

Regional Workshop for the Strengthening of Capacities for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources in Northern Africa

2 - 3 February 2015 – Tunis, TUNISIA



AFRICAN UNION
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**



Regional workshop for the Strengthening of Capacities for the management of animal genetic resources in Northern Africa

**Golden Tulip El Mechtel Hotel in Tunis, TUNISIA
2 - 3 February 2015**

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For further information, please contact:

AU – IBAR

Kenindia Business Park Building, Museum Hill, Westlands Road
P. O. Box 30786, 00100-Nairobi, Kenya, Telephone: 254-20-3674000,
Fax: 254-20-3674341 Email: ibar.office@au-ibar.org

www.au-ibar.org

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Acronyms

AnGR:	Animal Genetic Resources
APRI	Animal Production Research Institute (Egypt)
AU:	African Union
AUC:	African Union Commission
AU-IBAR:	African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
CAADP:	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CBD:	Convention on Biological Diversity
CGRFA:	Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
CNA :	Chambre Nationale de l'Agriculture
CNIAAG :	Centre National de l'Insémination Artificielle et de l'Amélioration Génétique
DAD-IS:	Domestic Animal Diversity-Information System
DOFPP :	Direction de l'Organisation Foncière et de la Protection des Patrimoines (MADR)
DRDPA :	Direction de la Régulation et du Développement de la Production Agricole (MADR)
DSV :	Direction des Services Vétérinaires (MADR)
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
GNAP:	Groupement National des Associations de coopérative Pastorale
GPA:	Global Plan of Action
GERT:	Groupement des Éleveurs de la Race Tarentaise
HCDS :	Haut-commissariat du développement de la steppe
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
INMV :	Institut National de Médecine Vétérinaire
INRAA :	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique d'Algérie
ITDAS :	Institut Technique du Développement de l'Agriculture Saharienne
ITELV:	Institut Technique des Elevages
ITWG-AnGR:	Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources
MADR :	Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural
MS:	Member States
NAP:	National Action Plan
NFP:	National Focal Point
NSAP:	National Strategies and Action Plan
REC:	Regional Economic Communities
SoW-AnGR:	State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources
S-RFP:	Sub-Regional Focal Point
UMA:	Union du Maghreb Arabe
WAMIP	World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples

Acknowledgements

The Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Tunisia, to the National Institute of Agronomic Research of Algeria (INRAA: Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique d'Algérie), to the national coordinators, to the Focal Points of the AU-IBAR Genetics Project, Breeders/Livestock producers Associations and to all the stakeholders who participated actively in this important workshop. AU-IBAR appreciates the sharing of knowledge and information as well as the constructive contribution of all the participants to the deliberations during the workshop. This contributed to the workshop achieving its objectives, thereby making considerable progress in the establishment of sub-regional structures for the management of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR), in particular the sub-regional focal point for Northern Africa.

Sincere thanks to the European Union and the African Union Commission for their financial support through the Genetics project.

Summary

AU-IBAR in collaboration with INRAA organized from 2nd to 3rd February 2015, a joint regional workshop on **“Strengthening of Capacities for the management of animal genetic resources in Northern Africa”**. The workshop was held in Tunis, Tunisia, within the framework of the Genetics Project **“Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources”** funded by EU and AUC and implemented by AU-IBAR.

The overall objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the Northern African region to enhance the management of AnGR through better regional coordination and networking, and specifically to:

- Validate the proposed Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee for the S-RFP for Northern Africa;
- Conduct the election of members of the Steering Committee;
- Propose mechanisms for the sustainability of the S-RFP;
- Review the status of the existing policies and regulatory frameworks on the use of AnGR in Northern Africa;
- Initiate discussions on the development of national and regional guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of policies for crossbreeding and *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation;
- Engage in discussions on procedures for the operation of regional gene bank(s);
- Discuss the preliminary results for the establishment of the African Animal Genetic Resources Information System (AAGRIS).
- Present and discuss the Table of Content in view of the preparation of the State of AnGR in Africa, and
- Provide a feedback to the NC on the participation of Africa to the 8th meeting of the ITWG.

The workshop brought together participants from 6 countries of Northern Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia), one regional economic community: the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA), National Research Organizations (INRAA, Institut des techniques d'élevage (ITELV)), International Institutions (FAO through the Northern African representation), the Civil Society and non-state Organizations (The World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP) Morocco, the Groupement National des Associations Pastorales de Mauritanie (GNAP) and GRET “Tunisia”) and Universities (Tlemcen/Algeria and Mateur/Tunisia).

Various presentations, group discussions and plenary sessions on specific themes characterized the General Assembly with the active involvement and contributions of the participants. The two days of deliberations culminated in the following outcomes:

- a. Following the review and validation of the criteria for the Steering Committee the General Assembly elected nine members to constitute the Steering Committee of the S-RFP. This included six Member States comprising Mauritania (Chair), Tunisia (Vice-chair), Algeria, Egypt, Libya and Morocco (members), INRAA (Secretariat), one REC (UMA), Producers (WAMIP) and Civil society organisation (GERT).
- b. Participants agreed to establish a Bureau of the SC composed of a chairperson, a vice-chair and the secretary. They recommended the tenure of the bureau be for five (5) years.
- c. Regional priorities to be addressed were identified including: - Establishment of a sub-regional database and Networks - Establishment of sub-regional conservation sites / gene banking - Development of joint Program/ strategy interventions on genetic improvement - capacity building

enhancement - Development of a common communication strategy - Harmonization of policies on AnGR.

- d. Comments were also made on a proposed Table of Contents for the document on “The State of Animal Genetic Resources in Africa” as well as discussions on the possible establishment of regional gene bank for and the development of AAGRIS.
- e. Activities to be undertaken by the Secretariat as part of its 2015 Workplan were highlighted, such as: development of an Action Plan based on the priorities identified during the GA, this should be conducted by April 2015 and adopted by the SC by June 2015 through a physical or virtual meeting and organisation of the second general assembly in December 2015.

From the various discussions the General Assembly adopted the following as way forward:

- The Secretariat in collaboration with AU-IBAR to officially inform the countries and the various stakeholders involved in the management of Animal genetic resources on the establishment of the S-RFP for Northern Africa
- For improved attention and funding of AnGR activities at country and regional levels, awareness creation should be carried out;
- The GA emphasized that priority should be given to measures that promote conservation of AnGR in their natural environments.

Introduction and Background

Sustainable use, development and conservation of Africa’s livestock genetic resources are of vital importance to agriculture, food production, rural development and the environment. In recognition of the need to develop an effective framework for the management of African animal genetic resources and to address the threat of genetic erosion, AU-IBAR has developed a project on Animal Genetic Resources. The project, aims at strengthening the capacity of countries and Regional Economic Communities to sustainably use and conserve African animal genetic resources through institutionalising national and regional policy, legal and technical instruments that are crucial for judicious exploitation of AnGR.

The International Community in 2007 adopted the Global Plan of Action (GPA) as the main strategy to ensure sustainable utilization of AnGR and halt their erosion. The GPA contains four Strategic Areas: a) characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks; b) sustainable use and development; c) conservation; and d) policies, institutions and capacity building.

In the framework to mainstream livestock in the CAADP pillars developed by AU-IBAR, sustainable utilisation of AnGR is a Priority Area under Pillars 3 on food security and 4 on research and information dissemination based on the following strategies: characterization of indigenous AnGR, data collection and analysis, development of guidelines for protection and promotion of endangered animal breeds, facilitating and coordinating the setting up and maintenance of gene banks, development of guidelines and policies for harmonization, selection, regulation, intellectual property rights and transfer of new genetic technologies and products, molecular genetics of resistance to diseases, adaptation to environmental stress, development of technologies for multiplication, conservation and preservation of AnGR.

The overall strategy of the project is to facilitate and fast track the implementation of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for sustainable use of AnGR in Africa for which the continent is lagging behind. The sustainable conservation and utilization of AnGR depends largely on the existence of legal and regulatory frameworks in each country and at regional level to govern breed utilization, including breed improvement and exchange of genetic materials and at the same time define the roles and responsibilities stakeholders.

The Genetics project took up the task of assisting the AU Member States with the formulation of policy and regulatory frameworks and harmonizing these at regional levels. It has also initiated the coordination and the establishment and/or strengthening of gene banks across the continent. In terms of institutional framework, the project has initiated the establishment and/or strengthening of institutions to serve as national and regional focal points for AnGR as prescribed under the FAO, Institutional Framework for the Management of AnGR, in all regions of Africa. It was agreed that these institutional structures should be established before the end of 2014. The project has also initiated the development of the African Animal Genetic Resources Information System (AAGRIS) in ARIS as its AnGR component with links to other information systems such as DAD-IS and DAGRIS.

Therefore, a General Assembly was organized on ***“Strengthening of Capacities for the management of animal genetic resources in Northern Africa”*** at the Golden Tulip El Mechtel Hotel in Tunis, Tunisia, from 2nd to 3rd February 2015 to establish a regional institution that serves as a substantive Sub-Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources in North Africa. The General Assembly (GA) was an ideal opportunity to bring together stakeholders to deliberate on key issues pertaining to AnGR in the region and make decisions to address them. The General Assembly also served as an opportunity to provide feedback on the current and proposed activities of the project.

Objectives

Principal objective

The overall objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the Northern African region to enhance the management of AnGR through better regional coordination and networking.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives were to:

- Validate the proposed Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee for the S-RFP for Northern Africa;
- Conduct the election of members of the Steering Committee;
- Propose mechanisms for the sustainability of the S-RPF;
- Review the status of the existing policies and regulatory frameworks on the use of AnGR in Northern Africa;
- Initiate discussions on the development of national and regional guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of policies for crossbreeding and *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation;
- Discuss procedures for the establishment and operation of regional gene bank(s);
- Discuss the preliminary results in the establishment of the African Animal Genetic Resources Information System (AAGRIS).
- Present and discuss the proposed Table of Contents for the State of AnGR in Africa, and
- Provide feedback to participants on the participation of Africa in the 8th meeting of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (ITWG).

Participants

The workshop brought together participants from six countries of the Northern Africa region (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia), one Regional Economic Community Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA), National Research Organizations (INRAA, Institut des techniques d'élevage (ITELV)),

International Institutions (FAO - Northern African office), the Civil Society and non-state Organizations (The World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP) “Morocco”, the Groupement National des Associations Pastorales de Mauritanie (GNAP) “Mauritania” and GRET “Tunisia” and Universities (Tlemcen/Algeria and Mateur/Tunisia)..

Workshop methodology

The workshop comprised presentations, group discussions and plenary sessions on specific AnGR topics. The sessions were chaired by Tunisia as the Host Country. The secretariat services were provided by INRAA as the Secretariat of the S-RFP for the Northern Africa region. Mauritania was elected chair for the Steering Committee and therefore chaired the first meeting of the S-RFP. AU-IBAR facilitated the workshop.

Participants introduced themselves and the agenda of the workshop was adopted with minor changes.

Workshop Proceed

General Assembly:

Opening Session/Ceremony

The opening ceremony was chaired by Madam Samia Saidan, Director General of the Department of Agricultural Production, representing the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Tunisia. The session, facilitated by Dr Simplicie Nouala Chief Animal Production Officer, and included self-introductions by the participants and four (4) speeches.

- i. Mr. Stephen Wathome, Programme Manager Agriculture and Rural Development, representing the Delegation of the European Union to Kenya. In his speech Mr. Wathome acknowledged the invitation to the workshop by AU-IBAR and the warm welcome extended by the Government of Tunisia. Mr Wathome mentioned that his presence at the workshop was evidence of the long-standing relationship between EU and AU-IBAR with the common objective of addressing challenges in animal resources. For many years the two institutions have been working on a number of projects and strategic programs. Mr Wathome listed, the current EU-funded projects currently implemented by AU-IBAR, including the Vet-Gov project, the Bee health project in partnership with *icipe*, the Fisheries project and the Genetics project. Mr. Wathome took the opportunity to celebrate the collaboration between AU-IBAR and the EU in the successful program in the eradication of Rinderpest, which remains the hallmark to the successful partnership between the two institutions. He noted that this program remains a lesson learnt based on clear objectives at the start, the long term vision and sufficient resources to run such a program. He highlighted the importance of animal genetic resources for food security and livelihoods of African populations. . Mr Wathome concluded his speech by expressing the willingness of the European Union to continue the partnership with AU-IBAR and wished good deliberations at the workshop.
- ii. Madame Faouzia Chakiri, representing the Secretary General of the Union du Maghreb Arabe (UMA) in her speech acknowledged AU-IBAR for the invitation to the workshop and noted that her attendance was shows the importance that UMA attaches to livestock production, and to the animal health aspects in the region as well as to demonstrate the willingness of UMA to collaborate with other institutions. Animal genetic resources play a key role for food security on

the continent and as a result, UMA has put in place a Ministerial Commission for food security. UMA is engaged in various partnerships to carry out actions among them the establishment of the Bank of Vaccines, implementation of the capacity building program for socio-professional groups (livestock, bees and small scale fisheries) and harmonisation of agricultural policies, both in partnership with FAO. Madame Chakiri, noted that UMA is open to more collaboration and is planning to put in place a structure that will be fully in charge of animal genetic resources issues.

- iii. The Director of AU-IBAR, Professor Ahmed El Sawalhy, in his speech, extended his warm welcome to the participants and his special thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of Tunisia for accepting to host the workshop, as well for the hospitality provided to participants since their arrival in Tunis. Professor El Sawalhy, briefed the participants on the importance of AnGR in Africa and their importance in the AU-IBAR strategic plan. He further gave the role and importance of the sub-regional focal points, representing institutional arrangements for the management of AnGR as per the Global Plan of Action. The Director emphasized on the importance of animal genetic biodiversity, as it is a major building block for food security and livelihoods and its conservation is essential if animal production systems are to respond to challenges such as population growth and climate change. Development of Animal Genetic Resources is therefore a priority in Africa where livestock production constitutes a very important component of the economy and contributes up to 30 to 50% to agricultural GDP. In relation to the project and to the specific activity under which the workshop is held, Professor El Sawalhy reviewed the outcomes of the workshop held last year in Algiers and reminded the objectives of the current workshop. Professor El Sawalhy ended his speech wishing the participants an inspiring, productive and enjoyable meeting.
- iv. Madame Samia Saidan, Director General for Agricultural Production delivered the last speech on behalf of the Tunisian Minister of Agriculture. Madame Saidan welcomed the participants from the sister AU members states and conveyed the apologies of the minister who could not be present to open the workshop. Madame Saidan thanked AU-IBAR for selecting Tunisia to host the meeting and the participants for finding time to attend to the meeting. She noted that Tunisia appreciated the collaboration and the support provided by AU-IBAR in particular to the livestock sector. She recalled that the current project as well as the livestock strategy for the continent, is a recommendation of the Ministers in charge of livestock during their 9th conference in Abidjan, . Livestock is important to Tunisia which has initiated various activities towards preservation of endangered breeds, promotion of adaptive breeds to climate variability and sustainable utilisation. With regards to the regulatory frameworks, she informed the participants that Tunisia has voted a law for livestock and animal production, and has signed various international conventions including – the convention on bio-diversity (CBD), the convention of Cartagena, the Nagoya protocol on access and benefit sharing (ABS). Tunisia has contributed to the conduct of the Global strategy for Animal Genetic resources and has submitted its first Country Report on AnGR and the second report is currently being finalised. Madame Saidan commended AU-IBAR for its initiative through the Genetics project. She wished that the workshop will generate recommendations, which Tunisia promised to adopt and implement. Before officially opening the workshop, Madame Saidan again thanked the organisers and particularly AU-IBAR for its collaboration and support to Tunisia.

Session 1: Establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for AnGR in Northern Africa

This session consisted of presentations and discussions in plenary sessions including elections of Steering Committee (SC) members and its chairmanship. After the review and adoption of the agenda of the Workshop, the election of the Chair person for the General Assembly was conducted. Tunisia as host country agreed to chair the 2-day meeting. There were three presentations: two from AU-IBAR and one from the Secretariat of the S-RFP for Northern Africa (INRAA).

a. The Presentations

Two presentations were made by AU-IBAR.

The first presentation, titled “**Concept of the Sub-Regional Focal Points for Animal Genetic Resources**” was an introductory presentation on the background and concept of establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Points (S-RFP). It also provided comprehensive information on the structure of the S-RFP and the roles and responsibilities of the various governance structures.

The second presentation titled “**Criteria for the Sub-Regional Focal Points for Animal Genetic Resources**” focused on the selection criteria of institutions to host the Secretariat of the S-RFP for Northern Africa, as well as on the composition of the General Assembly and the Steering Committee for the S-RFP. These TORs are inspired from those prepared and presented in Libreville in 2011 for the establishment of S-RFP for West and Central Africa. The same has been used as a template and adjusted to each region’s specificities (including West, Central, Southern and Eastern Africa regions). The presentation suggested the main features for:

- The General Assembly including its composition (Membership), mandate, chairing, decision making process and tools, meeting periodicity etc...
- The Steering Committee, including its composition, chairmanship, mandate, voting system and funding mechanism.

The third and last presentation shared the content of the report of the Secretariat of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for AnGR in North Africa (INRAA). The presentation was made by the Coordinator appointed by INRAA for the Secretariat of the S-RFP for Northern Africa. The presentation by Dr Mourad Abdelfettah focused on the progress in the establishment and management of the S-RFP for Northern Africa. In the introduction a review was made on the Specific objectives of the S-RFP for Northern Africa, its organisational and operational structures as adopted in June 2014, as well as the TORS for the S-RFP before an in-depth presentation of the achievements since the launching process in June 2014, including: The official appointment of the Secretary for the S-RFP by INRAA; the attendance to the regional meeting of the coordinators of the S-RFP; participation at the 8th ITWG meeting under the sponsorship of Genetics project.

The secretariat also presented the planned activities including: Creation of a database and a website for the Focal point; Creation a network for information sharing; Establishment of the Steering Committee’ Initiation of AnGR Inventory and characterization actions for a better understanding of the region’s diversity and the potential’ Conduct a socio-economic study on importance of the AnGR in the region’ Development of a regional bi-annual action Plan’ Harmonization of policies and regulations on the management of AnGRs; Creation of sub-regional conservation sites: In Situ and cryopreservation; Coordination of research activities, relay and dissemination of information; Advocacy on the importance of RZGs and harmonization of the position of the States in North Africa for upcoming events.

b. Plenary discussions

The Plenary session consisted of clarification of issues as well as deliberations on the composition of the Steering Committee. The host country, Tunisia was proposed and agreed to chair the General Assembly.

In regard to the composition of the Steering Committee, the following membership was agreed to:

- Representatives of National Public Sector: National Coordinators for AnGR (6);
- Representative of Regional Public Sector: Secretariat UMA (1);
- Representative of civil society: (1)
- Representative of the producers (1)

c. Elections of the Steering Committee Members and Chairmanship

After the composition of the Steering Committee was agreed to during the plenary discussions, the General Assembly proceeded with the election of 9 members. These included:

- Six (6) Member States comprising of Mauritania (Chair), Tunisia (Vice-chair), Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Libya (Members)
- One (1) REC (UMA),
- WAMIP (Morocco) to represent producers' organisations, and
- GERT (Tunisia) to represent civil society organisations.

The participants also agreed to establish a Bureau of the Steering Committee composed of a chairperson, a vice-chair and the secretariat. The tenure of the bureau was recommended to be for 5 years.

Session 2: Policy and regulatory frameworks for animal genetic resources

Under this session, two (2) presentations were made followed by discussions in Country groups. Participants from each country gathered to discuss gaps in National policies as well as enumeration of priorities and identification of those of regional importance.

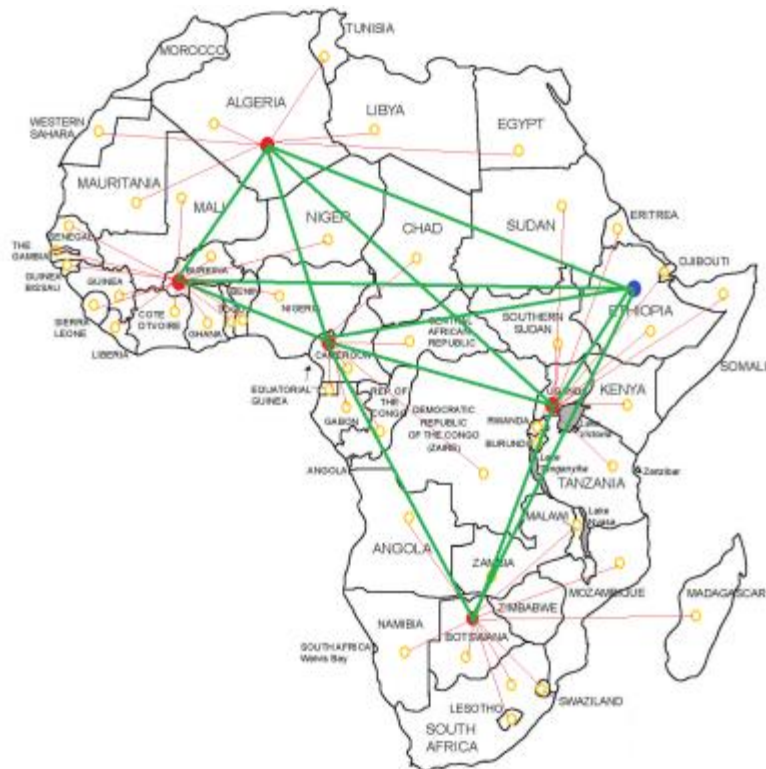
a. The presentations :

The two presentations were made by AU-IBAR.

- i. The first presentation "***The inventory and analysis of policies and legislative frameworks for AnGR in North Africa***" made by Dr Nengomasha assessed some prevailing issues on policies, strategies and legislation for AnGR in the various Member States in North Africa and attempted to highlight issues, shortfalls and gaps which may hinder the proper conservation, utilization and general management of AnGR. The assessments were mainly based on submissions by Member States to the 1st and 2nd State of the World's Reports on Animal Genetic Resources (SoW-AnGR) and other documents. It was clear that only a few countries in the region have policies and legislation directly formulated and designed for the management of AnGR. Some policies and legislation were very old and may require updating. Many of the countries still have draft versions of policies under development. The presentation also noted that there were no policies and legislation on crossbreeding or on transboundary breeds. The subsequent discussions highlighted the need for greater advocacy for AnGR in the region which may require some innovative approaches to change perceptions, particularly on the advantages of indigenous or exotic breeds. It was also noted that products from indigenous breeds could be branded, especially those produced organically for niche marketing. It was noted that many countries in the region do not have functional breeders' societies and this is hampering the management of some important breeds. The establishment of breeders' societies would significantly contribute to the proper management of AnGR in the region. The meeting also agreed that it would be good if an assessment is conducted on the genetic impact of imported breeds in the region. It was also acknowledged that exotic breeds have their merits and can significantly contribute to the region's livestock production.

- ii. The second presentation “***Towards the establishment of an African Gene Bank for AnGR: the key aspects for considerations***” from Dr N’Guetta Bosso highlighted the key issues for consideration in the establishment of gene banks for AnGR. He stressed the importance of establishing gene banks, chief among them to preserve and safeguard the wealth of genetic diversity, especially those threatened with extinction, and create a back-up for future generations. The characteristics and critical points of gene banks including: agreements between host institution and owners of stored materials; documentation on stored materials; identification of stored materials; information about stored materials. Issues of ownership and access to the stored materials were also highlighted. Examples of Material Transfer Agreements and the legal issues were also presented. The immediate plans for the assessments of gene bank facilities in the region were shared for consideration by the General Assembly. He reported for the region, that field assessments were planned to be conducted in Tunisia, Egypt and Algeria, considering it was done in May 2014 for Mauritania. The analysis of the assessments report will guide in selection of the potential country to host the regional gene bank for North Africa. It was also reported to the participants the outcomes of the selection for the other regions and that PANVAC was identified to act as a depository back-up conservation site for the genetic materials from Africa. A roadmap was proposed for the development of a Network of African Gene Banks and the schematic map is shown below.

The proposed network is premised on the model of the European Network of Gene Banks. The proposed governance structure of the network was also presented. It was announced that the Genetic Project would support the establishment of the African Gene Bank and some of the activities. However, long-term financial support should be considered outside the project.



b. Group session

On the basis of the issues raised, the participants continued their consultations in six (6) groups (corresponding to the number of countries constituting the S-RFP) in order to deliberate on:

- Identification of the gaps in the existing policies on AnGR;
- What could be considered as national priorities?
- What are the priorities of regional scope?

In the following tables are summarised the outcomes of the discussions per country group.

ALGERIA	
Identified Gaps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The financial system is difficult to implement (especially at the legislative level), 2. Many decrees on AnGR exist but their application fails, 3. Lack of a strategy of outreach and information, 4. Misuse of national funds allocated by the State to farmers; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bad choice of recipients/ beneficiaries ✓ Lack of support
National priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inventory of AnGR (Population and Origin), 2. Livestock Identification, 3. Phenotypic and Genetic Characterisation of AnGR, 4. Use of Bio-technology for the Conservation of endangered breeds, 5. Management and Improvement of local breeds (Disallow uncontrolled crossbreeding among others). 6. Sub-regional Database
Regional priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create research networks, 2. Create a Database and site for the region, 3. Reinforce surveillance protocols at common borders especially in case of outbreaks, 4. Create sub-regional conservation sites: <i>In Situ</i> and <i>Cryo-conservation</i>

EGYPT	
Revision of the document	The document had been revised and adopted as an official policy list, with addition of 10 Ministerial Decrees and Resolutions that had been issued in the last 3 years, and directly/indirectly related to management of AnGR, e.g. a Ministerial decree preventing the importation of animal-originated feeds, meat and bone powder and feather.
Identified Gaps	<p><u>Policy associated with management of AnGR</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Policies related to animal recording (by breed not Spp.) and identification (Inventory-related and assessment of threaten/risk) b. Policies related to genetic identification for breeding animals (Utilization & Improvement of indigenous AnGR) c. Policies related to conservation of at-risk AnGR <p><u>Legislation associated with management of AnGR</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Legislation related to animal recording (by breed not Spp.) and identification (Inventory-related and assessment of threaten/risk) b. Legislation for AnGR traceability c. Legislation for breeding practices, e.g. controlled crossbreeding, controlling importation of semen and pregnant heifers) [has been revised and being edited] d. Legislation associated with related for phenotypic/Genetic characterization (as an update) to genetic identification for breeding animals (Utilization& Improvement of indigenous AnGR) e. Legislation related to conserving at-risk AnGR f. Legislation for Property Rights, in coordination with AU-IBAR and AOAD
National priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular Inventory (breed/based) • Selection-based National Genetic improvement strategy for <u>indigenous</u> AnGR. • Breeds based Genome database • Indigenous AnGR <i>in-vitro</i> Gene-bank
Priorities of Regional Aspects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular breed-based inventory of indigenous AnGR • Landscape-genomics characterization of indigenous AnGR, in relation to climate and topology • National/regional Gene-bank, with respect to Biological Property Rights

TUNISIA:	
GAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill for the implementation of the regulation/policy on the protection of animal species • Bill for the application of professional organization • Development of the bill for implementing the legislation in regard to the valorisation of local/indigenous products «IP, AOC, PGI» • Policy related to the ABS • Lack of funding for conservation programs • Database on AnGR
National Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of endangered animal genetic resources • Encourage the creation and functioning of breeders associations Network • Develop the strategy for local products • Strengthen the BNG (National gene bank)
Priorities of regional scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and broaden the BG into a regional platform • Regional Convention on the exchange of AnGR/ harmonization • Policy on Animal breeding

MAURITANIA	
Identified priority areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable funding for AnGR from the budget of the States • Integration of the Camel species as area of intervention area for North Africa region • Harmonization of policies and interventions in regards to AnGR • Human resources Capacity building and training • Develop a common communication strategy on AnGR

MOROCCO: The participant contributed to the discussion the National Action plan for the country, where detailed information and data could be gathered when needed.

LIBYA: Participants from Libya emphasized the need for reinforcing national and regional Gene banks but highlighted the grave security situation prevailing in their country.

Following the presentations from each country group, the following emerged and was adopted as main regional priorities:

Consolidated regional priorities

1. Establishment of a sub-regional database (Genomic breed-based incl. local)
2. Networking (research, inventory, characterization, conservation)
3. Establishment of sub-regional conservation sites/gene bank (strengthening, extension/ platform, biological property right)
4. Joint Program/ strategy interventions on genetic improvement (selection, inventory, conservation, minimize uncontrolled cross-breeding...)
5. Joint Program and efforts for capacity building and training
6. Development of a common communication strategy
7. Harmonization of policies on ANGR

Session 3: African AnGR information system (AAGRIS)

The following sub-sessions were facilitated:

a. Presentation & discussion on the Table of Contents for the State of AnGR in Africa

The Genetics project is planning to develop a document on the State of AnGR in Africa for Member States to be effectively involved in the sustainable utilisation of AnGR and to carry out their functions in a way that ensures the biological basis for Africa food security, and contribute to the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people. The objective of the document on the State of AnGR in Africa is to provide basic, easily accessible materials that provide a systematic support to the conservation, use and management of AnGR in order to make available clear and practical ways of working differently. During the inception phase of the project, AU-IBAR has gathered valuable information and reports, specifically Country report in contribution to the 1st and 2nd State of the World report on AnGR. The intention now is to package what has been

learned so far from that experience into a document on the State of AnGR in Africa. A Table of contents in view of the preparation of the document on the State of AnGR in Africa has been developed and shared with different stakeholders for their comments and inputs.

To maximise on the contributions from the National Coordinators, a printed copy of this draft document was distributed to all the participants. Their individual contribution was then collected for consideration in the final document.

In total, 10 participants made contributions. The main inputs included:

- Consideration of three additional chapters: -
 - o (i) The Objectives of the document and System of operation –
 - o (ii) Future Capacity building actions on AnGR –
 - o (iii) Benefit sharing on Ecosystems diversity and genetic resources.
- Provision of an outline on the actual situation of AnGR on the Continent (Inventory, mapping,..)
- Provision of details, such as number of breed per species, their situation (crossbreed, population...)
- Consideration of the movement of animal as well as the traceability under the chapter related to “Enhance characterisation and animal recording”
- Consideration of the impacts of “Local policies” on the “Threats to African AnGR”,
- Others species to consider should include Buffalo, turkey, ducks, rabbits
- Consumers as well should be considered under the stake holders;
- Inclusion of the “State of improvement and genetic conservation programmes in Africa” with a clear identification of the selection objectives.

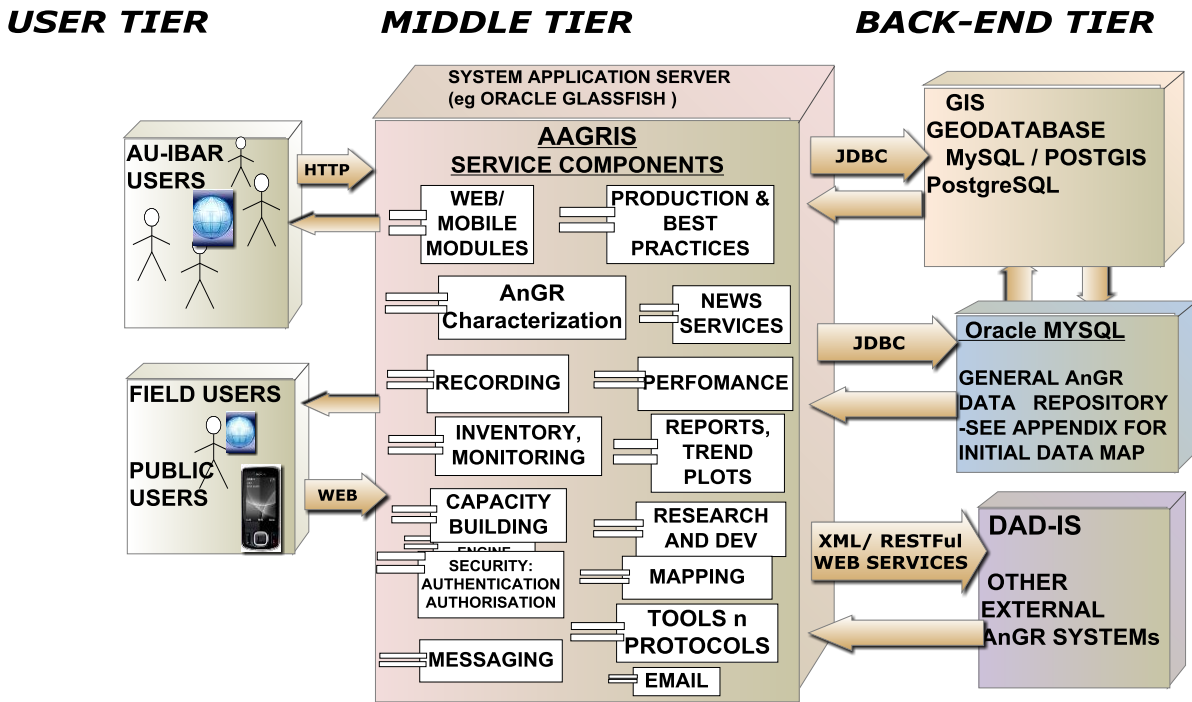
b. Introductory presentation on the Information System for Animal Genetic Resources

This was a “two in one” presentation made by Dr Mbole-Kariuki. It included:

- The proposed African Animal Genetic Resources Information System, AAGRIS and,
- The Update on the Harmonisation of Characterisation, Inventory and Monitoring tools.

Pertaining the African Animal Genetic Resources Information System, the presenter gave a brief introduction of the system which included the conception of the idea to develop AAGRIS so as to bridge the information gaps evident in the continent. The presentation also included outcomes of the needs assessment conducted by the Consultant (Mr Samuel Chari) and a proposed technical structure of AAGRIS. This needs assessment studies was done through a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire requested for stakeholders needs in terms of various aspects including: content, data and information, providers of regular updates, regularity of updates, indicators for tracking status and trends, shortcomings of existing information systems and specific usability features and technical functionality. It was reported that the outcomes were based on responses received from a total of 60 respondents distributed across the entire continent. Six core areas have been identified; these include species and breeds, conservation and breeding programmes, characterization and monitoring, capacity development, AnGR news trends and AnGR institutions.

The proposed system is a multi-tier e-business platform with a web-based user tier, a business application server in the middle tier, and a relational database system and a geo-database mapping server as the back-end tier as illustrated in the next diagram.



**African Animal Genetic Resources Information System
PROPOSED MULTI-TIER ARCHITECTURE**

On the Harmonisation of tools & protocols for Characterization & Inventory for AnGR, Dr. Mbole-Kariuki shared the outcomes of the e-discussion and the workshop held on the characterization and inventory tools and protocols for AnGR. She highlighted that the activity sought to build consensus on the tools and methodologies used in the characterization and inventory of AnGR. An e-discussion was conducted to answer the query **“What does Africa really want from AnGR tools?”** The e-discussion indicated various shortcomings including: technical incapacity; financial constraints; dis-harmony in the use of AnGR tools; policy impediments; lack of political will; insensitivity or unawareness of the existence of the tools; inactive and/or lack of Committees or consortiums for AnGR; lack of common databases and information hubs. The preferred characteristics of the characterization tools for Africa were also discussed and that the tools should be: standardized; affordable; uniformly applicable; robust; customized; informative; user-friendly; readily available and accessible; and modernized. The e-discussion also established consensus on what approaches are required in the short-term for immediate benefit. These included: revision and harmonization of tools; building a sound technical base; formulation and implementation of policies; raising awareness; fund-raising; establish common African information hubs and consortiums. In the long-term, there is need to establish Livestock Monitoring Committees as sentries of AnGR.

The workshop held in Dar-es-Salaam was to: examine the existing tools and protocols for characterization and inventory; design a strategy to improve utilization of tools and to agree of roadmap with roles and responsibilities. SWOT analyses of the existing tools were conducted culminating in the revision of phenotypic (morphometric, environmental, production and reproduction, adaptive, socio-economic, biological samples, indigenous knowledge), molecular (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism, genome sequencing) and inventory (livestock surveys) tools. The workshop also agreed to adopt the African Goat Improvement Network (AGIN) Protocol photography specifications for phenotypic tools and to conduct training and capacity building for molecular and inventory tools. A road map was also agreed to and key stakeholders identified.

The feedback from the participants concerning the two issues was very positive, with most members requesting for the quick action by AU-IBAR in the implementation of AAGRIS and the revised and harmonized characterization, inventory and monitoring tools for AnGR.

c. Feedback from the 8th Session of the ITWG and the 15th Session of the CGRFA in Rome

The Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 26th – 28th November 2014. The Session was convened under the Regular Programme of the Organization.

Prior to the Eighth Session of the Working Group, FAO convened from 24th – 25th November 2014, a Global National Coordinators' Workshop on the establishment of the Regional Focal Points and their management.

The 15th Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was convened from 19th to 23rd January 2015 in Rome, to which two (2) Genetics project staff attended.

AU-IBAR through the Genetics Project has participated as an observer and has sponsored the participation of the newly established Coordinators of the Sub-Regional Focal Points (S-RFP) to both events. It was deemed important to share the feedback with the NC as this was an important achievement of the project and for the continent.

- a. The workshop was attended by participants from 12 African countries including: Cameroon, Eritrea, Namibia, Togo (members of the Working Group), Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Mozambique, Burundi and Ethiopia. In addition to the AU-IBAR Genetics project team, the coordinators representing the 5 sub-regional focal points (S-RFP) sponsored by AU-IBAR fully attended to the workshop. Those are namely the S-RFP Eastern Africa (ASARECA), S-RFP West Africa (CORAF/WECARD), S-RFP Central Africa (CEBEVIRHA), S-RFP Northern Africa (INRAA) and S-RFP Southern Africa (CCARDESA). The Global National Coordinators' Workshop has been a good opportunity to share the experience from Africa on the establishment of the Regional Focal Point; to take forward the issues of AnGR by creating a World Genebank, as has initiated by Africa for the creation of a Regional Genebank. Delegates from other regions wished to know more on the 5 S-RFP and their future linkages with the AFRP (Africa Regional Focal Point).
- b. In prelude to the ITWG on AnGR for Food and Agriculture meeting, regional consultations were held. The Group Africa elected a bureau to facilitate the African caucus with Togo as Chair and seconded by Namibia, who also served as Secretary. Namibia was appointed as Spoke person for Africa whenever the Chair should be given the floor. Building on the experience of countries participants who attended to the previous sessions and on the guidance of the AU-IBAR team, the African group came to an agreement to speak with one voice. Any new suggestion or views to be made during the plenary sessions were to be channelled to the Chair of the African caucus. The African caucus also agreed for its chair to stand for a position of Vice Chair in the presidium of the ITWG not for the Chair of the Commission. Strategically, the group also accepted to support the European caucus, or any candidate the European caucus will support to stand as chair of the ITWG.

Achievements, outcomes and lessons learnt included:

- i. The participation and contribution of the African continent has been well appreciated and highlighted during the opening speeches of the Global National Coordinators' Workshop and the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- ii. The contributions commended AU-IBAR through its Genetics project and included: - The strong mobilization of the national coordinators for the timely, quantitative and qualitative submission of the country reports, which has greatly increased the number of reports submitted for the Second state of the World for AnGR (41 reports submitted from Africa) - The facilitation of the travels and accommodations for Sub-Regional Coordinators to attend the Global National Coordinators' Workshop and the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, hence increasing the number of participants from Africa and the voice of Africa as well
- iii. As reported by the organizers and the frequent and usual attendants to the event, for the first time the Group Africa has shown a well-coordinated and united entity which has also improved the quality of its participation, as well as in the pertinence of the issues raised.

- iv. The way Africa approached the establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Points has been highly appreciated and has even inspired other continents (Latin America and Caribbean) willing to use the same approach. In fact, as oppose to other continents/regions which have established their Regional Focal Points (RFP) on the National Focal Points (NFP), the African Regional Focal Point (ARFP) has adopted a different approach and has as such initiated its establishment process building first on the Sub-Regional Focal Points (S-RFP) in the 5 political African regions.

Some lessons learned have been drawn from this first participation of the AU-IBAR Genetics project team:

- i. Some of the African countries were either represented by their embassies or persons different from the known national coordinators. Though there have been no controversial/contradictory intervention, there is need in the future to really build the African block and have everyone attending to the African caucus.
- ii. Though some achievements have been made during these key meetings, it was apparent that African participants needed to review and muster the documents circulated before the sessions. The time allocated for regional consultation would have only served to fine-tune the continent's position over some pertinent issue. Besides the initial work that the project team will have to take over, in term pre-analysing and availing to the countries the working documents for the meeting during the ITWG and the Commission, a preparatory meeting of national coordinators before travel to FAO could be an alternative for consideration;
- iii. Some of the subject dealt with during the Session, requested the support and guidance of a lawyer of the continents representatives. Issues related to "access and benefit sharing", "Services ecosystem provided by livestock species and breeds" raised considerably discussions in which Africa could not be actually heard.

With regard to the 15th session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Africa Group gathered in consultative meetings on the following agenda items:

- The Biotechnology;
- The Climate Change;
- The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for food and agriculture;
- The 8th Session of Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on AnGR for food and agriculture;
- The Implementation and updating of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for Animal Genetic Resources;
- The Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- The Composition of ITWG Sectoral Working Groups and Observers;
- The Micro-organisms and invertebrates;
- The Implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW).

As recommendation for the Fifteenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) that will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome 19 - 23 January 2015, it is suggested that AU-IBAR:

- i. Circulates to the National Coordinators all the documentation available and related to the meeting for their acquaintance and to increase their knowledge of the issues that will be addressed during the Regular Session of the Commission;
- ii. Moderates an e-discussion on relevant and importance issues related to AnGR on the Continent which could culminate with a Workshop/ meeting to adopt common position;
- iii. Facilitates if possible the participation of some countries to the Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Steering Committee meeting: Priority areas; Sustainable mechanisms for the S-RFP for AnGR in Eastern Africa and Annual workplan for 2015

After discussion the deliberations concluded in the following priorities to be addressed by the S-RFP. This included ToRs of the Steering Committee as well as the below listed:

- Establishment of a sub-regional database and Networks
- Establishment of sub-regional conservation sites / genebanking,
- Development of joint Program / strategy interventions on genetic improvement
- Capacity building enhancement
- Development of a common communication strategy
- Harmonization of policies on ANGR

On the annual workplan for 2015, the following actions (and in the table below) were considered to be focused on by the Secretariat:

- The secretariat will propose an Action Plan to the SC based on the priorities identified during the GA. This should be done by April 2015
- In June 2015 the SC should adopt the proposed action through a physical or virtual meeting
- In December 2015, organisation of the second general assembly

Period	Tasks	Observations
January/February	Conduct the General Assembly meeting Establish the Steering Committee (SC)	Completed
February/March	Create a web Link within INRAA Website	Secretariat (INRAA)
February	The secretariat in collaboration with AU-IBAR to officially inform MS on the establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for North Africa	UA-IBAR
April	Submission to the SC members an Action Plan based on the regional priorities identified during the General Assembly	Secretariat INRAA
June	Hold Steering Committee meeting	Venue and Dates to be determined
November	State of Animal Genetic Resources in the North African Countries	National coordinators
December	Hold the General Assembly	Venue and Dates to be determined

The project team took the opportunity, as the Steering Committee meeting was going on, to hold a side meeting with the representative of the University of Tlemcen, Dr Souheil Gaour, to discuss on the participation and contribution of AU-IBAR to the First International Workshop on the «Management and Genetic Improvement of Animal Resources», 17th to 19th May 2015.

Regarding the request for AU-IBAR participation and its support, the following has been convened:

- The support from AU-IBAR will require an official request Letter to be sent by the University of Tlemcen;
- The genetics project's support will only cater for participants for Northern Africa Region and could not relate to participants outside the said region.
- The AU-IBAR Genetics project could consider sponsoring National Focal Points/ National coordinators and possibly a scientist from Research from each of the member countries of the Sub-Regional Focal Point (S-RFP) for AnGR in Northern Africa.

- In support of the event, AU-IBAR could be sending two participants, mainly the Genetics project staffs.

Closing of the workshop

At the end of the deliberations a final communiqué was adopted by the participants (**Annex 3**).

Dr Najoua Nacef, on behalf of the Tunisian Minister of Agriculture officially closed the workshop. She took the opportunity to confirm and reiterate the honour for the Republic of Tunisia to host the Workshop. It also a great honour that the objectives at the beginning of the workshop are met with straight forward propositions made, among other, the need to develop a Regional Database, establish Network and support the promotion of Regional conservation projects and centres. She attested, it as an ambitious program however she hoped that necessary financial support will be available with the effective contribution of the Member State.

Dr Nacef, finally thanked AU-IBAR, its partners (FAO, EU) and all the participants to have selected Tunisia for the meeting and for the good deliberations. She wished the participants a safe journey to their homes and declared the regional workshop officially closed.

Conclusions / Recommendations

In conclusion of the deliberations, recommendations and way forward were expressed as captured in the final communiqué.

From the various discussions the following was adopted as way forward by the General Assembly:

1. The secretariat in collaboration with AU-IBAR to officially inform the countries and the various stakeholders involved in the management of Animal genetic resources on the establishment of the S-RFP for Northern Africa;
2. For improved attention and funding of AnGR activities at country and regional levels, awareness creation should be carried out;
3. The GA emphasized that priority should be given to measures that promote conservation of AnGR in their natural environments.

Annexes

1. List of participants
2. Agenda of the Workshop
3. Communiqué of the Workshop

Annex 1: List of participants



Workshop on “Strengthening the capacities for the management of animal genetic resources in Northern Africa” – Animal Genetics Resources (AnGR) Project

Tunis, Tunisia 2 – 3 February 2015

<p>ALGERIA Dr. Mourad Abdelfettah Maître de Recherche, INRAA Ministère de l’Agriculture et du Développement Rural 02 Rue des Frères Ouaddek B.P. 200 Hassen Badi El Harrach ; Alger - ALGERIE Tél.: +213-0-552 53 86 87 / Fax : +213-0-21 52 12 83 E-mail: afmourad@hotmail.com</p> <p>Dr. Semir Bechir Suheil Maître de conférences et Maître de recherche Université de Tlemcen, Laboratoire de Génétique Moléculaire et Cellulaire, Oran, Département de Biologie, Fac. SNV/STU - Tlemcen /ALGERIE Tél.: +213 (0) 559304276 E-mail: souheilgaouar@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>M. FANTAZI Khaled Attaché de recherche / Chef d’équipe ressource génétique de la Division production animale (INRAA) 02, Avenue des Frères Ouaddek B.P. 200 Hassen Badi – 16200, El-Harrach ; Alger/ ALGERIE Fax: +213 (0) 21 52 12 83 E-mail: fantaziurkhemis@yahoo.fr</p> <p>Dr CHIBANE Said Spécialiste en biotechnologie animale au CNAAG Centre National de l’insémination artificielle et de l’Amélioration génétique BP 10 BIRTOUTA Alger/ALGERIE Email: cnaag@yahoo.fr</p>
<p>EGYPT Prof. Khaled Mansour Director of Animal Production Research Institute (APRI), Ministry of Agriculture, Nadi Elsaid St. Dokki, Giza - Cairo/ EGYPT Tel.: + 233 37 29 34 /Fax: + 233 37 29 34 E-mail: khaled8693@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Dr. Ahmed Elbeltagy Research Scientist, PhD Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Production Research Institute, Department of Animal Biotechnology, Nadi Elsaid St. Dokki, Giza - Cairo/ EGYPT Tel.: +201 00 56 20 692 / Fax: +202 333 72 462 E-mail: ahmed_elbeltagi@yahoo.com</p>
<p>LIBYA Mr. Yousef Aborowais Director of Animal Production Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Tripoli / LIBYA Tel.: +218 92 65 60 614/ +218 91 32 22 101 E-mail: yosfeabrwes@yahoo.com & yousef@agriculture.gov.ly</p>	<p>Adel Mohamed Gdura Head Manager of Animal Improvement Project, Ministry of Agriculture Tripoli/ LIBYA Tel.: +218 92 51 73 145 E-mail: dradelmijg@ymail.com</p>
<p>MAURITANIA Mohamed Lemine Haki Coordinateur des RZG Ministère du Développement Rural B.P. 2750- Nouakchott / MAURITANIE Tél.: +222 22 24 55 59 E-mail: hakiml72@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>Tfeil Salek Groupement National des Associations de coopérative Pastorale de Mauritanie (GNAP) B.P. 5275, Nouakchott, Mauritanie Tél: +222 222 40 303 Fax: +222 222 40 395 E-mail: gnap415@gmail.com</p>

TUNISIA

Mme SAIDANE Samia

Directeur Général de la Production Agricole (DGPA)
Ministère de l'Agriculture
30 Rue Alain Savary
1002 Tunis Bélvdère TUNISIA
Tél.: +216-71842296 ;
Fax: +216-71780246
Email; samia.saidane@iresa.agrinet.tn

Prof. Malek ZRELLI

Directeur Générale des Services Vétérinaires (DGSV)
Ministère de l'Agriculture
30 Rue Alain Savary
1002 Tunis Bélvdère TUNISIA
Tunis, TUNISIE
Email: zrellimail-2011@yahoo.fr

Mme NACEF Najoua

S/Directeur Amélioration Génétique
Direction Générale de la Production Agricole (DGPA)
Ministère de l'Agriculture - TUNISIE
Tél.: +216-71786833/ +216-98384414
E-mail: nacef_najoua@yahoo.fr
nacefdgpa@gmail.com

M. KETHIRI Moncef

Ingénieur Principal,
Chef de service Appui technique
Office de Développement Sylvopastoral du Nord-Ouest
(ODESYPARANO) - TUNISIE
Tél.: +216-78450500 ; Fax: +216-78454718

Dr. Karim DAOUD

Vice-Président de SYNAGRI
Président du GERT - Tunis, TUNISIA
Email: daoudk1@gmail.com / conseilagri@outlook.com
Mobile: +216 20323703

Mme Sonia Ben Dhiyf

Institut National de Recherche Agronomique de Tunisie
(INRAT)
Ministère de l'Agriculture - TUNISIE
Tél.: +216-22531662 ; Fax: +216-71716537
Email : bedhiyf.sonia@gmail.com

M. Hochlef Haikel

Chef de Service Production de viande rouge
Direction Générale de la Production Agricole (DGPA)
Ministère de l'Agriculture - TUNISIE
Tél.: +216-71786833; Fax: +216-71780246
E-mail: nacef_najoua@yahoo.fr

Dr. Jnaoui Taoufik

S/Directeur Organisation et suivi des filières
GIVRLAIT/ TUNISIE
Tél.: +216-71286248 / +21698584092
E-mail: tawfikjnaoui@yahoo.fr

M. Djemali M'naour

Professeur
Chef de laboratoire des Ressources Animales
et Alimentaires
Institut National Agronomique de Tunisie (INAT)
Ministère de l'Agriculture – TUNISIE
Tél.: +216-71287110 / +216-98319029
Fax: +216-71799391
E-mail: mdjemali@webmails.com

Prof. Boulbaba Rekik

Coordonnateur National RAG
Ministère de l'Agriculture et Environnement,
ESA Mateur 7030 - Mateur/ TUNISIE
Tél.: +216-72485665/ +216-97477565
Fax: +216-485088
E-mail: boulbaba.rekik@gmail.com

Hamdene Mounir

Office de l'élevage et des Pâturages
Direction d'Amélioration Génétiques
Sidi Thabet, 2020 Ariana
Tél: +216 71790795 71787813
Fax: +216 71793603
E-mail : contact@oep.nat.tn; hamdeneoep@yahoo.fr

Mme Hichri Amina

Direction de la Coopération
Ministère de l'Agriculture - TUNISIE
Tél.: +216-71786833
E-mail: aminahichri269@yahoo.com

Dr SAIDANI Faycel

Office de Développement
Sylvopastoral du Nord-Ouest (ODESYPARANO)/ TUNISIE
Tél.: +216-78450500 / +21698634043 ;
Fax: +216-78454718
E-mail: saidani_say@yahoo.fr

M. Jemmali Borni

Assistant - Ecole Supérieur d'Agriculture de Mateur
7030 Mateur/ TUNISIE
Tél.: +216-72486074/ +216-72485665 ;
Fax: +216-72485088
E-mail: bornijemali@yahoo.fr

M. Hamdene Mounir

S/Directeur contrôle de performances
Office d'Elevage et de Pâturages- TUNISIE
Tél.: +216-98465428 ; Fax: +216-71793603
E-mail: hamdeneoep@yahoo.fr

M. BELHAJ Mohamed

Union Tunisienne de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche (UTAP)
Ministère de l'Agriculture - TUNISIE
Tél.: +216-71786833 / Fax: +216-71809181
E-mail: aminahichri269@yahoo.com

<p>MOROCCO Mr. Said Fagouri Président Union Maghrébine des Associations Ovines & Caprines Directeur Association Nationale Ovine et Caprine du Maroc 457, Av. Hassan II Résidence Maryam Appt B10 Agdal - RABAT Tél : 212 661 751 752 - 037 69 08 02 - 037 69 08 03 Email: anocdg@menara.ma ; fagouris@gmail.com ; fagouris@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>UMA Faouzia CHAKIRI Ingénieur en chef agro-économiste Chef de Division Direction de la Sécurité Alimentaire Secrétariat Général Union Maghreb Arabe Tel: +212 661229461 E-mail: sg.chakiri@gmail.com</p>
<p>EU Mr. Stephen Wathome European Union Delegation Program Manager - Agriculture and Rural Development Delegation of the European Union to Union House P O Box 45119 - 00100 - Nairobi, Kenya Tel: (254) 2713020/1, 2712860, 2802000, Fax: (254) 271195 E-mail : Stephen.WATHOME@ec.europa.eu</p>	<p>FAO Prof. Mohamed Bengoumi Animal Production and health Officer FAO Subregional Office for North Africa 43, Avenue Kheireddine Pacha-1002 - Tunis-Belvédère BP.300, Cité EL Mahragène, 1082 Tunis-Tunisie Tel : (+216) 71.906.553 E-mail : mohammed.bengoumi@fao.org</p>
<p>AU-IBAR Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy Director – AU-IBAR Kenindia Business Park Museum Hill, Westlands Road P.O. Box 30786-00100- Nairobi, Kenya Tel : +254 20 3674 000 Email: ahmed.elsawalhy@au-ibar.org</p> <p>Dr Simplice Nouala Chief Animal Production Officer, AU-IBAR Kenindia Business Park Museum Hill, Westlands Road P.O. Box 30786-00100- Nairobi, Kenya Tel : +254 20 3674 224 Email: simplice.nouala@au-ibar.org</p> <p>Dr Pissang Tchangai Project Officer – Genetics, AU-IBAR Kenindia Business Park Museum Hill, Westlands Road P.O. Box 30786-00100- Nairobi, Kenya Tel: +254 20 3674 237 Email: pissang.tchangai@au-ibar.org</p>	<p>Dr Bosso Austin N'Guetta Technical Assistant – Genetics , AU-IBAR Kenindia Business Park Museum Hill, Westlands road P.O. Box 30786-00100- Nairobi, Kenya Tel: +254 20 3674 211 Email: bosso.nguetta@au-ibar.org</p> <p>Dr Edward Nengomasha Project Officer – Genetics, AU-IBAR Kenindia Business Park Museum Hill, Westlands road P.O. Box 30786-00100- Nairobi, Kenya Tel: +254 20 3674 206 Email: edward.nengomasha@au-ibar.org</p> <p>Jemima Makanda Administrative Assistant , AU-IBAR Kenindia Business Park Museum Hill, Westlands road P.O. Box 30786-00100- Nairobi, Kenya Tel: +254203674000 - Fax: +254203674341 Email: jemima.makanda@au-ibar.org or jemmakanda@yahoo.com</p> <p>Talal Kishlaf Kenindia Business Park Museum Hill, Westlands road P.O. Box 30786-00100- Nairobi, Kenya Tel: +254203674000 - Fax: +254203674341 Email: talal.kishlaf@au-ibar.org</p>

Annex 2: Agenda of the Workshop



“Strengthening the capacities for the management of Animal Genetic Resources in Northern Africa” Regional Workshop (2nd - 3rd February 2015)

Day 1		Facilitator
Time	Official opening	
9:00 - 9:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductions of participants - Remarks Representative Donor, - Representative of UMA - Welcome Remarks by the Director of AU-IBAR - Official Opening - Government of Tunisia 	Rep. EU Host country Representative
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election Chair - Adoption of Agenda by the General Assembly (GA) 	AU-IBAR
9:45:-10:15	Health Break and Group Photo	All
	Session 1: Establishment of Sub-Regional Focal Point	Chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductory presentation on the S-RFP 	AU-IBAR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the report of Secretariat of S-RFP & Proposed Action Plan - Discussions/ Validation 	INRAA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of TORs and criteria for the election of Steering Committee 	AU-IBAR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions/ Review/ Adoption 	AU-IBAR
	Health break	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Election of the members of the Steering Committee (SC) - Discussion Regional Priorities / Sustainability of SRFP - Restitution 	
	Lunch	
	Session 2: Policy and regulatory frameworks for AnGR	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the inventory and analysis of policies and legislative frameworks 	AU-IBAR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group work: Gaps analysis & entry points, Actions, NAP & Priorities 	AU-IBAR
	Coffee break	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restitution - End of the day 	
	Day 2	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation on AAGRIS, needs assessment and preliminary structure of AAGRIS & Outcomes of the workshop on tools and protocols for Characterization and Inventory for AnGR - Group Work: Validate Needs assessment and structure for AAGRIS 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation: Towards the establishment of an African Gene Bank for AnGR: What are the key aspects to consider? - Discussions on Genebank: Key issues to consider for establishment of Genebank NA 	
	Coffee break	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restitution - Feedback from the 8th meeting of the ITWG & 15th Session of CGRFA 	AU-IBAR
	Lunch	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SC meeting (open to all) to reflect on the Action plan / Workplan 2015 of the Secretariat - Presentation and Adoption of the outcomes from the SC meeting 	SC/ All
	Health Break	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General discussions of the General Assembly - Recommendations/Workshop Communique 	AU-IBAR All

Annex 3: Communique of the Workshop



COMMUNIQUE

REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF CAPACITIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES IN NORTHERN AFRICA

**2nd - 3rd February 2015
Tunis (Tunisia)**

I. INTRODUCTION

4. The Regional workshop was convened by the African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in collaboration with INRAA (Institut National de Recherche Agronomique d'Algérie), from 2nd to 3rd February 2015 in Tunis (Tunisia), in the framework of the implementation of the AU-IBAR project on “**Strengthening the capacity of African Countries on Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Animal Genetic Resources in Africa**”.
5. The global objective of the workshop was to conclude on the establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for North Africa, for the management of Animal Genetic Resources, through the election of the Steering Committee members. The specific objectives were to :
 - Validate the proposed Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee for the S-RFP for Northern Africa;
 - Conduct the election of members of the Steering Committee;
 - Propose mechanisms for the sustainability of the S-RFP;
 - Review the status of the existing policies and regulatory frameworks on the use of AnGR in Northern Africa;
 - Initiate discussions on the development of national and regional guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of policies for crossbreeding and in situ and ex situ conservation;
 - Engage in discussions on procedures for the operation of regional gene bank(s);
 - Discuss the preliminary results for the establishment of the African Animal Genetic Resources Information System (AAGRIS).
 - Present and discuss the Table of Content in view of the preparation of the State of AnGR in Africa, and
 - Provide a feedback to the NC on the participation of Africa to the 8th meeting of the ITWG.
6. 35 participants from 6 Countries attended to the workshop, namely from Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.
7. The workshop held at **Golden Tulip Elmechtel Hotel** was officially opened by the Director General for Agricultural Production, Madame Samia SAIDAN, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, in the presence of the Director of AU-IBAR **Prof. Ahmed El-Sawalhy**, the Representatives of the European Union, the Union of the Maghreb Arab and FAO.
8. The General Assembly sessions were chaired by Tunisia and the workshop was facilitated by the AU-IBAR team.

II. THE WORKSHOP

9. In its proceedings, the workshop registered presentations on the activities of the Sub-Regional Focal Point (S-RFP) for Northern Africa and the Action Plan proposed by its Secretariat, the TORs and criteria for the Steering Committee. On the information system, the policy and regulatory frameworks for AnGR, three presentations were provided: one on the inventory and analysis of policies and legislative frameworks; the second, on the “African Animal Genetic Resources Information System” and finally “The establishment of an African Gene Bank for AnGR: key aspects

for consideration”. The workshop also comprised Group works and plenary discussions for further deliberations and arising issues.

III OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

At the end of the deliberations, the following outcomes were met:

On the Steering Committee

10. The GA elected 9 members for the Steering Committee of the S-RFP for Northern Africa; of which 6 Member States comprising of Mauritania (Chair), Tunisia (Vice-chair), one REC (UMA), WAMIP (Morocco) and GERT (Tunisia) to represent respectively producers and Civil society organisations.
11. The participants agreed to establish a Bureau of the SC composed of a chairperson, a vice-chair and the secretariat. The tenure of the bureau was recommended to be for 5 years.

On the identification of Regional priorities

12. The participants from the group works reflected on the points missed out, the gaps and proposed the following regional related priorities to be addressed:
 - Establishment of a **sub-regional database and Networks**
 - Establishment of **sub-regional conservation sites / genebanking,**
 - Development of joint Program / strategy interventions on **genetic improvement**
 - **capacity building enhancement**
 - Development of a common **communication strategy**
 - **Harmonization of policies** on ANGR

On the annual workplan for 2015 to focus on

13. The following actions were considered to be focused on by the Secretariat:
 - The secretariat will propose an Action Plan to the SC based on the priorities identified during the GA. This should be done by April 2015
 - In June 2015 the SC should adopt the proposed action through a physical or virtual meeting
 - In December 2015, organisation of the second general assembly

On the other topics debated during the General Assembly

14. The workshop registered the following achievements:
 - i. Comments were made on a proposed Table of content in view of the preparation of the document on “The State of Animal Genetic resources in Africa”.
 - ii. Comments were made to effectively implement the Genebank for the region as well as for the development of AAGRIS.

IV WAY FORWARD

15. The secretariat in collaboration with AU-IBAR to officially inform the countries and the various stakeholders involved in the management of Animal genetic resources on the establishment of the S-RFP for Northern Africa
16. For improved consideration and funding of AnGR activities at country and regional levels, awareness creation should be carried;

17. The GA emphasized that priority should be given to measures that promote conservation of AnGR in their natural environments.

V IN CONCLUSION

18. The participants extend their sincere thanks to the Government and people of Tunisia, for the hospitality provided since the arrival in Tunis and to AU-IBAR and INRAA for the perfect organization of the workshop.

Made in Tunis, on 3rd February 2015

The General Assembly