

State support for animal genetic resources

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Part 2: Support schemes for animal genetic resources - Situation and discussion in Germany

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Legal frame

for agri-environmental measures in Germany

- Regulation (EC) 1698/2005 complemented by common funding in the sector of rural development (GAK) by Federal government and State (Länder) governments
- national GAK-funds for AnGR only available for measures according Reg 1698 Article 39 para's 1-4; i.e. only payment for keeping animals of endangered breeds.
- Article 39 (5) can not (yet) be applied under GAK (political reasons).
- National constitution gives responsibility for agriculture to Länder (federal states). Therefore some Länder provide some extra funding based on Art. 39(5).

Support measures for AnGR in the framework of agri-environmental measures

- **Conditions to get support**
 - breeds must be indigenous and endangered
 - Species covered are mainly horses, cattle, pigs, sheep and goats.
 - Some Länder-measures also cover goose, ducks, hens and rabbits
 - Recipient must be farmer with animals registered in a herdbook
- **Measures applied**
 - mostly payment for keeping animals (per-head-premia) cofinanced by EU and GAK
 - few cases special support according Art. 39(5)
 - *In the year 2009 altogether 670.000 Euro were spent in the framework of AE measures on AnGR in Germany*

Assessment of support by per-head-premia

- *per head premia are often taken by farmers as a nice extra gift, they would have kept this breed anyway*
- *measure is not sustainable, as farmers may stop keeping supported breeds, as soon as they are no longer interested or when they cannot afford to keep them*
- *per-head-premia give no incentive to bring breeds back to really competitive production*
- *most of the money is attributed to relatively big (and less endangered) breeds. Share of subsidies for small breeds should be higher.*
- *no money directly available for managing conservation-breeding-programmes*
- *restrictions on AE-measures based on article 39 (1-4) are contra productive*
 - *only farmers supported, but many endangered breeds are kept for hobby*
 - *commitment to keep a fixed number of animals over 5 years is difficult and bears the risk to pay subsidies back*
- *administrational burden to distribute per head premia to single farmers is exceptionally high*
 - *For Lower Saxony this amounted to approximately 38% of the total sums paid out.*
 - *If the money could be given to breeders associations as concentrators and distributors this would save costs.*

Alternative support schemes

Considerations to plan support schemes

- *Keep in mind, that we are aiming on the very long term preservation of AnGR.*
- *In the optimal case we can maintain sustainable (long-term) use of native breeds.*
- *Allocation and measures of subsidies should therefore*
 - *be optimised to reach these goals*
 - *be provided and assured from public funds over a very long time period.*
- *Sustainable breeding and maintenance of breeds depends on the long-term economic success of the farmers.*
 - *therefore measures that improve his economic frame may be helpful;*
e.g. measures in the areas of "information", "promotion", "organisation" "marketing", that help to sell products from local breeds.
- **However only in the minor case, endangered breeds can be brought back to self-sustainability**
 - *therefore most breeds will need longterm public funding for preservation.*
- *The most effective and sustainable measure will be the support of breeding programmes*
 - *either to make/keep breeds profitable*
 - *or to conserve the genetic variation of a breed.*
 - *Payments for active participation in a breeding program are crucial for successful conservation and utilization of endangered breeds.*
 - *Active breeders should therefore be prioritized.*
- *Implementation of measures to stop further concentration on mainstream breeds should be considered*
 - *e.g. dual purpose breeds, still in rather broad production and not (yet) endangered, should be taken into the focus of AE-measures*
 - *give support for sustainable breeding programmes (e.g. to establish genomic selection) or for marketing measures*

Conclusion

- *The methods and objectives to support endangered breeds should be carefully chosen.*
- *Only paying premia to farmers for keeping animals from endangered breeds is neither effective nor sustainable.*
- *If possible and if it can be gained, support should be provided to keep or bring back breeds to economic use in agriculture.*
- *But governments have to consider, that many/most of endangered breeds will need long-term state aid.*

End