



Work Group 2 Sustainability, Ark Farms

ELBARN Area Workshop Blagoevgrad 8th May 2009

A Ark Institution

1. How many Ark Institutions are there in the Area, are more needed?

-Only a few Ark Inst. exist, different existing holdings should be developed further, needed to maintain open nucleus herds and a connection with breeding associations is necessary, more are needed to show the national heritage to school classes and interested people (to reach within a day trip distance)

2. How can people be encouraged to set up Ark Farms/Institutions?

-set up educational program, promote these programs, well targeted support for pilote projects is needed, best practice examples for farmers, search direct marketing approach, resistance of diseases must be more pronounced, link organic production with ARCs, search for more added values, subsidies for endangered breeds are still important

3. What barriers might be in place that prevent people from opening an Ark Institutions?

-Economic reasons, no investment possibilities (no support from governments in case of fundings or loaning money), AR&Cs must be profitable (to give reason for invest), lack of information, models or pilote projects are urgently needed, local markets offer very cheap products

4. How can these barriers be overcome?

-develop tourism to have a possibility for selling local products more cost effective, organic farming, opening farmers shop in cities, link products with landscape, need for effective and systematic breeding associations, government has to create a control body for breeding associations

B Breeding

Who decides the recognition of breeds?

-Government (consultancy status of breeding associations, universities and NGOs)

Has there been a census of all rare breeds and establishments made in every country in the area?

-only in a Croatia there is a systematic census of all rare breeds and establishments

Who controls the herd books?

-Government (sometimes there is no control at all)

These points need to be assessed and any gaps formulated into clear steps for future action.

-Gaps: Inventory of breeds, register of breeding assoc., breed characterizations, keep Herdbooks more on central EDB-IS (responsible persons must be appointed)

Milestones: Census should start with a central institution (gov. univ.) for a systematic approach, the continuously keeping of the herd book must be guaranteed

C Finances

How do Ark Institutions in the Area finance themselves

-financial support is used for the existing Ark Institutions for the startup, financing is done by a mix of tourism, marketing, financial support

How much state support is available?

-Albania (Water buffalo, sheep, goat), Serbia gives grants, Bulgaria and Kosovo, Montenegro (sheep, busha) some small grants, Croatia (s. presentation), Macedonia and Bosnia&H. only research

D Awareness Raising

How much awareness of Rare Breeds is there in the Area?

-there is only a little awareness in that area (beside Croatia), the public is more concerned with economical problems

Is there any special marketing process in place in the Area (label)?

-Boskarin, Karakachan, Ducati (Ducati cheese), Kulen sausages (black Slavonian pig), Shari (Ruda sheep)

E Area Actions

What types of A&RCs are there in the Area?

-Generally no different then the listed ones

How can stakeholders in the Area help each other to improve situations?

-crossborder cooperation, exchange of information, study visits, best practice examples, organize workshops for special topics (breeds...), interaction between local farmers (e.g. donation of piglets)