
EDITORIAL

First of all, we are happy to welcome Keith Hammond, from the Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit (AGBU), University of New England, Armidale, Australia, who has just joined FAO as senior officer of the Animal Breeding and Genetic Resources group. His arrival gives the group an opportunity to review activities in this field and to elaborate a new programme for conservation and use of livestock diversity which will be presented in detail in the next issue of AGRI.

Since the last issue, the breed survey has been pursued with the valuable assistance of experts in a number of countries. Data received, after being validated and completed, are entered in the Global Databank at FAO Head Quarters in Rome. An article by J. Ruane (see page 13) summarizes the present status of this activity which will be continued in 1993. It is planned to publish the first World Watch List towards the middle of this year, and then to update it regularly.

The second step will be to elaborate projects for conservation and use of local breeds which are either in danger or particularly valuable. A first attempt will start in February/March 1993, on the Kuri (see Bourzat et al., AGRI N° 9) and Somba cattle in Benin, Chad and Nigeria for conserving and, where desirable, developing the breeds. Others will follow insofar as funds are available, and information is produced allowing for an evaluation of the importance and uniqueness of the relevant populations.

As a follow-up of the joint FAO/LTNEP training course on "Use of DNA technologies for Conservation and Selection of Animal Genetic Resources" organized from 14 to 26 June with the Molecular Animal Genetic Centre, Division of Tropical Animal Production, CSIRO, in Brisbane, Queensland, (J. Hetzel, R. Drinkwater), work in the field of genetic distancing has been initiated, with support given to a research project in Tanzania.

Coming to this particular issue N° 11, J. Boyazoglu tried to collect reviews of all the important books/brochures related to animal genetic resources published before the end of 1992, and not previously reported upon. We intend to produce such a review once a year, and for this we call for the readers participation: AGRI would like to receive more notes and news.

Your interest for this bulletin is confirmed by the numerous requests to be included in the mailing list. However, the future relies fully on a regular flow of manuscripts submitted for publication. Any kind of submission, whatever the length, is considered as long as it really relates to animal genetic resources. In particular we would like to publish more information on the activities in the field of conservation of genetic diversity.