
- some animal - origin products not intended for human consumption (some products covered by Regulation EC No. 1774 /2002).

It should be noted that, regarding to intra-Community trade, the previously described SINTESI system partly overlaps and partly complements the TRACES - Trade Community information system , contemplating other categories of goods (animal - origin products) not recorded by the Community Information System.

1.4 Zoosanitary rules related to the use of reproductive technologies

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Law 280 of 3/08/1999.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Changes and additions to the Law of 15 January 1991, n. 30, on the regulation of animal reproduction, even in implementation of Council Directive 94/28/EC of 23 June 1994 ".

Future needs

Animal Reproduction

Males of the bovine and buffalo, swine, sheep, goat and horse species may be considered suitable for reproduction if meet the following conditions :

- a) in natural service: to be enrolled in the LL.GG. or in RR.AA. according to Article 3, or also, for swine, in the appropriate registers of the hybrids as stated by Article 3, paragraph 4. Thoroughbred Horses and Trotter must be enrolled, both in the herd book and in the appropriate repertoire of stallions according to the Article 3, paragraph 3. These provisions for the sheep and goats shall apply only for farms belonging to LL.GG. or RR.AA.;
- b) for artificial insemination: to be enrolled in the stud book, in the population register or in the registers of hybrid pigs and have successfully passed genetic evaluations referred to in Article 3. For those subjected to the above genetic assessments, the artificial insemination is permitted only within the limits imposed for conducting the tests. The Thoroughbred Horses and Trotter Horses must be registered in the herd book, in the appropriate repertoire of stallions, and they meet the requirements established by the Minister for Agriculture and Forestry under dell'articolo3, paragraph 3.

1.5 Control of livestock movements (within the country) for zoonosary reasons

Legislation Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Legislative Decree of 4 April 2006, n. 191 "Implementation of Directive 2003/99/EC on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents".

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The competent authority for applying the provisions of decree is 'the Ministry of Health. The regions and autonomous provinces of Trento and Bolzano provide collection and analyses and sent Ministry of Health data on the occurrence of zoonoses, zoonotic agents and related antimicrobial resistance, by 31 March of each year, in accordance with the requirements of this decree and the rules adopted for its application. If the regions and the autonomous provinces do not comply with this provision, the Ministry of Health shall require data to the competent zooprophylactic experimental institutes.

Future needs

Zoonoses and zoonotic agents to be monitored:

- Brucellosis and related zoonotic agents;
- Campylobacteriosis and related zoonotic agents;
- Echinococcosis and related zoonotic agents;
- Listeriosis and related zoonotic agents;
- Salmonellosis and related zoonotic agents;
- Trichinellosis and related zoonotic agents;
- Tuberculosis due to Mycobacterium bovis;
- Escherichia coli Verotoxigenic.

List of zoonoses and zoonotic agents to be monitored according to the epidemiological situation:

1. Viral zoonoses:

- Calicivirus;
- Hepatitis A virus;
- Influenza virus;
- Anger;
- Viruses transmitted by arthropods;

2. Bacterial zoonoses:

- Borreliosis and related zoonotic agents;
- Botulism and related zoonotic agents;
- Leptospirosis and related zoonotic agents;
- Psittacosis and related zoonotic agents;
- Tuberculosis as in Part A;
- Vibriosis and related zoonotic agents;
- Yersiniosis and related zoonotic agents;

3. Parasitic zoonoses:

- Anisakiasis and related zoonotic agents;

- Cryptosporidiosis and related zoonotic agents;
- Cysticercosis and related zoonotic agents;
- Toxoplasmosis and related zoonotic agents.

1.6 Restrictions or compulsory actions related to husbandry practices (for zoonitary reasons)

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

- Presidential Decree 320/54
- Law 615/64
- Ministerial Decree 592/95

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Presidential Decree No. 320 of 08.02.1954 (article 1) lists the infectious and contagious reportable or notifiable animal diseases. Any case, even suspected, of one of these diseases should be immediately reported to the competent authority in order to implement all the control measures to prevent its dissemination.

Future needs

Some diseases are listed as follows. They are diseases that are of particular importance not only because it is extremely diffusible or hazardous to public health, but also because they can cause economic damage due to the restrictions that are imposed on the marketing, both concerning live animals and animal - origin products coming from the affected areas. The detection of such diseases involves the application of a set of measures aimed at their control and eradication, such as: the obligation of slaughtering and destructing animals present in the infected farms; the establishment of special zones where the animal handling is restricted or prevented; the carrying out of specific diagnostic tests; any treatment or destruction of animal - origin products.

List of diseases: Foot and mouth disease, bovine and sheep-goats brucellosis, transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy), Scrapie, Bluetongue-Blue Tongue, Avian Influenza, Enzootic bovine leukosis, diseases of bees, equine diseases, Newcastle disease, swine vesicular disease, classical swine fever, African swine fever, Salmonellosis, bovine tuberculosis, West Nile disease.

1.7 Compulsory culling in the event of outbreaks of specific diseases

Legislation

If legislation is in place or under development, does/will it include provisions to protect at-risk animal genetic resources from the effects of culling programmes?

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

2. Animal welfare

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Ministerial Decree 146/2001.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The Legislative Decree 146/2001 is part of a set of rules that protect the welfare of farm animals during rearing, transport and slaughter. In particular the rules related to the protection of well-being during breeding are as follows:

- L. 623/1985 "Ratification and implementation of conventions on the protection of animals kept for farming and the protection of animals for slaughter, adopted in Strasbourg on 10 March 1976, and May 10, 1979";
- Legislative Decree 533/1992 "Implementation of Directive 91/629/EEC laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves";
- Legislative Decree 534/1992 "Implementation of Directive 91/630/EEC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs" (repealed by Dec. 120/2008/cee);
- Legislative Decree 146/2001 "Implementation of Directive 98/58/EC on the protection of animals kept for farming";

- Legislative Decree 267/2003 "Implementation of Directive 2002/4/EC for the protection of laying hens and the registration of the breeding establishments";
- Legislative Decree 53/2004 "Implementation of Directive 2001/93/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs" (repealed by Dec. 120/2008/cee);
- Decision 2006/778/EC relative to the minimum requirements for the collection of information during the inspections of production sites on which certain animals are kept;
- The Legislative Decree 146/2001 is addressed to all animals raised for agricultural purposes, regardless of the number of animals breed, so it is to be applied to both factory farming and the farms that family of vertebrate animals, including fish, reptiles and amphibians while invertebrates are excluded, as well as animals breed for experimental purposes for which you apply the Legislative Decree 116/1992;
- The Legislative Decree 146/2001 shall apply it being understood the minimum measures prescribed in the following legislative decrees:
 - 533/1992 (as amended): protection of calves;
 - 534/1992 (as amended): protection of pigs;
 - 267/2003 (repealing D.Lgs233/1998): protection of laying hens.

Future needs

PIGS: DIRECTIVE 120/2008/CEE

This Directive lays down minimum standards for the protection of pigs confined for rearing and fattening. The text that specifically regulates the conduct of operations that can cause pain: castration, tail amputation, removal of teeth, etc., and also environmental conditions (Article 3 and Annex I) and management (Article 6).

CATTLE: DIRECTIVE 119/2008/CEE

This Directive lays down minimum standards to protect the calves confined for rearing and slaughter. These rules , as required since 1 January 2007, do not apply for calves kept with their mothers for suckling, nor to companies with fewer than six calves. This Directive does not apply to the transport of calves, governed by Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005.

OVINE AND CAPRINE

The field of sheep and goats is not legislated specifically. Therefore reference is made to horizontal rules, and then to D. Decree 146/2001, implementing Directive 98/58/EC .

LAYING HENS : DIRECTIVE DIRECTIVE 1999/74/EC and 2002/4/EC

Both of these Directives have been implemented in Italy by Legislative Decree 267 /03 and Ministerial Decree DM 29/3/2001 and 4/8/2000, repeal of Presidential Decree 233/88.

EC Directive 1999/74 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens and does not apply to:

- Establishments with fewer than 350 laying hens ;
- Establishments rearing breeding laying hens.

SECTION 4: AGRICULTURE, LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This section targets information on legislation and policies that address the overall management of the production systems, ecosystems and environments within which animal genetic resources are used and developed. The questions address the following main topics:

- general frameworks or strategies for rural development;
- agriculture, land use and natural resources management;
- management of biodiversity;
- other aspects of environmental protection;
- overall livestock-sector development;
- management of rangelands and other grazing lands;
- establishment of livestock farms or holdings
- establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector
- participation of livestock keepers in decision-making in livestock-sector development; and
- prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. For example, polices and legislation that promote or constrain the keeping of livestock in particular production systems, for particular purposes or in particular geographical areas may promote or discourage the use of the animal genetic resources associated with these systems/uses/locations (hence possibly affecting their risk status), lead to the establishment of breeding objectives targeting the development of animals suitable for the favoured systems/uses/locations or lead to the import of genetic resources suitable for these systems/uses/locations.

1. General framework or strategy for sustainable agriculture, land use and natural-resources management

Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments such as national agricultural or rural development policies, strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of agricultural and rural development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.

Legislation

No

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

During the 80s the awareness that agricultural biodiversity is a universal heritage and its distribution has not political boundaries emerged. Then, the concept of "sustainable development" emerged and States are now in agreement that the definition of a balance between the use of natural resources and the protection of all life forms and their environments is reachable only through strategies and actions agreed at international level. In the above-mentioned Convention on Biological Diversity of Rio de Janeiro is finally recognized the importance of agricultural biodiversity and its conservation to guarantee the survival of both humanity and Planet Earth.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

In Europe, the transfer to farming and breeding Community of agricultural biodiversity conservation policies is carried out through EU Regulations. The first regulation (EC 2078/92) is adopted as an accompanying measure to the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (called in Italy PAC) and proposed in Agenda 2000 in the framework of the measures for rural development.

Future needs

The Reg.2078/92 is related to production of methods compatible with the requirements of the environmental protection and care of the rural land and provides financial incentives for the conservation of the endangered breeds and varieties.

2. Management of biodiversity

Note: Please use this question to provide information on the general framework for managing all aspects of the country's biodiversity (e.g. instruments related to the designation and management of protected areas). Include, for example, information on whether animal genetic resources issues are included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and on any provisions addressing potential conflicts, or perceived conflicts, between the management of animal genetic resources and the management of other elements of biodiversity. Specific animal genetic-resources-related instruments (e.g National Strategy and Action Plans for Animal Genetic Resources) should be reported in Section 1 (Question 1).

Legislation

No

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

In 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, Italy has adopted for the first time a National Strategy for Biodiversity. This was the result of a long process of participation and sharing, which involved stakeholders and scientific world, the regions, the entire Government. It fully integrates environmental protection into all sector policies, with the active participation of all levels of government and all stakeholders, as the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are of primary importance to ensure a future of humanity and to maintain economic prosperity and well-being. Italy is well equipped with an instrument to date and ready to respond to the most recent commitments at global and European level for the conservation of biodiversity by 2020 and beyond. The endorsement of the National Strategy for Biodiversity acts commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and provides a tool for the integration the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into national policies.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Biodiversity sustains our economy and our quality of life as it provides a wide variety of direct economic benefits that too often are not recognized or are undervalued.

Future needs

The preparation, implementation and updating of the National Strategy for Biodiversity require a multidisciplinary approach and a strong sharing and collaboration between policy-makers and the central and regional administrations, with the support of the academic and scientific world, gathering requests of stakeholders in order to promote the social, cultural and economic development, at the same time achieving the objectives of biodiversity conservation. The Strategy will be implemented in the period 2011-2020. Every two years a report will be issued on the implementation of the Strategy, both regarding the achievement of the strategic objectives and of the specific objectives in each area of work, which will be approved by the Joint Committee. In 2015 there will be a thorough check and shared on the effectiveness of the strategy and any need for adjustment. Genetic diversity is the critical component of biological diversity, thanks to which in the course of natural evolution the set of species and natural communities, have developed and continue to develop through processes of natural selection and adaptation to the changing environment. The loss of genetic variability in a species is called 'genetic erosion'. The use of genetic resources in agriculture, forestry and industry, plays an important role in the economy. Despite this key role, genetic resources are still poorly understood and above all there is not a clear understanding of those of greater importance, their value for the economy and for the biological balances, their state of preservation, in order to guarantee their use for future generations. It is necessary to:

1. promote awareness on the national and international heritage of genetic resources (nature, distribution, conservation status), the forms of sustainable use, the analysis of their contribution to the national economy, as well as the traditional knowledge related to their usage;
2. increase awareness of the opportunities arising from the use of genetic resources and of the risks associated with erosion and genetic pollution through programs of information, communication and awareness;
3. enhance the contribution of in-situ and ex-situ conservation in order to maximize the protection and recovery of

biodiversity, ecosystem services and the economic benefits, as well as to facilitate the adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change;

4. safeguard certain ancestral species of crops and livestock varieties threatened with extinction or genetic pollution;
5. prevent genetic pollution of wild species in the breeding of marine and terrestrial animals and restocking activities;
6. mitigate the genetic impact of non-native species.

3. Environmental protection

Note: Instruments specifically targeting the management of biodiversity are covered under Question 2. Please use this question to provide information on instruments addressing other environmental issues (e.g. addressing pollution of land and water, deforestation, climate change, water use or flood protection). If an instrument addresses both biodiversity and other aspects of environmental protection, please indicate this using a cross-reference to your answer to Question 2.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The general process of use of land and environmental degradation threatens biodiversity, and has an important impact on the conservation of habitats and species. It should also be considered the impact on all levels of biodiversity caused by all pollution forms of land, water and air: these are alterations of ecosystems in ways that compromise the functionality often irreversible of ecological environments, affecting both local and long distance. In addition to directly damaging biodiversity and ecological processes, pollution produces serious effects on ecosystem services and can be largely considered to be the consequence of a failure to quantify the direct and indirect costs resulting from unsustainable development. The main threats to biodiversity at the level of species and habitats can therefore be summarized as follows: soil loss and change of its use, modification and fragmentation of habitats, abandonment of traditional farming in mountain and submontane areas and simplification of agro-ecosystems in the areas of hilly and plain; pollution of environmental media (water, air, soil, ambient sound and light); climate change resulting from changes in the concentration of CO₂, CO, CH₄, O₃ and other pollutants in the atmosphere, with particular reference to mountain environments; distribution of invasive alien species, hunting pressure and disturbance indirectly arising from it; poaching infrastructure projects located in areas of interest for biodiversity (power lines MT/AT, wind power plants, lighting, photovoltaics on a large scale).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Through the joint action of the State, Regions and local authorities is necessary to develop and implement policies for the conservation and recovery of species, habitats and landscapes that are related to the whole country. Such policies must recognize the intrinsic value and importance and affordability of the complex mosaic created by ecosystems, providing ecosystem services essential to us and constitutes our landscape, making it a resource of national importance. Such policies must also ensure the conservation objectives of biodiversity and ecosystems through planning that integrates protection, restoration and sustainable use of the elements of the territory reducing fragmentation and implementing programs and measures aimed at ensuring adequate and recover ecological connectivity.

Future needs

By 2020 the following specific objectives should be achieved:

1. to deepen the knowledge and filling knowledge gaps on the size, characteristics, and conservation status of habitats and species and ecosystem services they offer, as well as on the factors of direct and indirect threat;
2. to deepen the knowledge on the value of ecosystems and their services, with the identification of potential beneficiaries and actors that play an effective role in the management of these systems;
3. to promote sustainability in the use of natural resources and introduce the application of the ecosystemic approach and the precautionary principle in their management;
4. to integrate biodiversity issues at regulatory level within the large and local -scale planning to ensure the continued flow of ecosystem services and the ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change;
5. to implement policies to ensure the favorable conservation status of habitats and native species, also through the implementation of pilot projects for the protection and "in situ" and "ex situ" recovery;
6. to implement policies for a careful assessment of possible risks associated with the use of GMOs;
7. to implement policies to solve the problems induced by International Accounting Standards (IAS);
8. to implement policies to improve the sustainability of hunting practices in compliance and in line with the National and Community Standards and Guidelines;
9. to implement policies aimed at the conservation of migratory species;
10. to implement policies to mitigate the impact of infrastructure on species and habitats;
11. to implement policies to reduce the impact of toxic and harmful substances on species and habitats;
12. to implement policies to significantly reduce poaching;
13. to implement policies suited to remove and/or mitigate the root causes of anthropogenic origin of climate change and at the same time to implement an adaptation strategy aimed at reducing the impact of climate change on species and habitats, with particular reference to migratory species and to the mountain environments;

14. to develop a permanent monitoring action of migratory species in relation to climate change.

The Convention also requires that are established and implemented policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning of landscapes through the adoption of the specific measures, starting procedures for participation and integrating the landscape into policies for land - use planning, into urban, cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in other policies that may have a direct or indirect impact on landscape .

After the creation of the Charter of Nature of about one fifth of the national territory, its extension has been undertaken in collaboration with the Local Authorities (ARPA, Regions and Parks). At European level, the Habitats Directive with Natura 2000 network provides the foundation for the emergence and realization of one of the most ambitious and well managed in this direction.

4. Overall development of the livestock sector

Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments addressing the livestock sector as a whole, such as national livestock development strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of livestock development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.

Legislation Policy

If provisions are in place or under development do/will they include:

Particular provisions aimed at supporting livestock keeping in harsh production environments

Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, favourable access to credit or livestock services, facilitation of market access).

Legislation Policy

Particular provisions aimed at supporting large-scale, high external input or export-oriented production systems or supporting management practices associated with such systems

Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, subsidized inputs, favourable access to credit or livestock services, support for infrastructure development or mechanization).

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

At the national level the regulations which govern the actions aimed at the development of the livestock sector referring to the NBP, are, for the most part, operational programs covering the following three forms of intervention: Rural Development Plans (RDP), Regional Operational Programmes (POR) and Leader + programs. The RDPs and ROPs are drawn up by the Regions.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The RDP is the main instrument for programming and financing for interventions in agriculture, forestry and rural development, and serves the entire regional land. The RDP and ROP, concerning breeders, are designed in accordance with the needs and performance of the land and regional resources.

Future needs

The main regulatory reference of the RDP is the Regulation (EC) No. 1257/ 99 "on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF)" which is to rationalize the actions foreseen in the previous programming period and allows the implementation of measures related to the facilitation of young entrepreneurs, the encouragement of agricultural and forestry training, support services and extra-agricultural activities, etc..

Axis 2 collects the measures related to the enhancement of agricultural product quality and strengthening of marketing, as well as to improve, in mountain areas, tourist and craft activities closely linked to the rural context.

Finally, axis 3 collects the measures dedicated to the development of disadvantaged areas, to support agricultural production methods with low environmental impact, protection of the environment and rural landscape and enhancement of forest resources.

5. Management of and access to rangelands or other grazing lands

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

EC Regulation 1804/01 unit 36.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The rational management of grazing resources is of fundamental importance in the ecological management of a company. "Grazing" can be defined as "any area of land whose natural biomass production is directly used in the field

by the animals." The pastures can be divided into intermittent and permanent. In the context of organic farming grassland is a critical step in the production process, as it determines the feed abundance. For the power supply in organic farming, the role of the pasture becomes increasingly important, given the strict rules dictated by the disciplinary regulations in matter of organic farming, concerning origin of feed, which must comply the following principle "must be feeds and fodders preferably prepared in the farming and obtained from organic farming".

Future needs

The use of grazing is one of the most important technical part of an environmentally friendly concept of animal husbandry. Furthermore, also in the framework of the evaluation of the energy input / output, availability of pasture is crucial for the attainment of a state of equilibrium. In particular, interconnections with other factors of production components indicate in agricultural and livestock production, the fundamental human and financial variables to be taken into consideration.

6. Establishment of livestock farms or holdings

Note: This question relates to planning rules related to the size, location, ownership, registration, etc. of livestock farms or holdings.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Presidential Decree No. 380/2001, Article 20.
Decree No. 152/2006 and Decree Law No. 5/2012.
Decree No. 158/2006.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Presidential Decree No. 380/2001, Article 20, procedure for the issue of the building permit (Decree-Law No. 5 October 1993, n. 398, art. 4, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4, converted, with amendments, by Law of 4 December 1993 n. 493).
Decree-Law No. 152/2006 provides the rules for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the integrated environmental authorization (IPPC) for soil protection and the fight against desertification for the protection of waters against pollution and management of water resources for waste management and remediation of contaminated sites for air protection and the reduction of air emissions for the compensatory protection against damage to environment.

Future needs

Also in the construction of the plants must be observed all the rules related to animal welfare as reported in Section 4 paragraph 2. You also need to comply with many rules of a regional nature.

7. Establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector

Note: Instruments specifically related to organizations focused on breeding (genetic improvement) activities are covered in Section 1 (Question 5.2). Please use the present question to provide information on instruments of a more general nature (e.g. related to the operation of cooperative societies or community organizations).

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Law of 7 December 2000, n. 383: "Discipline of associations of social promotion."

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An association, in law, is an entity created by a group of natural or legal persons (the members) linked by the pursuit of a common goal. In general, the associations are governed by its own statutes and / or regulations.
In Italy there are many breeders associations, for example the AIA, but on the country, there are also several Consortia of certain breeds such as for example for the different cattle breeds or associations of more groups. Another example is "Consortium of Producers of Prized Beef Meat of the Italian Breeds" (named in Italy "CCBI"), created in 1982 to promote and enhance the meat derived from 5 Italian beef breeds (Chianina, Marchigiana, Romagnola, Maremmana and Podolica) to certify all heads or crossbreed arising from the 5 above Italian breeds.

Future needs

The main aim of these associations is to trace and enhance the entire Italian production chain, to provide greater assurances to consumers, to ensure maximum transparency and services to farmers at every stage of the supply chain.

8. Participation of livestock keepers in decision-making related to the development of the livestock sector

Legislation

No

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Farmers may be members, for example, of the Central Technical Commissions (CTC) organized by Breeders associations having legal power such as AIA. Farmers can express their thoughts about the decisions to be taken.

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An example is the CTC of RR.AA. of EQUINE AND ASSES BREEDS at LIMITED DISTRIBUTION to which can participate 3 farmers designated from time to time by AIA, according to the issues of the agenda of each meeting.

Future needs

Breeders have the opportunity to express their needs, clarify issues and possible solutions to work for the development of the livestock sector.

9. Prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

Legislation

No

Policy

Yes

If instruments are place or under development, do/will they include any provisions specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources

Note: For example, measures targeting the protection of at-risk breeds.

Legislation

No

Policy

Yes

Livestock in general

Legislation

No

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The new program euro-Mediterranean Partnership for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and man-made disasters (named "PPRD South"), which began in March 2009, aims to consolidate the experience of the two previous programs to bring the countries and partners the European Civil Protection Mechanism. In particular, the PPRD South Programme aims at facilitating the construction of a shared culture in the Mediterranean area of civil protection based on disaster prevention rather than response.

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The goal of the PPRD South Programme is to contribute to the improvement of the prevention capacities, preparedness and disaster response at international, national and local levels. This objective is pursued through four activities during the three years of the program:

- Risk assessment - promoting the development of risk management tools such as risk analysis, risk maps, operating manual of civil protection;
- Prevention and preparation - organizing training seminars, study visits and technical assistance and raising awareness among stakeholders on the creation of national platforms for risk reduction and promoting a higher level of regional cooperation;
- Response - helping to improve the coverage and coordination of existing warning systems and related operational centers and building simulation exercises;
- Information and communication - improving the level of information and increasing awareness of the populations of the countries involved in risk exposure, as well as tools of prevention and response.

Future needs

At the national level it is essential to define the general guidelines aimed at supporting technical subjects involved in the protection of genetic resources at risk of extinction, in order to enable them to implement, in the territory of competence, the best conservation and enhancement strategy which should be identified every time according to the circumstance. The recovery of breeds at risk of extinction can be implemented through the reintroduction of targeted projects. The same projects fall under agri-environment and in particular concern the breeding of local breeds in danger of extinction. The protection of a genetic resource at risk of extinction must be guaranteed by an entity, mainly the public, supported by national as well as European Union and international legislation. The most significant are the regulation 1698/2005 and EC Regulation 1974/2006 concerning rural development plans. This identifies a specific action between the agri-environmental measures for the "in situ" and "ex situ" preservation of cultivated varieties and native breeds at risk of extinction.

SECTION 5: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please provide information on any aspects of your country's legal and policy framework that affect animal genetic resources and their management but are not covered by any of the questions above.

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