

ELBARN

AREA ACTION PLAN

NORTH WEST EUROPE



euronatur



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Summary of Actions

The North Western Area (NWE) is made up of the following countries: France, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland.

In parallel with this development to a more industrial way of agricultural production, more and more farmers in NWE are trying to supplement their farm incomes with other initiatives where the use of rare breeds can play an important role: growing organic food, regional products, city farms, school farms, tourism, environmental projects and extensive grazing. In the vision for a working ELBARN in the North West area, there are five main goals:

1. The installation of a "Task Force" in each country (or federal regions) for future co-ordination.
2. Further registration of all rare breeds, breeders, and possible Ark Farms and Rescue Centres.
3. Sound biosecurity plans and better communication with the veterinary authorities.
4. Better co-ordination in marketing of rare breed products and sharing of good practices.
5. Education and raising of public awareness.

In order to achieve these goals actions are required on a national and international level:

- A Network of Ark and Rescue Centres should be established that fits the goals of the ELBARN Project.
- In each country a Task Force should carry on the message of ELBARN. These Task Forces can send representatives to a Task Force for the NWE area.
- Financial support for the project should be found.
- Improve the flow of information between all stakeholder levels.
- Reliable breed organizations, professional data-collection, registration of all animals and mapping of important bloodlines and registration of breeders.
- Better communication between breed organizations of cross-border breeds or foreign rare breeds in other countries is needed.

- National and international biosecurity (contingency) plans need to be made(or adapted taking into account rare breeds) and communicated to the veterinary authorities.
- (Trans)national workshops to discuss important topics and share good practices: education; training of breeders, ark farmers and vets, marketing; media and genetic resources.
- More actions should be planned to get AnGRFA in the media. Improve the ELBARN database for agrobiodiversity with rare breeds: pictures, video, breed descriptions, etc to be used as an international media resource.
- Create public awareness to use old breeds in nature conservation, city farms, school farms, etc.
- Education on a national/regional level is extremely important.

The main goal for the future is that the diversity that exists today in the North West area will not be lost. And not only the animals, but the use and their products as well. To achieve this goal it is crucial to have a good description of all breeds and a professional registration system. Better communication is necessary, with the governments, between breeders, with the veterinary authorities (biosecurity plans) and the general public. Stakeholders on all levels can share information and good practice in education, training, marketing and breeding. To raise public awareness more actions should be planned to stimulate education, to share information, to get rare breeds into the media – and to save the diversity of our traditional breeds for the next generation.

Elli Broxham, ELBARN Project Manager
SAVE Foundation

January 2010



photo: Andreas Reinert

Geese from the Faroe Islands, Denmark.

ELBARN handlingsplan for det nordvestlige område

Det nordvestlige område (NVO) udgøres af følgende lande: Frankrig, Luxembourg, Storbritanien, Irland, Belgien, Holland, Danmark, Sverige, Norge, Finland og Island.

Ved siden af udviklingen af mere og mere industrialiserede landbrugsproduktioner prøver flere og flere landmænd i NVO at supplere deres indtægter med andre initiativer, hvor udnyttelsen af sjældne truede husdyr-racer kan spille en vigtig rolle. F. eks. Ved dyrkning af økologiske fødevarer, regionale produkter, bylandbrug, formidlings- og undervisningstiltag for skoler, besøgs-gårde og turisme, naturpleje og for at bevare eller genoprette oprindelige kulturmiljøer I visionen for et arbejdende ELBARN i NVO er der fem hovedmål:

1. Dannelsen af en ansvarlig arbejdsgruppe i hvert land eller region med henblik på fremtidig koordination
2. Forsat registrering af alle sjældne og truede racer, samt avlere af disse, mulige Ark gårde og redningsstationer
3. Planer for fremadrettede sikkerhedsforanstaltninger og en bedre kommunikation med de veterinære myndigheder
4. Bedre koordination og samarbejde i markedsføringen af produkter fra sjældne og truede husdyrracer og udveksling af erfaringer og gode tiltag.
5. Øge offentlighedens interesse og kendskab til emnet og inddrage det undervisning.

For at nå disse mål, er en række tiltag nødvendige på nationalt og internationalt plan.

- Et netværk af Ark- og redningscentre bør etableres så de opfylder målene i ELBARN projektet.
- I hvert land bør en arbejdsgruppe sprede kendskabet til ELBARN. Denne gruppe kan sende repræsentanter til en arbejdsgruppe for NVO.
- Der skal søges økonomiske midler til projektet.
- Forbedre udveksling af information mellem alle interessegrupper og -niveauer.
- Troværdige raceorganisationer, professionel dataindsamling, registrering af alle dyr og kortlægning af vigtige blodlinier og registrering af dyreholdere og avlere.
- Der er behov for bedre kommunikation mellem organisationer i forskellige lande inden for husdyrracer, der findes i flere lande eller fremmede racer i andre lande.

- Nationale og internationale beredskabsplaner skal udformes og formidlet til de veterinære myndigheder.
- (Trans)nationale workshops afholdes til diskussion og formidling af vigtige emner og dele gode erfaringer og gode tiltag indenfor områderne: uddannelse, undervisning af avlere, Ark gårde og veterinære fagfolk, markedsføring, medier og genetiske ressourcer.
- Flere tiltag bør planlægges med henblik på at få husdyrgenetiske ressourcer i mediernes søgelys. Forbedre ELBARN's database for biodiversitet i landbruget med sjældne og truede racer, herunder billeder, videoer, racebeskrivelser etc. Således at databasen kan bruges som en international vidensbank og medieressource.
- Fremme offentlighedens kendskab til gamle racers egenskaber i forbindelse med naturbevaring, bygårde, landbrugsskoler etc.
- Uddannelse på både nationalt og internationalt niveau er særdeles vigtigt.

Hovedmålet for fremtiden er at den diversitet der eksisterer i dag i NVO ikke tabes. Ikke kun husdyrracerne, men også brugen af produkter herfra. For at opnå dette mål er det grundlæggende nødvendigt, at have en god beskrivelse af alle racer og et professionelt registreringssystem.

En bedre kommunikation er nødvendig: med beslutningstagere i regeringer, mellem avlere, med veterinære myndigheder og offentligheden generelt. Interessenter på alle niveauer kan dele informationer, gode metoder indenfor uddannelse, praktisk undervisning, marketing og avl.

For at øge offentlighedens bevågenhed, bør flere tiltag planlægges for at: Stimulere uddannelse, vidensdeling, få de truede racer i medierne, og redde biodiversiteten til de næste generationer.



photo: Wilma Beink-Janssens

A grazing project with Dutch landrace goats in Ossendrecht, The Netherlands.

ELBARN Actieplan voor Noordwest-Europa

Het noordwestelijke gebied (NWE) bestaat uit volgende landen: Frankrijk, Luxemburg, Verenigd Koninkrijk, Ierland, België, Nederland, Denemarken, Zweden, Noorwegen, Finland and IJsland. Parallel aan de ontwikkeling naar een meer industriële vorm van landbouwproductie, vullen steeds meer boeren in NWE hun inkomen aan met andere initiatieven, zoals biologische teelt, streekproducten, stadsboerderijen, kinderboerderijen, toerisme, landschapsbeheer en natuurbegrazing. Hierbij kan het gebruik van traditionele en/of zeldzame huisdierrassen een belangrijke rol spelen. In de langetermijnvisie van ELBARN voor het noordwesten van Europa staan vijf doelstellingen voorop:

1. De oprichting van een "Task Force" in elk land (of federale regio) voor coördinatie in de toekomst.
 2. Verdere registratie van alle zeldzame rassen, hun fokkers en mogelijke arkboerderijen en noodopvangcentra.
 3. Het opstellen van plannen voor noodsituaties (bioveiligheid) en een goede communicatie met de veterinaire instanties.
 4. Betere coördinatie van de marketing van producten van zeldzame huisdierrassen en het delen van informatie en ervaringen.
 5. Focus op het onderwijs en de bekendmaking van het levend erfgoed bij een groter publiek.
- Rasverenigingen van grensoverschrijdende rassen en van niet-lokale zeldzame rassen moeten beter samenwerken met zusterverenigingen in andere landen.
 - Nationale en internationale bioveiligheidsplannen (wat te doen in noodsituaties) moeten worden opgesteld en besproken met de veterinaire instanties.
 - Organisatie van (trans)nationale workshops voor overleg en het delen van ervaringen rond onderwijs, training van (hobby)boeren, eigenaars van arkboerderijen en dierenartsen, marketing, ecologie en dierenwelzijn, media en genetische diversiteit.
 - Meer acties zijn nodig om agro-biodiversiteit in de media te krijgen. Hierbij kan de ELBARN-database een rol spelen als informatieplatform met afbeeldingen, video, rasbeschrijvingen, etc.
 - Vergroot de publieke belangstelling voor het gebruik van oude rassen in natuurbeheer, kinder- en stadsboerderijen, etc.
 - Onderwijs op een national/regionaal niveau is uiterst belangrijk.

Om deze doelstellingen te realiseren, moet actie ondernomen worden op nationaal en internationaal niveau:

- Verdere uitbouw van het netwerk van arkboerderijen en opvangcentra in het kader van het ELBARN project.
- Een 'Task Force' in elk land die zorg draagt voor de boodschap van ELBARN. Deze Task Forces zijn ook vertegenwoordigd in een 'Task Force voor de NWE area'.
- Er is financiële steun nodig voor de ondersteuning van het project op langere termijn.
- Een betere doorstroming van informatie tussen alle stakeholder-niveaus is noodzakelijk.
- Er is nood aan betrouwbare rasverenigingen, professionele data-verzameling, registratie van alle dieren en fokkers, en het in kaart brengen van belangrijke bloedlijnen binnen één ras.

De belangrijkste doelstelling voor de toekomst is dat de agro-diversiteit die vandaag in NWE bestaat, niet verloren gaat. En niet alleen de traditionele landbouwdieren verdienen aandacht, maar ook het gebruik ervan en de producten die ze leveren. Om dit doel te bereiken is een goede beschrijving van alle rassen en een professioneel registratiesysteem cruciaal. Een betere communicatie is nodig met de overheden, tussen fokkers onderling, met de veterinaire instanties en met het brede publiek. Stakeholders op alle niveaus kunnen informatie en ervaringen uitwisselen. Actie is nodig om meer mensen bewust te maken van het belang van onze zeldzame rassen. Dit kan via onderwijs, de verspreiding van informatie en met de hulp van de media. Alleen zo kunnen we de rijkdom van onze traditionele rassen redden voor een volgende generatie.



photo: Staf Van den Bergh

Flemish draug
home at the end of last century and a stud book was started.

ELBARN-hankkeen alueellinen toimintamalli Luoteis-Eurooppaan

Luoteis-Euroopasta on hankkeessa mukana seuraavat maat: Ranska, Luxemburg, Britannia, Irlanti, Belgia, Alankomaat, Tanska, Ruotsi, Norja, Suomi ja Islanti.

Maataloustuotannon teollistumisen vanavedessä yhä useampi viljelijä pyrkii kehittämään uusia tuotolähteitä, joissa harvinaistuneiden kotieläinrotujen hyödyntäminen on tärkeällä sijalla: luomutuotanto, maakunnalliset tuotteet, kaupunkien maatilat, koulutilat, matkailu, ympäristöhankkeet, laiduntaminen, ... ELBARN-hankkeen visio Luoteis-Eurooppaan sisältää viisi tavoitetta:

1. Koordinaatioryhmän perustaminen jokaiseen maahan.
 2. Kaikkien harvinaisten rotujen (niiden kasvattajien) ja mahdollisten evakuointikeskusten- tai maatilojen inventointi.
 3. Bioturvallisuussuunnitelmat ja tiedonvaihto eläinlääkintäviranomaisten kanssa.
 4. Harvinaistuneiden rotujen tuotteiden markkinoinnin koordinointi ja yhteisten toimintamallien kehittäminen.
 5. Yleisen tietoisuuden parantaminen ja opetus.
- Parannetaan rotuyhdistysten tiedonvaihtoa roduista jotka esiintyvät eri maissa, tai toisen maan harvinaisista roduista.
 - Laaditaan kansalliset ja kansainväliset bioturvallisuus (häätätilanne) suunnitelmat ja selostetaan niiden sisältö eläinlääkintäviranomaisille.
 - Maiden sisäiset (väliset) seminaarit aiheista: opetus, kasvattajien opastaminen, evakuointipaikat ja eläinlääkärit, markkinointi, tiedotusvälineet ja geenivarat.
 - Eläingenivarojen esittely tiedotusvälineissä: kuvat, videot, rotujen kuvaukset, jne. kansainvälisen median käyttöön.
 - Kohotetaan tietoisuutta vanhojen rotujen käytöstä luonnonsuojelussa, kaupunkien maataloilla, kouluiloilla, jne.
 - Opetus maan ja maakunnan tasolla on äärimmäisen tärkeää.

Näiden tavoitteiden saavuttamiseksi tarvitaan kansallisia ja kansainvälisiä toimenpiteitä:

- Rotujen evakuointipaikkojen verkosto vastaamaan ELBARN-hankkeen tavoitteita.
- Jokaisessa maassa koordinaatioryhmän tehtävänä on viedä eteenpäin ELBARNin viestiä. Tämä voidaan tehdä myös maiden välisenä yhteistyönä.
- Hankkeelle etsitään rahoitusta.
- Parannetaan tiedonkulkua intressiryhmien välillä.
- Luotettavat rotujärjestöt, ammattimainen tiedonkeruu, kaikkien eläinten tietojen keruu ja tärkeiden perhelinjien kartoitus ja kasvattajien rekisteröinti.

Päätavoitteena on ettei tällä hetkellä tällä Euroopan alueella oleva monimuotoisuus häviä. Ei ainoastaan eläimissä, vaan niiden käyttötavoissa ja niistä saatavissa tuotteissa. Tavoitteeseen pääsemiseksi on tärkeätä saada hyvä kuvaus kaikista roduista ja ammattimaisesti ylläpidetty rekisteri. Tarvitaan parempaa tietojen vaihtoa hallitusten, kasvattajien, eläinlääkintäviranomaisten (bioturvallisuussuunnitelmat) ja suuren yleisön välillä. Eri tasoilla olevat intressiryhmät voivat vaihtaa tietoja ja toimintamalleja opetuksessa, toimintamalleista, markkinoinnista ja jalostuksesta. Tietoisuuden parantamiseksi tarvitaan lisää työtä opetuksen aloittamiseksi, tiedon välittämiseksi ja harvinaisten rotujen uutisoimiseksi – ja säästämään perinteisten rotujen kirjo seuraaville sukupolville.



photo: Laurent Avon

Villard de Lans. French thanks to local initiatives and the support of the "Institut de l'Elevage".

Plan d'Action régional ELBARN pour le secteur Nord-Ouest

Le secteur Nord-Ouest (NWE) est composé des pays suivants: la France, le Luxembourg, le Royaume-Uni, l'Irlande, la Belgique, les Pays-Bas, le Danemark, la Suède, la Norvège, la Finlande et l'Islande.

Parallèlement à ce développement qui tend vers une voie plus industrialisée de la production agricole, de plus en plus de fermiers du NWE essaient de compléter leurs revenus agricoles par d'autres initiatives où l'utilisation de races rares peut jouer un rôle important: en cultivant des aliments organiques, des produits régionaux, des fermes urbaines, des fermes pédagogiques, le tourisme, des projets environnementaux et le pâturage extensif. Dans une perspective de fonctionnement d'ELBARN dans le secteur Nord-Ouest, il y a cinq objectifs essentiels:

1. L'installation d'un "groupe de travail" dans chaque pays (ou régions fédérales) pour la coordination future
2. Un enregistrement supplémentaire de toutes les races rares, des éleveurs et d'éventuelles fermes Ark ainsi que des centres de sauvetage
3. La préparation et l'adaptation des programmes de biosûreté et une meilleure communication avec les autorités vétérinaires
4. Une meilleure coordination dans la commercialisation de produits de races rares et le partage de bonnes pratiques
5. L'instruction et le renforcement de la prise de conscience publique

Pour accomplir ces objectifs, des actions à un niveau national et international sont exigées:

- Un Réseau d'Ark et des centres de sauvetage correspondant aux objectifs du Projet d'ELBARN devrait être établi.
- Dans chaque pays un groupe de travail devrait continuer le message d'ELBARN. Ces peuvent envoyer des représentants à un groupe d'études pour le secteur NWE.
- Un soutien financier devrait être trouvé pour le projet.
- Améliorer la circulation de l'information à tous les niveaux entre les parties intéressées.
- Organisations d'élevage fiables, la collecte de données professionnelles, l'enregistrement de tous les animaux et le relevé des liens du sang importants ainsi que l'enregistrement des éleveurs.
- Une meilleure communication entre les organisations d'élevage avec élevage transfrontalière ou des races rares étrangères, est nécessaire.
- Les programmes de biosecurité nationaux et internationaux (contingence) doivent être faits et communiqués aux autorités vétérinaires.
- Des ateliers (trans)nationaux pour discuter des thèmes importants et partager de bonnes pratiques: la formation des éleveurs, les fermiers et les vétérinaires, la commercialisation; les médias et les ressources génétiques.
- Plus d'actions devraient être planifiées pour faire figurer AnGRFA dans les médias. Améliorer la base de données ELBARN pour l'agro-biodiversité avec les races rares: des images, des vidéos, des descriptions de race, etc, devraient être utilisées comme ressource de médias internationaux.
- Créer une prise de conscience publique pour utiliser des races anciennes dans la sauvegarde de la nature, des fermes urbaines, des fermes pédagogiques, etc.
- L'instruction à un niveau national/régional est extrêmement importante.

L'objectif principal pour l'avenir est que la diversité qui existe aujourd'hui dans le secteur Nord-Ouest ne se perde pas. Et pas seulement les animaux, mais l'utilisation et leurs produits aussi. Pour atteindre cet objectif, il est essentiel d'avoir une bonne description de toutes les races et d'un système d'enregistrement professionnel. Une meilleure communication est nécessaire, avec les gouvernements, entre les éleveurs, avec les autorités vétérinaires (programmes de biosûreté) et le grand public. Les parties intéressées à tous niveaux peuvent partager l'information et la bonne pratique dans l'instruction, la formation, la commercialisation et la reproduction. Pour renforcer la conscience publique, plus d'actions devraient être planifiées pour stimuler l'instruction, partager des informations, obtenir des races rares dans les médias – et sauvegarder la diversité de nos races traditionnelles pour la génération suivante.



photo: Jon Eiriksson

Icelandic cows show great variety in colour.

ELBARN, aðgerðaráætlun fyrir norðan- og vestanverða Evrópu vegna verndunar og björgunar sjaldgæfra búfjarkynja

Til norður- og vestursvæðis Evrópu (NWE) teljast eftirtalin lönd samkvæmt flokkun ELBARN samstarfsins um verndun sjaldgæfra búfjarkynja sem mörg hver eru í útrýmingarhættu: Frakkland, Lúxembúrg, Stóra-Bretland, Írland, Belgía, Holland, Danmörk, Svíþjóð, Noregur, Finnland og Ísland. Í kjölfar þróunar í átt til iðnvæðingar landbúnaðarframleiðslu eru æ fleiri bændur í norðan- og vestanverðri Evrópu að reyna að drýgja bústekjur sínar með nýsköpun þar sem nýting sjaldgæfra búfjarkynja gegnir veigamiklu hlutverki. Þar koma m.a. við sögu; framleiðsla lífrænna matvæla, svæðisbundnar afurðir, borgarbyli, skólabýli, ferðaþjónusta, umhverfisverkefni og beit í þágu náttúruverndar. ELBARN samstarfið í norðan- og vestanverðri Evrópu hefur eftirtalin fimm megin markmið:

1. Stofnaður verði "aðgerðahópur" í hverju landi (eða á landssvæðum) vegna samræmingar fyrir framtíðina.
2. Haldið verði áfram skráningu allra sjaldgæfra búfjarkynna, ræktenda, "verndunararka" og "björgunarstöðva"
3. Tryggðar verði öruggar smitvarnaráætlanir og betri samskiptatengsl við dýralækningayfirvöld.
4. Bætt verði samræming í markaðssetningu afurða sjaldgæfra búfjarkynja og miðlað upplýsingum um góða starfshætti.

Til þess að unnt sé að ná þessum markmiðum er þörf eftirtalinna aðgerða, bæði innanlands og á alþjóðlegum vettvangi:

- Koma þarf upp samhæfðum "verndunarörkum" og "björgunarstöðvum" sem falla að markmiðum ELBARN verkefnisins.
- Í hverju landi ætti aðgerðahópur að kynna baráttumál ELBARN. Þessir aðgerðahópar geta sent fulltrúa á fundi aðgerðahópa á norður/vestursvæði Evrópu.
- Afla þarf fjármuna til að kosta verkefnið.
- Bæta þarf upplýsingaflæði á öllum stigum á milli þeirra sem hagsmuna hafa að gæta.
- Til staðar þurfa að vera traust félög fyrir hvert búfjarkyn, gagnasöfnun á faglegum grundvelli, skráning allra gripa, staðsetning mikilvægra ræktunarhópa og skráning ræktenda
- Bæta þarf tengsl á milli ræktunarfélaga sem gæta hagsmuna kynja er finnast í fleiri en einu landi (þverþjóðleg) eða sjaldgæfra erlendra kynja í öðrum löndum.
- Viðbragðsáætlanir vegna smitvarna, bæði innanlands og alþjóðlegar, þarf að vinna og kynna fyrir dýralæknayfirvöldum.
- Halda þarf vinnufundi, jafnvel með þátttakendum frá fleiri en einu landi, til þess að ræða veigamikil efni og skiptast á hollráðum. Stunda fræðslustarfsemi, leiðbeina ræktendum, þeim aðilum sem reka "verndunararkir", og dýralæknum. Sinna markaðsstarfi og kynna erfðaauðlindir fyrir fjölmiðlum.
- Gera sérstakt átak til kynningar erfðaauðlinda í fjölmiðlum, bæta gagnagrunn ELBARN um erfðaauðlindir í landbúnaði, kynna myndefni, þar með myndbönd og diska með lýsingum á búfjarkynjum, þannig að nýta megi slíkt efni við alþjóðlegar fjölmiðlakynningar.
- Gera almenning meðvitaðan um notkun gamalla búfjarkynja sem lið í náttúruvernd, á borgarbylum, á skólabýlum o.s.frv.
- Leggja áherslu á fræðslu og menntun um þessi efni í héraði og á landsvísu.

Megin markmiðið í framtíðinni er að stuðla að því að sú erfðafjölbreytni sem nú er til í norðan- og vestanverðri Evrópu glattist ekki. Ekki aðeins þarf að vernda sjálft búféð heldur einnig notagildi og afurðir þess. Til þess að unnt sé að ná þessu markmiði er nauðsynlegt að hafa tiltæka góða lýsingu á öllum búfjarkynjum og faglega unnið skráningarkerfi. Betri samskipta er þörf; við ríkisstjórnir, á milli ræktenda, við dýralæknayfirvöld (söttvarnaáætlanir) og við almenning. Hagsmunaaðilar á öllum stigum geta deilt með sér upplýsingum og góðum starfsháttum við menntun, þjálfun, markaðssetningu og ræktunarstarf. Skipuleggja ætti öflugra starf til þess að auka menntun og fræðslu, skiptast á upplýsingum og koma að umfjöllun um sjaldgæf búfjarkyn í fjölmiðlum í þeim tilgangi að gera almenning meðvitaðri. Brýnt er að viðhalda þeim fjölbreytileika sem hefðbundin kyn búa yfir og vernda hann fyrir komandi kynslóðir.



photo: Ingvild N. Sveen / www.snodig.net

Norwegian Fjord Pony.

ELBARN sin handlingsplan for nordvestre Europa

Nordvestre Europa (NWE) består av følgende land: Frankrike, Luxemburg, Storbritannia, Irland, Belgia, Nederland, Danmark, Sverige, Finland, Norge og Island. Nest etter utviklingen mot en mer industriell måte å drive landbruksproduksjon på, forsøker flere og flere bønder i nordvestre Europa å oppnå tilleggsinntekter fra gården gjennom andre initiativ hvor bruk av bevaringsverdige husdyrraser kan spille en betydelig rolle: Økologisk landbruk, lokale nisjeprodukter, besøksgårder, "inn på tunet"-virksomhet, undervisningsgårder og kulturbeiteprosjekter.

Bakgrunnen for et velfungerende ELBARN er formulert ved følgende 5 mål:

1. Danne en arbeidsgruppe i hvert land eller region for fremtidig koordinering.
2. Sikre ytterligere registrering av data om bevaringsverdige raser, oppdrettere, mulige beredskaps- og redningsbesetninger.
3. Fornuftige planer for bio-sikkerhet, samt god dialog med veterinærmyndigheter om verdien av de bevaringsverdige rasene.
4. Bedre koordinering av markedsføring av produkter fra bevaringsrasene og bedre utveksling av praktiske erfaringer.
5. Økt allmenn kunnskap og bevissthet om våre bevaringsverdige husdyrraser.

For å oppnå disse målene behøves følgende på nasjonalt og internasjonalt nivå:

- Etablering av et nettverk av beredskaps- og redningsbesetninger i overensstemmelse med ELBARN prosjektets mål.
 - I hvert land bør en arbeidsgruppe/interessegruppe formidle ELBARNs budskap. Disse arbeidsgruppene bør så kunne sende representanter til arbeidsgruppen for nordvestre Europa.
 - Økonomisk støtte for prosjektet bør finnes.
 - Forbedre informasjonsflyten mellom alle nivåer av interessenter.
- Pålitelige avls- og raseorganisasjoner, profesjonell datainnsamling, registrering av alle dyr og kartlegging av viktige blodslinjer samt registrering av oppdrettere.
 - Bedre kommunikasjon mellom avls- og raseorganisasjoner for raser med populasjoner på tvers av landegrensene er nødvendig.
 - Nasjonale og internasjonale planer for sikkerhetslagring av husdyr genetiske ressurser i forståelse med veterinære myndigheter.
 - Workshops i samarbeid med land i regionen for utveksling av erfaringer innen undervisning, informasjonsarbeid til oppdrettere, beredskaps- og sikringsbesetninger, veterinærer, markedsføring, samt media og genetiske ressurser.
 - Ytterligere innsats for å fremme verdien av husdyr genetiske ressurser i media.
 - Forbedre ELBARNs database for biodiversitet i landbruket innen bevaringsverdige raser, med bilder, video, rasebeskrivelser etc for å kunne brukes som internasjonal ressurs for media.
 - Skape allmenn bevissthet om bruk av bevaringsverdige raser innen naturpleie, og på besøksgårder og annen "inn på tunet"-virksomhet.
 - Utdannelse og informasjon på nasjonalt og internasjonalt plan er svært viktig.

Hovedmålet er at vi ikke mister den diversiteten vi har i nordvestre Europa i dag. Ikke bare husdyra men også tradisjonelle produkter og produksjonsformer. For å oppnå dette målet er det helt nødvendig å ha gode beskrivelser av alle raser samt profesjonelle registreringssystem. God kommunikasjon er nødvendig, med myndigheter, mellom oppdrettere, med veterinærmyndigheter (biosikkerhets-planer) og samfunnet generelt. Interessenter på alle nivå bør kunne dele informasjon og gode praktiske erfaringer innen utdanning, opplæring, markedsføring og avlsarbeid. For å vekke samfunnets interesse bør ytterligere innsats gjøres på utdanning, informasjonsvirksomhet, presentere husdyrrasene i media, samt ivareta diversiteten innen husdyr genetiske ressurser til beste for kommende generasjoner.



photo: JEF AERTS

Castlemilk Moorit sheep are an excellent example of how rare breed conservation can work: in 1970 only ten animals were left, but thanks to the breeding programme of the British Rare Breeds Survival Trust numbers could grow gradually. Today this primitive breed is listed as 'vulnerable' (having a ma

ELBARNs aktionsplan för nordvästra Europa

Nordvästra Europa (NWE) består av följande länder: Frankrike, Luxemburg, Storbritannien, Irland, Belgien, Nederländerna, Danmark, Sverige, Norge och Island. Näst efter utvecklingen mot ett mera industriellt sätt att bedriva jordbruksproduktion försöker fler och fler lantbrukare i nordvästra Europa att komplettera sina inkomster från gården genom andra initiativ där användning av bevaranderaser kan spela en betydande roll: Odling av ekologiska livsmedel, regionala produkter, besöksgårdar för visning för stadsbefolkning och skolor, turism, miljöprojekt, naturbeten... I uppgifterna för ett fungerande ELBARN i nordvästra Europa finns fem mål:

1. Tillsättande av en arbetsgrupp i varje land (eller region med federalt samarbete) för framtida samverkan.
2. Utbyggd registrering av bevaranderaser, uppfödare, möjliga beredskaps- och räddningsbesättningar.
3. Förnuftiga planer för att säkerställa biodiversiteten och bättre kommunikation med veterinära myndigheter.
4. Förbättrad samverkan om marknadsföring av produkter från bevaranderaser och delgivning av goda praktiska erfarenheter.
5. Ökad allmän medvetenhet och kunskap.

För att uppnå dessa mål behövs följande på nationell och regional nivå:

- Etablering av ett nätverk för beredskaps- och räddningsbesättningar som överensstämmer med målen i ELBARNs projekt.
- I varje land bör en arbetsgrupp förmedla ELBARNs budskap. Dessa arbetsgrupper kan sända representanter till en arbetsgrupp för hela nordvästra Europa.
- Ekonomiskt stöd för projektet kommer att ordnas
- Ökat informationsutbyte mellan alla nivåer av intressenter.
- Pålitliga avels- och rasorganisationer, professionell datainsamling, registrering av alla djur och kartläggning av viktiga härstamningslinjer och registrering av uppfödare.

- Bättre kommunikation mellan avels- och rasorganisationer för transnationella raser eller bevaranderaser från andra länder behövs.
- Nationella och internationella planer för säkerhetslagring av husdjursgenetiska resurser behöver tas fram och kommuniceras med veterinära myndigheter.
- (Trans) nationella workshops/seminarier behövs för att diskutera viktiga ämnen och dela med sig av goda erfarenheter om: Undervisning, information till uppfödare, beredskaps- och räddningsbesättningar, veterinärer, marknadsföring; media och genetiska resurser.
- Ytterligare åtgärder ska planeras för att få inslag om husdjursgenetiska resurser i media. Förbättring av ELBARNs databas för biodiversitet inom lantbruket för bevaranderaser: med bilder, video, rasbeskrivningar etc. för att kunna bli använd som en internationell resurs för media.
- Skapa allmän medvetenhet för att använda gamla raser i naturvård, hos besöksgårdar för visning för stadsbefolkning och skolor etc.
- Utbildning på nationell och internationell nivå är ytterst viktig.

Huvudmålet för framtiden är att inte förlora den diversitet som finns i nordvästra Europa idag. Och det ska inte avse bara djuren utan också produkterna från dem. För att uppnå detta mål är det nödvändigt att ha en bra beskrivning för alla raser och ett professionellt registreringssystem. Bättre kommunikation är nödvändig, med regeringar, mellan uppfödare, med veterinära myndigheter (för säkerhetslagring) och allmänheten. Intressenter på alla nivåer kan ta del av och dela med sig av goda praktiska erfarenheter inom undervisning, upplärning, marknadsföring, avel och uppfödning. För att höja allmänhetens medvetande ska ytterligare åtgärder planeras för att stimulera undervisning, att dela med sig av information och för att få inslag om bevaranderaser i media och att bevara diversiteten hos våra traditionella raser till kommande generationer.

ELBARN Area Action Plan for North West Area

Introduction to ELBARN

People concerned with in-situ or live conservation of rare breeds are often faced with the danger of losing important stock in cases of, for example, increased age or changed priorities of keepers or, even, epidemics. ELBARN, the European Livestock Breeds Ark and Rescue Net, is a pan-European project which focuses on solving some of the problems facing livestock keepers within a network of so-called 'Ark and Rescue Centres' (A&RCs).

The ELBARN Network will be spread throughout Europe to share knowledge and encourage collaboration between organizations and institutes wishing to conserve European animal genetic resources for food and agriculture (AnGRFA). Additionally, the promotion of the products of these livestock breeds, whether this as a food product or as a service such as grazing for environmental management, is a central theme of the project.

The project documents, in the form of an online database, all sites that already exist and can be used as A&RCs, and will also encourage the founding of new A&RCs.

These Centres will:

- Keep core breeding groups.
- Offer breeding help for livestock keepers.
- Offer a place for the public to see the AnGRFA of Europe.
- Offer emergency places for endangered genetically important livestock.

ELBARN was not intended as a project that buys property or animals. Nor does it have any finances available for helping in the upkeep of A&RCs. However, through Work Groups, ELBARN is able to make concrete suggestions on how A&RCs can maximize the marketing potential of the rare livestock breeds in their care, thus rendering them profitable. It is also hoped that, through the existence of an international network sponsored by the EU, smaller projects related to fulfilling the wider goals of ELBARN will find funding to achieve their goals.

ELBARN was launched with a 'Central Workshop' in February 2008, where working groups discussed rescue and quarantine, the characterization of A&RCs, breeding programmes and the marketing of rare breed products. The results of these discussions were published as ELBARN Guidelines in 2009 and can be downloaded from the ELBARN website www.elbarn.net.

In early 2009, four "Area Workshops" were held in Ghent, Belgium, in Roznov, Czech Republic, in Legnaro, Italy and in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. Each workshop was a meeting of a wide range of stakeholders from the area, each of whom has a special interest and expertise in the field of in situ conservation of agro-biodiversity. For each area an 'Area Action Plan' has been developed and tailored to perceived local needs. The Action Plans have been developed together with local partners and, therefore, can be seen as a representation of the views of current participants in the ELBARN project.

Introduction to the ELBARN Area North Western Europe

The ELBARN area of North Western Europe (NWE) is made up of the following countries: France, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland. Of these countries, only Norway and Iceland are not members of the EU. They all belong to the high-income developed countries of western Europe, with democratic political systems and mixed economies that combine the free market with aspects of the welfare state.

In most areas small-scale, extensive and traditional farming has been gradually replaced by large-scale industrial methods of agriculture and animal breeding. In NWE farmers follow high standards in regard to environmental protection, food safety, animal welfare and workplace regulations. Despite the high level of subsidies, farmers had to scale up their activities and choose intensive production methods to compete in the modern market. By making use of the most recent (and costly) scientific and technological developments farmers are able to manage more land and more livestock with fewer people. In densely populated countries the consistent demand for more housing and business sites forces land prices up, sometimes making farming itself uncompetitive as a result.

In parallel with this development of a more industrial means of production, more and more farmers in NWE are trying to supplement their farm incomes with other initiatives: growing organic food, regional products, city farms, school farms, tourism, environmental projects and extensive grazing in protected areas. More and more people have become aware of the advantages of local breeds in a more extensive way of farming. Here ELBARN and its network of A&RCs can play an important role as there is a great demand for networking, sharing information

and advice on best practices. In most NWE countries, there are already comprehensive descriptions of the breeds, and a good registration system of rare breeds, individual animals and breeders. However, there is still a need for better communication between different stakeholder levels. A large percentage of rare breed animals in NWE are kept by hobby breeders. As a result, there are many small flocks of animals, whereas the commercial herds are often replaced by more productive modern breeds. In order to help the traditional breeds survive, it is necessary to focus on the commercial advantages and marketing of the rare breeds as well.

In the past decade, NWE has been faced with some major outbreaks of BSE, foot and mouth disease, avian influenza, bluetongue and Q-fever. As a result, regulations have become very strict and good communication about rare breeds with the veterinary authorities has become extremely important. Alongside the idea of rescue centres, other strategies to follow in case of a disease outbreak should be investigated, such as isolation, compartmentalization, triage approach, vaccination, etc. Writing sound biosecurity plans, which include rare and traditional breeds, is becoming more and more important.

In NWE, there are already many good examples of how marketing strategies are working and rare breeds can be used today. In some countries, a network of ark farms is in place and helps to raise public awareness of agro-biodiversity. Many people from all stakeholder levels are willing to work and fight for the conservation of their traditional breeds, but at the same time there is a need for more collaboration and sharing of knowledge. This Area Action Plan helps to bundle some of the stakeholders' ideas in the context of the ELBARN project.

NWE vision for ELBARN

The ELBARN project requires that A&RCs are identified, documented and networked via the project website as part of a database that holds easily accessible information about rare livestock breeds, their uses and locations. This is to help ensure that A&RCs will be established all over Europe. As in all other ELBARN Areas the goals of identifying national, cross-border or Area contact persons to co-ordinate rescue actions as well as developing marketing strategies to promote use of rare livestock breeds have been set. Enhancing biogeographical-regional breed co-ordination is also of great importance to promote joined up strategies for cross-border breed conservation.

Alongside these general goals, which are shared with the other ELBARN Areas, the NWE Area has some specific goals which address the special needs of the Area. The concept of ELBARN should be taken into the long term, and plans for how to follow up the project should be established.

In the vision for a working ELBARN in NWE, there are five main goals:

- The installation of a 'Task Force' in each country (or federal region) for future co-ordination.
- Further registration of all rare breeds, breeders and possible A&RC.
- Sound biosecurity plans and better communication with the veterinary authorities.
- Better co-ordination in marketing of rare breed products and sharing of good practices.
- Education and raising public awareness.



The westcoast

Plan of action for NWE

The following steps are a prerequisite to achieving the vision of a functioning ELBARN in the NWE Area:

1. The installation of a Task Force in each country for future co-ordination

ELBARN is about networking and sharing knowledge and experience. In each country (or federal region) a Task Force should carry on the message of ELBARN, using networks that are already in place. This Task Force can use the Area Action Plan to get involved in the development and/or execution of national actions. In some countries in NWE, there are existing national committees for AnGRFA, which can be called upon for support. In other countries, national rare breeds organizations will play an important role. Alongside this national Task Force, it is important to work on a larger scale as well: region, area and pan-European, in conjunction with the other area Task Forces.

2. Further registration of all rare breeds, breeders and possible Ark Farms and Rescue Centres

Registration and census of breeds

Registration of rare breeds, animals and breeders is of crucial importance for the further development of an ark and rescue network. Each country should describe all the local breeds and register the animals and the breeders. In most countries in the North West area, there is already good quality description and registration of breeds and animals. However, in some countries the quality of breed organizations and data collection should be further improved. Often problems concern technical issues, such as computer programs or ear tagging. Better communication and exchange of information between breeders, organizations and authorities is necessary. An external advisory group can help to achieve consensus about which are the rare breeds and about the breed standards (e.g. What is a pure-bred animal? Is there a shifting of breeds by selection? What is the effect of input of foreign breeds?)

Registration is sometimes difficult for some species, such as rabbits and poultry. Hobby keepers need to be reassured of the greater benefit of registration (and not only to claim contributions, taxes, etc.). The differences between professional farmers and hobby farmers in NWE is in some cases difficult to overcome when it comes to registration as there is a certain amount of distrust on the part of the hobby farmers towards data-gathering governments.

Some rare breeds in NWE have important populations in other countries. It is valuable to have herds in other countries to spread the risk and avoid geoisolation, but improved transnational communication between (breed) organizations and sharing of data is necessary.

Census of holdings

Concerning the specific holdings that can be used as ark centres, there are different situations in all countries, different types of farms and different strategies. Ark centres are already organized into well structured networks in some countries, but are still lacking in other countries. It is more useful to make use of existing organizations, than to create new ones. The sharing of information is very important with stakeholders nationally and all over Europe (e.g. via Arca-Net; www.arca-net.info). Today most of the rare breed farms are regional or small organizations. National bodies are very important in bundling them together.

There is certainly a need for ark centres in NWE, but there has to be a clear framework, some common criteria and a control system. Now there are farm guest houses, tourist farms aimed at children, government holdings - often within separate organizational bodies. In some cases, different types of farm have their own breeding centres and educational centres, and many of their aims are the same. Private farms have an important role, and it is also important to show animals on working (commercial) farms to the public.

In NWE, there are different ways to get finances for the ark farms:

- Direct government support/subsidies to keep rare breeds.
- Support to make a transition to organic farming or native breeds.
- Marketing products.
- Tourism.
- Education.

In most cases financial support is hard to obtain and thus is not in place. A common label, for use in marketing, would be helpful to create more ark centres and build up a national programme. Ark centres in NWE usually have two main goals: education and breeding.

More holdings that can be used as a rescue centre need to be listed. In NWE the concept of a rescue centre might become problematic during a disease outbreak because animals cannot be moved then. But holdings with a specific health status that can be used as a place of quarantine might be very important. It is crucial to have good biosecurity (contingency) plans, written by specialists and communicated to the veterinary authorities before a disease outbreak occurs (see point 3 below).

If it is still possible to move livestock, farms in disease-free areas, which keep other species, can be used, e.g. a dairy farm used as a rescue centre for poultry. Also resting places at the national borders that are no longer in use may be of interest for rescue purposes. Rescue centres can be helpful when the keeper of a nucleus herd of a rare breed suddenly stops farming (because of illness, death, expropriation, etc.) or in case of natural disaster (fire, flood).

Nucleus herds should be built up

Important bloodlines should be listed by breed organizations on a national level and communicated to the veterinary authorities (and/or national food agencies depending on which body is responsible for dealing with animal diseases) before an outbreak occurs. In the North West area ex-situ conservation (sperm/embryo) can be important as well. There is much experience of such techniques for rare breeds in e.g. England, the Netherlands and France.

3. Sound biosecurity plans and better communication with the veterinary authorities

Each country needs to develop biosecurity plans prior to a disease outbreak (or other emergency situation) in co-operation with (veterinary) authorities. It will usually be unacceptable to move rare breeds separate rescue centres during an outbreak.

Other solutions that do not require animals to be moved must be incorporated in the biosecurity plans:

- Isolation: protection of animals from pathogens in their home holding.
- Preparation of a biosafety unit on the holding beforehand, i.e. a building that you can immediately secure during an outbreak.
- Diagnostic testing of animals, vaccination and placing them in quarantine on the farm.
- Setting up a network of outside helpers to feed etc the animals.
- Compartmentalization as defined by OIE (recognition of animal populations with a different health status).
- "Triage" approach (prioritizing animals/breeds based on the severity of their condition).
- Ex-situ conservation: sperm/embryo.

It is important to plan all this beforehand (e.g. how to install a "cordon sanitaire", how to move the animals, who will take care of them) and ask specialists to write biosecurity plans (for a specific Ark Centre or Rescue Centre, a larger area or country). During an outbreak it is almost impossible to negotiate, and it is important to have one contact point for the veterinary officials, not 20 different organizations. Breed organizations, working together, should make lists of the breeds and animals that need to be saved to inform veterinarians, and work with them to produce contingency plans. There is a need to improve links between the authorities responsible for animal health, veterinary networks and rare breeds networks. The main priority is communication and a sense of trust between all the players in an emergency situation.

4. Co-ordination in marketing of rare breed products and sharing of good practices

There is a market to promote rare breeds in the North West Area and there are already some very good examples of how this can work. Every country is different, so for each one different marketing schemes are needed to put ideas into practice. But to make the marketing of rare breed products successful, we need both small initiatives and an umbrella network to work bottom up and vice versa. Now most marketing is done by regional initiatives and small organizations. It is important to bundle them together on a national level (and on a transnational level). There is a need for information and tools for breeders and ark farmers to share good practices. A label for products from rare breeds might be helpful on a national level or as a common label between countries. Workshops for ark farmers are useful to share experiences on marketing, education, breeding, traditional uses of animals, etc.

A top-level organization (committee) could produce a framework for marketing. There is a market for rare breed products, but building up a strong demand needs to be done in a centralized way, using the same standards and control. A new label (umbrella trademark) might be helpful in NWE to market products of rare breeds. Means of developing markets include:

- Co-operation at farm level to market the products (farm shops, online-marketing).
- Traceability of the products, e.g. by tagging meat with breed name, farmer and farm location.
- Emphasizing quality not quantity (scientific studies indicate differences in meat from traditional breeds when compared to commercial breeds – in taste and also on certain quality factors).
- Discussion of problems and sharing good practices.
- Producing a clear overview of which regulations to follow.
- "Slow Food" tactics, i.e. promoting the product by making it very special.
- A common label.

5. Raising of public awareness and education

The use of rare breeds is still not very well known to the public, but awareness is rising. If more people are aware of rare breeds as a part of their own cultural heritage and tradition, this can raise the point on the European policy agenda. It is important to emphasize the strengths of traditional farming, because it provides food security, needs less energy than industrial agriculture and has less pollutants. Climate change is a hot international issue now, and biodiversity and sustainability can be promoted too, because of the smaller ecological food print of farming using rare breeds.

The media often likes stories and pictures of the old breeds in preference to 'normal' agriculture, giving opportunities to raise public awareness by using the media. Today the words that are used to talk about biodiversity are too difficult for the general public, e.g. animal genetic resource, agro-biodiversity. To get the subject into the media, it is important to explain what it is all about in simple and concise ways. Journalists should be provided with attractive pictures of animals and ark farms, jargon-free language and catchy slogans.

The public does not like the idea of eating rare breeds because they are already "rare". In talking about biodiversity it often works better to talk about 'local' breeds and their 'traditional' uses. People should know that they need to use these animals, if they do not want to lose them. Stressing the diversity of taste proved to be a good way to promote the use of rare breeds instead of industrially produced meat. Top chefs often prefer the taste of meat from rare breeds and should be encouraged to promote it in cooking shows on television. Scientific studies about taste and meat quality can help to support this idea.

Animal welfare is very important to raise public support for the breeding of rare breeds. Local or regional processing of meat also means less travel and less stress for the animals. It should also be mentioned that breeding traditionally avoids the cruelty found in many modern, commercial breeding strategies (e.g. beef cows that cannot give birth alone; chickens that cannot walk; dogs who cannot breath).

Actions like European Agro-biodiversity Day (29th September every year), 'breed of the year', 'A World of Difference Day' can help to spread the word to more people.

In raising public awareness, education is extremely important. Here the ark farms can play a very important role. People can visit the animals and learn how breeds were used traditionally and can still be used today in, for example, grazing projects or rural development. Moreover city farms, school farms and nature conservation can make use of rare breeds to give extra value to their projects.

How can we make people more aware of biodiversity in agriculture?

- Make use of the media.
- Stress its importance for national culture: its heritage, tradition.
- Stress the importance of local food production.
- Use easy language and attractive pictures.
- Devise good slogans like: 'Use it or lose it', etc.
- Promote diversity of taste.
- Exhibit rare breeds products in every country.
- Use rare breed products in television cooking.
- Stress the intrinsic value of rare breeds.
- Promote animal welfare.
- Organise awareness campaigns from primary schools onwards.



photo: Bob Restinen

Belgian White Blue dual purpose cow together with her calf.

National requirements for achieving goals

- Creation of an ELBARN Task Force in each country.
- ELBARN Task Forces can help to force their governments to implement international rules and recommendations, make use of the National Action Plans.
- Reliable breed organizations and professional data-collection. The national committee can play a role to co-ordinate and give external advice.
- Further description of all national breeds, registration of all animals and mapping of important bloodlines and registration of breeders. This information should be collected in one central point and be available to veterinary services in times of crisis.
- Writing scientifically based biosecurity plans for A&RCs that list steps to be taken in times of crisis. Discussing the need of vaccination and compartmentalization with vets and officials before an outbreak.
- Promote co-ordination between ministries (agriculture; health and food).
- An early response system and continued monitoring and follow up on contingency plans.
- Improve the flow of information between stakeholder levels:
 - workgroups with vets and breeders
 - training courses for vets
 - training sessions for ark farmers
 - workshops for marketing for people
 - working "on the ground"
- Help farmers to start up as ark farmers: support the transition to an ark farm (special criteria) and provision funds for local breeds by the government.
- Work on the marketing of rare breeds: co-operation, networking, share good practices, use of a common label on a regional or national level (or transnational).
- Create public awareness by use local/old breeds in nature conservation, city farms, school farms, etc.
- Education on a national/regional level is extremely important.



photo: Jef Aerts

Ronquière turkeys from Belgium. A strong breed that was once almost extinct but now is fairly popular with hobby breeders and biological farmers.

Area requirements for achieving goals

- An international stakeholder network required for cross-border co-operation and to exchange best practice/knowledge. Need for networks, steering committee on different levels, national and transnational.
- Good veterinary governance across borders is important. Better communication strategies to boost consumer confidence. Co-ordination between ministries in conveying the right message on public health and food safety. Improvement of the private-public partnerships.
- A lot of national rare breeds have the same genetic roots or are closely related to rare breeds in other countries - share experience, help to find and keep the traditional uses, talk about marketing.
- Transnational lobbying (European policy, public relations): communication between the national and international authorities (EU) is necessary to implement the rules.
- Transnational workshops to discuss important topics and share good practices: education; training of breeders, ark farmers and vets, marketing; media and genetic resources.
- International professional research on intrinsic quality of rare breeds: taste, meat quality, use, grazing behaviour, disease resistance.
- Better communication between different (national and international) authorities.
- Ideas for compartments and vaccination on an international basis as this can affect import, export, transport of rare breeds.
- Contingency plans for an area and not only on a national basis.
- Traceability is very important from farm to supermarket, also across borders.
- Standards for breed societies. Are there any international criteria for these groups?
- Problem of geographical concentration of some rare breeds. Here some core populations of these breeds in different parts of the country or as foreign breeds (exotics) in neighbouring countries are important. Better communication between breed organizations of transnational breeds or foreign rare breeds in other countries is needed.
- Improve the ELBARN database for agro-biodiversity with rare breeds: pictures, video, breed descriptions, etc to be used as an international media resource.
- Education is extremely important. A transnational working group on education can share best practices, etc.

Summary of goals

- Establishment of a network of A&RCs that fit the goals of the ELBARN Project.
- Task Forces in each country fulfilling the message of ELBARN. All country Task Forces sending representatives to a Task Force for the NWE area.
- Financial support for the project in place.
- Actions to encourage sustainable use of AnGRFA.
- Biosecurity plans written and communicated to the veterinary authorities.
- Animal disease regulations and their impact on AnGRFA.
 - Communication of information on AnGRFA.
 - Animal welfare policy and links with AnGRFA policy.
- Identification of sustainable uses and stimulating demand for AnGRFA.
- Information and good practices with regards to marketing of rare breed products being shared.
- Actions to promote AnGRFA in the media are ongoing.
- Education on different levels stimulated in varied ways.



photo: Richard Lutywyche

Gloucestershire Ol
to the recognition of the delicious pork and bacon they produce.

Milestones and deliverables for measuring progress in implementation Area Action Plan

- Establishment of national steering committees.
- A funding structure.
- Census of breeds and holdings.
- List of breeds in area.
- Establishment of nucleus herds.
- Strategy for marketing services and products.
- Stakeholder networks.
- Contingency plans.
- Rescue protocols.



photo: Ad Tanks

Chaams chicken in SZH Breeding Centre De Baronie, Zundert, The Netherlands. The meat is marketed as a Slow Food product.

Conclusion

The main goal for the future is to ensure that the diversity that exists today in the North West area will not be lost, and not only diversity of the animals, but also their use and products as well. It is essential to maintain enough animals that are being used in their original function and keep breeding groups at a sustainable level. Here the network of A&RCs will play an invaluable role.

To achieve this goal it is crucial to have good descriptions of all breeds and a professional registration system that is accessible for every breeder, reliable and online. Breeding organizations should have a clear standard, description of traditional knowledge and use, and high quality data collection.

Better communication is necessary, with the governments, between breeders, with the veterinary authorities (biosecurity plans) and the general public. Authorities should be more aware and have more concern for non-industrial production. To do this, we need commitment and, also, more powerful people to spread the word and co-ordinate activities.

A larger network and collaboration with more specific partners is essential. There is a need for Task Forces/workgroups/workshops in each area, country and region. Stakeholders at all levels can share information and good practice in education, training, marketing and breeding. ELBARN's role is to help begin this process.

To create more public awareness of our special breeds and their qualities is the most important goal in this area. Initiatives like a "European Agro-biodiversity Day", a "breed of the year" or a clear ELBARN label can help to do so. More actions should be planned to stimulate education, to share information, to get rare breeds into the media and to save the diversity of our traditional breeds for the next generation.



photo: Staf Van den Bergh

Ardens ram. This breed, which was almost extinct at the end of last century, has become popular again, mostly with hobby breeders.



photo: Kurt Sammen

Kempens Cattle gr

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It is known for its adaptation to the mountainous
environment and good fertility.

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