
EDITORIAL

Two issues of AGRI so close to each other: this is not going to be our new publication frequency, but only the adverse effect of budgetary constraints! From now on, we plan to publish AGRI three times a year, instead of two previously. You may have noticed that the last two issues, as well this one, had a tendency to have more pages. This is good news, as it means that we are receiving more and more material; obviously, largely enough for three issues per year. Ut's hope that the budget will follow. For 1995, with the financial support of UNEP, it will be possible.

In this issue we start publishing country reports which were prepared by the participants of the two training courses held in Africa in May 1994 on the establishment and operation of genebanks and databanks. We publish here the first three which have been edited by their authors (Ethiopia, Mauritania and Uganda); others will follow in the coming issues. We think that this gives our colleagues from Africa a good opportunity to share their knowledge on their genetic resources, and in fact, they have replied with enthusiasm to our proposal.

A first Project Identification Mission for Animal Genetic Resources has been fielded for English speaking Africa, which has produced a portfolio of 11 project proposals, aiming at a better characterization, use and conservation of animal genetic resources in the 14 countries involved. A similar exercise is going on for French speaking Africa and this activity has now been started also for Central and Eastern European countries. A first workshop, financially supported by Germany, has been held on 5 and 6 October in Meissen, near Dresden, during which participants from 13 countries attended. Budget permitting, this will then be extended in the future to other regions: projects are ready for the Near East, Latin America, the Indian subcontinent, and the 15 Republics of the former USSR.

The present issue, like most of the previous ones, gives more space to the description of breeds or of production systems, than to the improvement of performances or to the conservation activities. It would be useful to have more proposals on these latter aspects linked to the local animal genetic resources.

Finally, we would like to have some feedback from you, the reader. You may not feel like writing a paper, but still have some experience that is worth being shared. If material like letters to the editors, or short comments, news and short technical notes could be made available, we would be happy to add a new rubric in AGRI. Please feel free to submit various kind of such material.