

Regional Inception and Sub-Regional Focal Point Workshop for North Africa Report 9 - 10 June 2014 ALGIERS, ALGERIA



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AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES
AU-IBAR



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources

Regional Inception and Sub-Regional Focal Point Workshop for North Africa

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Acronyms

AnGR:	Animal Genetic Resources
APRI	Animal Production Research Institute (Egypt)
AU:	African Union
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
GPA:	Global Plan of Action
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 Points
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

Acknowledgements

AU-IBAR wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to INRAA, National Coordinators, National Focal Points and all stakeholders who participated in this very important workshop. AU-IBAR appreciates the sharing of knowledge and information as well as the constructive contribution by the participants to the deliberations of the workshop. This resulted in the workshop achieving its goals of initiating the process of the establishment of a Sub-Regional Focal Point for North Africa and will contribute immensely to the implementation of the Genetics Projects. The European Union and the African Union Commission are sincerely thanked for providing the funding for the project.

Executive Summary

The African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) organized a two-day workshop focusing on strengthening institutional capacity for the management of animal genetic resources in North Africa and launching the process of establishing a Sub-Regional Focal Point (S-RFP) for Animal Genetic Resources in the region as part of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. AU-IBAR through the EU-funded project **“Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources”** and FAO through a Technical Cooperation Project **“Assistance for Regional Initiative on Animal Genetic Resources in Africa”** with AU-IBAR aim to establish the S-RFP for North Africa and to strengthen capacities of Member States (MS) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for the sustainable use of AnGR. The project contributes to the implementation of AU-IBAR’s strategy, which sets the sustainable use of AnGR as a priority to mainstream livestock in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development program (CAADP).

Nineteen (19) participants comprising National Coordinators, National Focal Points-AnGR of North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia), INRAA and AU-IBAR attended the workshop. The main objective was to strengthen the institutional capacity of Member States and RECs for the management of animal genetic resources and to launch the process of establishing a Sub-Regional Focal Point for AnGR in North Africa. The specific objectives were to:

- Introduce the Genetics project to the North African region;
- Share information on the state of animal genetic resources and the current initiatives in the North African countries;
- Agree on the structure and the institutional arrangements for the Sub-regional Focal Point for North Africa;
- Select the institution to host the Secretariat of the Sub-regional Focal Point;
- Agree on the priority action plans for the Sub-regional Focal Point.

Over the two days, presentations were made on the Genetics Project and by the National Coordinators on the state of AnGR in their respective countries to share information and experiences on the conservation and sustainable utilization of animal genetic resources. Deliberations focused on the status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action, the need for the establishment of Sub-Regional Focal Point for North Africa, identification of regional priorities for the management of AnGR.

The following achievements and recommendations were made during the workshop:

The participants agreed on the following structure for the Sub-Regional Focal Point for North Africa:

- i. A Steering Committee comprising representatives of stakeholders from the five Member States from the public and private sectors, farmers organizations, civil society, research, academia and others, would be mandated to manage the S-RFP
- ii. The Secretariat for the S-RFP will be hosted by one of the national institutions from the Member States for a period of years. Thereafter, if deemed necessary, another institution will be elected to host the S-RFP.
- iii. Algeria was unanimously appointed to host the Sub-regional Focal Point through their national institution, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique d'Algérie (INRAA)
- iv. The General Director of INRAA will appoint a coordinator to serve as the Regional Coordinator of the S-RFP for North Africa

The following priority action areas were suggested by the participants for the incoming S-RFP to consider:

- A major priority was saving the breeds at risk of extinction
- Creation of a database and website for the S-RFP

- Increase networking and information sharing
- Establishing a Steering Committee for the S-RFP
- Conduct inventory assessment and characterization of animal genetic resources in the region to enhance knowledge on the diversity and potential of these AnGR
- Assess the socio-economic importance of AnGR at regional level
- Harmonization of policies and regulations on the management of AnGR in the region
- Establishment of *in situ* and Cryo-conservation regional gene bank for conservation of AnGR
- Coordination of research and development activities and dissemination of information
- Capacity building of human resources, particularly on tools and protocols on characterization of AnGR and how to harmonize them
- Advocacy and raising awareness on the importance of AnGR
- Facilitation of a Steering Committee meeting proposed for October/ November 2014
- Harmonization of common positions for Member States in the North African region for upcoming international events on AnGR such as workshops of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on AnGR for Food and Agriculture

Background

The development of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) is a priority for many African countries where livestock production constitutes a very important component of the agricultural economy and contributes up to 30% of agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This has been recognized in the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for AnGR, which underlines the importance of sustainable use of Animal Genetic Resources for the development of livestock production to meet current and future challenges.

The African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) organized a two-day workshop on strengthening institutional capacity for the management of AnGR in North Africa and launching the process of establishing a Sub-Regional Focal Point (S-RFP) for Animal Genetic Resources in the region as part of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. AU-IBAR through the EU-funded project **“Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources”** intends to establish the S-RFP for North Africa and to strengthen capacities of Member States (MS) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the region for the sustainable utilization and conservation of AnGR.

The Global Plan of Action highlights the important roles of Regional Focal Points (RFP) and regional networks in building collaborative partnerships, coordinating regional efforts in AnGR management, facilitating the exchange of information and promoting technical cooperation, training and research. Regional Focal Points have been established in a number of regions but Africa does not have yet its RFP for the management of AnGR. Nevertheless, progress has been made through the establishment of Sub-Regional Focal Points (S-RFP) for Western and Central Africa (June 2011) and the processes have been initiated for the establishment of S-RFPs for East Africa (March 2014) and Southern Africa (April 2014).

One of the activities of the Genetics project during the inception phase is to organise Regional Inception Workshops that serve to introduce the project to the Member States and stakeholders. These workshops are important milestones of the project. They provide opportunities for communication, sharing and exchange of information and knowledge and build partnerships with stakeholders within the framework of its implementation. The workshops also serve to promote the synergies and chart the way forward for a successful implementation of the project.

Therefore, a two-day workshop was organized by AU-IBAR, working in close collaboration with the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique d’Algérie (INRAA), Ministère de l’Agriculture et du Développement Rural to introduce the project to the North African region and also initiate the establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for the region.

Participants

Participants were drawn from the five Member States of the North African region (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia) and comprised National Coordinators, National Focal Points-AnGR and other stakeholders involved in Animal Genetic Resources management. There was also a strong media presence during the workshop.

Objectives

Main Objective:

The main objective of the workshop was to strengthen the institutional capacity of Member States for the management of animal genetic resources and launching the process of establishing a Sub-Regional Focal Point for AnGR in Eastern Africa

Specific objectives

1. To introduce the Genetics project to the North African region;
2. To share information on the state of animal genetic resources and the current initiatives in the North African countries;
3. To agree on the structure and the institutional arrangements for the Sub-Regional Focal Point for North Africa;
4. To select the institution to host the Secretariat of the Sub-Regional Focal Point;
5. To agree on the priority action plans for the Sub-regional Focal Point.

Workshop Proceedings

Session 1: Official Opening

Speech 1: Dr. Hemdani Hamid (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)

Dr. Hemdani warmly welcomed the participants to Algeria. In his remarks emphasized the importance and usefulness of indigenous breeds which are well-adapted to local conditions and environment. He also highlighted that AU-IBAR and INRAA through the joint organization of the workshop in Algeria for the North Africa region would contribute to the integration of activities of the Genetics project with national programmes on AnGR.

Speech 2: Dr. Chouaki Salah (INRAA)

The Assistant Director of INRAA, Dr. Salah was particularly pleased that INRAA was hosting the important workshop. He noted that INRAA has been responsible for and had conducted commendable work on AnGR. Dr. Salah also highlighted the importance of AnGR to food security, adaptation to Climate Change among other contributions. He however, lamented the relatively little attention given to AnGR when compared with other sectors such as energy and plant resources. Dr. Salah was glad that current efforts on AnGR were very encouraging and allowed the sector to take some prominence. He reiterated that indigenous AnGR were adapted to environment and could tolerate some of the adverse effects of Climate Change.

Speech 3: Dr. Simplicie Nouala (AU-IBAR)

Dr. Simplicie Nouala, the Chief Animal Production Officer, represented the Director of AU-IBAR. He warmly welcomed the participants and highlighted the role of AU-IBAR in the development of animal resources in Africa and its mandate which includes capacity building and policy formulation. He noted that the workshop was organized to launch the process of the establishment of the S-RFP for North Africa. In the framework of the Global Plan of Action (GPA), Africa was to set up regional institutions for the management of AnGR. The workshop, through the Genetics project also seeks to support National Focal Points in the implementation of the GPA. He informed the participants that after the presentations they would have clearer ideas of what the S-RFP are expected to do. He stressed the need for the participants to identify priority areas for AnGR in the North African region. He also encouraged participants to take advantage of research environment at INRAA during the conduct of the workshop.

The participants drawn from the North Africa region introduced themselves.

Workshop Methodology

The workshop was organized in plenary sessions. It was agreed that since there were not many participants, the group work was done in plenary as one group. All the presentations were captured by the Rapporteurs of the workshop (AU-IBAR).

Workshop Presentations

Session 2: Regional Inception Workshop (North Africa)

Genetics Project Presentation (AU-IBAR)

Drs. Nengomasha and Pissang presented the Genetics project to the participants. The project goal, objectives and expected outcomes as well as the proposed institutional arrangements including roles and responsibilities of partners and stakeholders involved and implementation strategy, were presented. The key milestones and expected dates of completion were also highlighted.

General Discussion:

The presentation generated a lot of discussion with some participants suggesting that the project should focus on research and training. The project team highlighted that this was not the main thrust of the project, although there were some elements of capacity building through some of the activities. Some participants also felt that platforms for networking should really be committees. Other issues raised included the following:

- What species will be covered under the project? It was emphasized that all domestic species including fisheries but excluding wildlife, will be covered.
- What will be the financing mechanisms? It was stressed that the financing would be based on the activities of the project and where necessary expertise would be sought from elsewhere (e.g. consultancies). Also countries could benefit through support to National Strategic Action Plans. Libya reported that it was about to embark on a national census of livestock and is setting up NAPs with main emphasis on a database for camels. Could the project support this activity?
- It was also highlighted that there is massive loss of indigenous breeds in the region and urgent solutions are required.
- There is need to assess the trends in AnGR in the region.
- Libya has started a programme on conservation of indigenous breeds.

Country Presentations

Algeria:

It was mentioned that in Algeria, exotic livestock breeds are mainly used in intensive production systems. The country has some valuable indigenous cattle, sheep, goat and camel breeds. Although the country has some national initiatives on AnGR, there has been insufficient characterization of indigenous breeds. Algeria has between 60 and 80 breeds and has a national committee on AnGR. The country has several projects on the characterization of camels, particularly in the southern part of the country. Algeria has ratified the CBD/Nagoya Protocol. There are various departments and institutions working on AnGR in Algeria and these include the following:

CNA : Chambre Nationale de l'Agriculture

CNIAAG : Centre National de l'Insémination Artificielle et de l'Amélioration Génétique
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)
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
HCDS: Haut-commissariat du développement de la steppe

On conservation of AnGR, Algeria has some facilities for *in vitro* conservation as well as embryo transfer. Some facilities are available for in situ conservation for sheep and goats. There is little *ex situ* conservation in Algeria. The major constraint is on the lack of technical expertise in DNA techniques.

Egypt:

The country has more than 80 breeds of AnGR available. The Animal Production Research Institute (APRI) has been designated the National Focal Point for AnGR in Egypt. Past initiatives on AnGR include inventory, monitoring (although this was on species and not breeds) and characterization (both phenotypic and genomic) as well as some breeding programmes, mainly on selection and crossbreeding. The country has some *in situ* conservation of Domiati cattle, Farafra sheep and Fayoumi chicken. There have been some efforts in the assessment of breed genetic diversity, based on microsatellites on cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and chicken. These studies have been conducted mainly by research institutes and universities. APRI has conducted research on molecular characterization of AnGR and tertiary institutions have courses on AnGR in their curricula. Egypt has capacity for molecular characterization, and *in vitro* conservation-related applications such as *in vitro* fertilization, Multiple Ovulation and Embryo Transfer (MOET). There are no specific regulations on the management of AnGR, apart from those controlling the importation of semen and bans on slaughtering of female animals. There are also no breed associations as such, apart from some commodity associations, for example, those focusing on buffalo. Egypt has no reliable database of AnGR and also lack appropriately trained technical staff on AnGR. NGOs have minimal influence on AnGR activities in the country.

Tunisia:

There have been importations of exotic breeds into Tunisia (as semen and live animals) which has also conducted some performance testing and genetic evaluation of AnGR. Some characterization has been conducted on cattle, sheep, goats and chickens, for indigenous and exotic breeds. Tunisia has gene bank facilities including *in vitro* conservation facilities for semen, embryos and DNA. There is a research group on AnGR which is attached to gene bank. The country has some good data and information on its AnGR. Crossbreeding practices have however, led to loss of indigenous breeds. The country has some policies and regulations on animal breeding and transhumance. The major constraints include limited human capacity on AnGR, lack of *in vivo* conservation programmes; poor enforcement of regulations and general socio-economic challenges.

Libya:

The country is currently facing some political challenges. Although Libya has a sizeable small ruminant population of between 6 and 7million head and about 150,000 cattle, the country has no reliable information or database on these AnGR. Details about some breeds and their characteristics were presented. Libya also shares some transboundary breeds with neighbouring countries. The country will soon commission specialized laboratory facilities for AnGR (DNA, AI, embryo transfer etc.) as well as establishing *in vivo* conservation centres.

Libya has experienced some animal disease challenges from some neighbouring countries. There are plans to set up a database for AnGR but the country requires some technical assistance on this.

Mauritania:

Although Mauritania is endowed with many livestock, for example 20m cattle and 1.2m camels, not much work has been conducted on AnGR. Therefore, the country requires assistance to advance the AnGR agenda. However, some efforts have been made on AnGR. In 2012 the country developed a strategy on breeding of AnGR for the first time and this was approved by Mauritanian parliament. The country also has a national programme on AI using European breeds to improve milk production.

Session 3: Strengthening national and regional focal points for the management of AnGR: Institutional aspects

A presentation was made by AU-IBAR on the roles and responsibilities of National and Regional Focal Points. The presentation was adapted from that made by FAO in the preceding workshops in Kampala and Harare during the launching of the initiatives to establish the S-RFPs for East and Southern Africa, respectively. The key points in the presentation included:

- That the various levels of focal points are the Global (FAO), Regional (Continental) and National (Countries);
- That National Focal Points (NFP) are institutions nominated by their governments.

The roles of the National Focal Points are:

- to oversee management of national AnGR to initiate and coordinate country activities and implementation of National Strategies and Action Plans (NSAP) on AnGR; interface with AnGR stakeholders; cooperate with Regional and Global Focal Points;
- to coordinate development of NSAPs, national policies on livestock and AnGR;
- to coordinate inventories and monitoring of trends of AnGR;
- to develop communication linkages with various stakeholders, including other Ministries, NFP for CBD;
- to coordinate stakeholders in AnGR and raise awareness on AnGR, to update national database on AnGR and report to the global DAD-IS
- to contribute to the work of the ITWG-AnGR, CGRFA and CBD

The roles of the National Coordinators were also discussed, including:

- to serve as the official contact points for the Global Focal Point (FAO);
- to monitor data on breeds and reporting into DAD-IS ;
- to evaluate, coordinate and monitor national AnGR projects and initiate research;
- to promote networking nationally and internationally and make information available through publications and presentations;
- to follow international activities related to AnGR.

Regional Focal Points (RFP) are regional institutions with the roles including to:

- ensure active national/regional networking;
- provide technical assistance in project design;
- support communication and awareness raising;
- strengthen the position and capacity of NFPs;
- mobilize of financial resources.

After the presentation, participants agreed to discuss on the structure of the S-RFP for North Africa as one group. The following was noted:

- Based on past experiences, regions have to be very careful that the all Member States agree with the structure and hosting mechanism is proposed;
- That the responsibility is fully with the region to select the S-RFP.

With this clearly understood the group deliberated on the issue and resolved the following:

- It was noted that at an earlier meeting in Morocco, sub-regional organizations had refused to lead the process of S-RFP and that the onus was on the Member States themselves;
- Egypt volunteered and presented its case to host the S-RFP;
- Some participants suggested that Algeria be the host ;
- Egypt welcomed the idea that Algeria become the S-RFP through INRAA and withdrew its own candidature;
- It was unanimously agreed by all the MS that Algeria be S-RFP;
- It was also agreed that there would be no need to establish an Interim Steering Committee;
- It was agreed that all MS in the region would be represented in the S-RFP with Algeria hosting ;
- The issue of whether the hosting would be permanent or rotational was also debated;
- Some questioned whether the S-RFP would be linked to the duration of the Genetics project. It was explained that there was no connection between S-RFP and duration of the Genetics project.
- Mauritania noted that it had no capacity to be S-RFP and was comfortable with any other country hosting.
- The final decision was that:
 - Secretariat of the S-RFP will be at INRAA, at least for the next 5 years, renewable if all MS agree,
 - The Steering Committee (SC) of the S-RFP will have the representation of all the MS and key stakeholders,
 - The SC will have a mandate for a 5-year period, after which it can be re-elected,
 - The Director-General of INRAA will appoint a Regional Coordinator to work with the SC.

The participants thanked Egypt in particular for rendering support to Algeria to be the S-RFP. INRAA also thanked the participants for the confidence and support and to Egypt for its understanding. However, INRAA emphasized that it will require all the cooperation of MS in the region. It was proposed that the SC for the S-RFP should work on the roadmap and decide on key priority areas for the region on AnGR.

Session 4: Regional Priorities on AnGR

The session was chaired by Mauritania and participants brainstormed on the priorities on AnGR. The following issues were raised:

- A major priority was saving the breeds at risk of extinction;
- Libya noted that the Atlas cattle breed is an important transboundary breed, particularly for Libya, Algeria and Tunisia and it requires protection;
- There is need for a cryo-conservation gene bank for the region;
- There is lack of reliable livestock breed data particularly for indigenous breeds which are considered less productive than exotic ones, therefore countries generally see no need for conducting censuses of these indigenous breeds. Therefore, there is need to create databases which could be at national or regional level.
- Algeria noted three key issues for the region:
 - Identification of local breeds in the region;
 - Characterization of the diversity of these breeds;

- Genetic improvement of local breeds.
- For Egypt inventory was most the important priority followed by characterization. It may be necessary to re-assess local breeds and characterize them to be sure that these are indigenous breeds; need to also look at genomic evaluation. It was also noted that it is very difficult to assess some of the breeds especially those owned by smallholder farmers who own 2-3 head.
- It was highlighted that the countries in the region are at different levels of knowledge, for example on; 1. Identification; 2. Characterization; 3. Improvement programmes.
- The capacity (human, financial, technical) of countries was also highlighted as an issue and there is need to engage collective responsibility otherwise there will be no progress in the region.
- Capacity building, particularly on harmonization of protocols and tools; research in AnGR; and harmonization of policies on AnGR, was also stressed.
- Tunisia noted that some breeds have been blamed for causing land degradation and that some “breeders” were not really interested in the breeds they rear; therefore there is need to raise their interest through advocacy and raising awareness.
- Communication is important and the S-RFP should disseminate information, including research results to stakeholders.
- There is need to develop a draft strategy on AnGR for the region and this could be achieved through setting up sub-committees of the S-RFP for such tasks.
- There is need to design a funding strategy, including financing arrangements and how this will be implemented.
- The S-RFP should set up working committees for all these tasks.
- The participants were advised by AU-IBAR to develop a Work Plan to be implemented to the end of 2014. The Steering Committee should typically comprise state and non-state stakeholders and the Secretariat should be given time to propose the composition of the SC, create a platform for exchange of information and sharing of knowledge from various countries in the region; set up mechanisms of information dissemination; and the proposed 5-year Work Programme should be validated at end of the year at a regional workshop (preferably in October 2014). There is need for clear deadlines for the various activities given the upcoming global events such as the ITWG in November 2014 and April 2015. It would be advisable if North Africa has common positions which need to be reflected at ITWG as contributory to continental African position.
- Algeria proposed conduct of joint regional work, for example on camels.
- There is need to assess the socio-economic importance of AnGR at regional level.
- It was unanimously agreed that a website be created where all this information will be placed.

Closure of the Regional Workshop

At the end of the workshop, the participants agreed to the following as the Way Forward:

- That Algeria as the S-RFP and AU-IBAR will lead the way on how to proceed to November 2014.
- The S-RFP will select members of the SC, prepare a Work Plan and a clear 5-year Work Programme on AnGR for the region and how to work and all this will be submitted for validation by the region before November (preferably in October) .
- Identify the resources available within the MS in the region on networking.
- Set up a database and website and conduct informal exchanges to create roadmap.
- The institutional set-up of the S-RFP in relation to AU-IBAR as well as communication channels will need to be formalized.

- For April 2015: there is need for the region to meet and come up with common positions, like is done with IAEA where African countries meet to agree on these common positions.
- In Mauritania in July 2012, there were disputes between West and North Africa and these different opinions need to be resolved.
- AU-IBAR will organize common position workshops for African regions.
- The workshop communique to be produced at the end of the workshop will be sent to all MS. For Algeria, this communique will serve as the official request for the country to host the S-RFP and appoint the Regional Coordinator.
- In November, the region will discuss action plans to be conducted. The S-RFP and Steering Committee will work together on resource mobilization.
- As part of GPA, there is need to formally inform FAO on the establishment of the S-RFP for North Africa but not as part of the Near and Middle East region (according FAO) and that this is the one for Africa. Therefore, communication should be through Algeria as the S-RFP for North Africa.

A draft communiqué of the workshop was presented and amendments were suggested and adopted where necessary (see Annex).

Conclusions / Recommendations

- Sub-Regional Focal Points (S-RFP) are necessary to foster regional collaboration and cooperation to address identified priorities in AnGR.
- Algeria, through INRAA will be the S-RFP and will select a Steering Committee with representatives from all MS and key stakeholders (both state and non-state).
- The SC will have a mandate for a 5-year period, after which it can be re-elected.
- The Director-General of INRAA will appoint a Sub-Regional Coordinator to work with the SC.
- AU-IBAR will work closely with the North African region through Algeria as the S-RFP for the region.
- AU-IBAR will continue to develop and foster synergies with the various stakeholders involved in AnGR in the region.

Appendices

- a) List of participants
- b) Agenda
- c) Communique (English, French and Arabic)

List of Participants



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AU-IBAR REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES IN NORTHERN AFRICA ALGIERS, ALGERIA 9TH – 10TH JUNE 2014

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Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources

Regional Inception Workshop and Establishment of Sub-Regional Focal Point for North Africa

DAY ONE		
Session 1: Official Opening		
08:30	Registration Opening ceremony Workshop objectives and Adoption of agenda Presentation of participants	All Min. Agriculture AU-IBAR All
09:30	Coffee break and group photo	
Session 2: Regional Inception Workshop (North Africa)		
10:00	Presentation of the Genetics Project	AU-IBAR
10:20	Project implementation strategy	AU-IBAR
10:40	General Discussion	All
11:00	Country Report Algeria	NC
11:30	Country Report Egypt	NC
12:00	Country Report Libya	NC
12:30	Country Report Mauritania	NC
13:00	Country Report Tunisia	NC
13.30	Lunch and Prayer break	
14.30	General Discussion/Synthesis of Country Reports	All
Session 3: Strengthening national and regional focal points for the management of AnGR : Institutional aspects		
15.00	Roles and responsibilities of National, Regional and Global Focal Points for the Management of AnGR	AU-IBAR
15:30	Prayer Break	
16:00	Group Work: What are the regional priorities on AnGR?	All
17:00	Coffee break	
17:15	Report back by Groups on regional priorities	All
18:00	End of Day	
DAY TWO		
Session 4: Regional management of AnGR : Establishing Sub-Regional Focal Point		
08:30	Group Work: What are the proposed structure and institutional arrangements for the S-RFP for North Africa?	All
09:30	Report back by Groups: Structure & Institutional arrangements	All
10:30	Coffee break	
11:00	Group work: Criteria for selection of Interim Steering Committee	All

11:30	Report back: Criteria for selection of Interim Steering Committee	All
12:00	Roadmap for the establishment of the S-RFP	AU-IBAR
12:20	Development of the roadmap for the establishment of the S-RFP	All
13.30	Lunch and Prayer break	
14:30	The establishment of the S-RFP and Election of an Interim Steering Committee	All
15:00	Interim Steering Committee Meeting: What are the priority actions on AnGR for the S-RFP?	ISC
15:45	Coffee and Prayer break	
16:15	Report back: Interim Steering Committee: Regional Priorities	ISC
17.00	General Discussions ¹	All
17:30	Wrap Up	All
18.00	Workshop evaluation & Closure	All

¹ *the discussions could include the establishment of regional gene bank*

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REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUB-REGIONAL FOCAL POINT FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR NORTH AFRICA

9th -10th June 2014
Alger (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The regional workshop on the establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources for North Africa, in the frame of strengthening institutional capacity of the African Union Member States for the conservation and the sustainable utilisation of animal genetic resources was held from 9th to 10th June 2014 in Algiers (Algeria).
2. The global objective of the workshop was to establish the Sub-Regional Focal Point for North Africa, for the management of Animal Genetic Resources. The specific objectives were:
 - Share information on the state of animal genetic resources and the current initiatives in the North African countries;
 - Set the structure and the institutional arrangements for the Sub-regional focal point for North Africa;
 - Select the Institution to host the Secretariat of the Sub-regional focal point;
 - Set the priority actions for the Sub-regional focal point.
3. Fifteen (15) participants from five (5) AU Member States attended to the workshop, namely from Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia.
4. The workshop held in the premises of INRAA was officially opened by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development represented by Dr. Hemdani Hamid, in the presence of Dr. Chouaki Salah, Assistant Director for INRAA and Dr. Simplicie Nouala representing the Director of AU-IBAR.
5. The different sessions were chaired by Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia and the workshop was facilitated by the project team members, Drs. Edward Nengomasha and Tchangai Pissang.

II. THE WORKSHOP

6. After a presentation on the project “***Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources***” by the AU-IBAR project team, the national coordinators for animal genetic resources presented the state of animal genetic resources in their respective countries, with the objective of sharing information and experiences on the conservation and sustainable utilisation of animal genetic resources.
7. The presentations made included the roles and responsibilities of the National and Regional Focal Points and the experience in establishing Sub-regional focal points in West and Central Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa.
8. The participants finally discussed in plenary the Structure of the Sub-Regional Focal Point, the Institution to host the Secretariat and the priority actions for the Sub-regional Focal Point.

III RESULTS OF THE WORKSHOP

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

On the structure of the Focal Point

9. The Sub-regional Focal Point for North Africa will be composed of :
 - ii. A Steering Committee constituted of representatives of the stakeholders in the Members states (public and private actors, civil society, research and academics, etc....);
 - iii. A secretariat to be hosted by a national institution for 5 years, after which elections opened to the outgoing institution will be organised,
 - iv. Algeria was designated through INRAA to host the Sub-regional Focal Point,
 - v. A coordinator to be appointed by the General Director of INRAA to play the role of Sub-regional Coordinator.

On the priority actions

10. The following actions were considered as priorities for the Focal Point:
 - Creation of a Database and a Web site for the Focal Point ;
 - Networking and information sharing,
 - Establishing a Steering Committee,
 - Inventory and characterization of animal genetic resources in order enhance knowledge on the diversity and the potentials at regional level,
 - The socio-economic importance of animal genetic resources at regional level;
 - Harmonization of policies and regulations on the management of animal genetic resources;
 - Establishment of sub-regional conservation facilities, in particular In Situ and Cryo-conservation ;
 - Coordination of research actions, dissemination and information relay ;
 - Capacity building of human resources, in particular on the harmonisation of tools and protocols;
 - Sensitisation on the importance of animal genetic resources;
 - Facilitation of a Steering Committee meeting to be held in October/ November 2014 ;
 - Harmonisation of positions by Member States in the North African region, in regard to upcoming events on animal genetic resources.

11. The participants extend their sincere thanks to the Government of Algeria, AU-IBAR and INRAA for the warm welcome and the perfect organisation of the workshop, as well as they congratulate Algeria for its nomination to host the Secretariat of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for North Africa for Animal Genetic Resources.

Made in Alger, on 10th June 2014

The Workshop.

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ATELIER REGIONAL DE MISE EN PLACE DU POINT FOCAL SOUS REGIONAL AFRIQUE DU NORD POUR LA GESTION DES RESSOURCES GENETIQUES ANIMALES

**9-10 Juin 2014
Alger (Algérie)**

II. INTRODUCTION

12. L'atelier régional sur la Mise en place du Point Focal Sous Régional pour l'Afrique du Nord pour la gestion des ressources génétiques animales, dans le cadre du renforcement des capacités des Etats membres de l'Union Africaine pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable des ressources génétiques animales s'est tenu à Alger (Algérie) du 9 au 10 Juin 2014.
13. L'objectif principal de l'atelier était la mise en place du Point Focal sous régional Afrique du Nord pour la gestion des ressources génétiques animales. Les objectifs spécifiques étaient :
 - Echanger les informations sur l'état des ressources génétiques animales et les initiatives en cours dans les pays d'Afrique du Nord,
 - Choisir la structure et les organes de gouvernance du Point Focal Sous Régional,
 - Choisir l'institution qui abritera le secrétariat du Point Focal sous régional,
 - Définir les actions prioritaires pour le plan d'action du Point Focal sous régional.
14. Ont pris part à cet atelier, 15 participants venant de 05 pays Membres de l'UA à savoir l'Algérie, l'Egypte, la Libye, la Mauritanie et la Tunisie.
15. L'atelier qui s'est tenu dans les locaux de l'INRAA a été officiellement ouvert par le Représentant du Ministère de l'Agriculture et du développement rural, Dr Hemdani Hamid, et en présence de Dr Chouaki Salah, Directeur général adjoint de l'INRAA et Dr Simplicite Nouala représentant le Directeur de l'UA-BIRA.
16. L'Algérie, la Mauritanie et la Tunisie ont présidé les différentes sessions et l'atelier était facilité par les Drs Edward Nengomasha et Tchangai Pissang de l'équipe du projet.

II. L'ATELIER

17. Après une présentation sur le projet « Renforcement des capacités des états africains à la conservation et l'utilisation durable des ressources génétiques animales » par l'équipe du projet de l'UA-BIRA, les points focaux nationaux des ressources génétiques animales ont tour à tour présenté l'état des ressources génétiques animales dans leurs pays aux fins de partager les informations et échanger les expériences sur la conservation et la gestion durable des ressources génétiques animales.
18. Les participants ont ensuite suivi des présentations sur le rôle et les responsabilités du point focal National, et du Point Focal sous régional et l'expérience de la mise en place des points focaux sous régionaux en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre, Afrique de l'Est et Afrique Australe.
19. Les participants ont ensuite débattu en plénière sur la structure du Point Focal Sous Régional, l'institution qui abritera le secrétariat et les actions prioritaires du Point Focal.

III RESULTATS DE L'atelier

Aux termes des débats, les participants sont parvenus aux résultats suivants :

Sur la structure du point focal

20. Le point focal sous régional de l'Afrique du Nord sera composé :

- vi. Un **Comité de Pilotage** constitué des représentants de toutes les parties prenantes dans les Etats membres (acteurs publics, privés, sociétés civiles, recherche et formation etc.),
- vii. Un **Secrétariat** qui sera hébergé par une institution nationale pour une période de 05 ans au bout de laquelle une autre élection aura lieu à laquelle l'institution sortante peut se représenter,
- viii. Un **Coordonnateur** qui sera chargé de la gestion et l'administration du secrétariat
- ix. L'Algérie à travers l'INRAA a été désignée pour abriter le Point Focal,
- x. Un coordonnateur sera nommé par le DG de l'INRAA et assurera le rôle de coordonnateur sous régional Afrique du nord.

Sur les actions prioritaires

21. Les actions suivantes ont été retenues comme prioritaires pour le point focal :

- La création de base de données et la création du site web pour le point focal,
- Le réseautage et le partage des informations,
- La mise en place du comité de pilotage,
- L'inventaire et la caractérisation des ressources génétiques animales afin d'améliorer la connaissance sur la diversité et potentiel au niveau régional,
- L'importance socio-économique des Ressources génétiques animales au niveau régional,
- L'harmonisation des politiques et réglementation de gestion des ressources génétiques animales ;
- La mise en place des structures de conservation régionales, notamment In Situ et Cryoconservation ;
- La coordination pour les actions de recherches, la dissémination et le relais de l'information ;
- Le renforcement des capacités des ressources humaines notamment sur l'harmonisation des outils et protocoles,
- La sensibilisation sur l'importance des ressources génétiques animales ;
- L'organisation d'une réunion du comité de pilotage en Octobre/ Novembre 2014 ;
- L'harmonisation des positions des Etats membres de l'Afrique du Nord dans les échéances à venir sur les ressources génétiques animales.

22. Les participants adressent leurs sincères remerciements au Gouvernement Algérien, l'UA-BIRA et l'INRAA pour l'accueil réservé et la parfaite organisation et félicitent l'Algérie pour sa désignation comme hôte du secrétariat du Point Focal Sous Régional Afrique du Nord pour les ressources génétiques animales

Fait à Alger, le 10 Juin 2014

L'atelier

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ورشة العمل الإقليمية لوضع النقاط المحورية في منطقة شمال أفريقيا للإدارة الإقليمية الخاصة بالموارد الوراثية الحيوانية

10-9 يونيو 2014
الجزائر (الجزائر)

مقدمة

1. ورشة العمل الإقليمية حول إنشاء مركز التنسيق الإقليمي الفرعي لشمال أفريقيا لإدارة الموارد الوراثية الحيوانية في سياق تعزيز قدرات الأعضاء في الاتحاد الأفريقي للحفاظ والاستخدام المستدام للموارد الوراثية الحيوانية الذي عقد في الجزائر العاصمة (الجزائر) من 09-10 يونيو عام 2014.

أ. كان الهدف الرئيسي من ورشة العمل على إنشاء مركز التنسيق الإقليمي في شمال أفريقيا لإدارة الموارد الوراثية الحيوانية. وكانت الأهداف المحددة:

- تبادل المعلومات عن حالة الموارد الوراثية الحيوانية والمبادرات في دول شمال أفريقيا،
- تحديد هيكل وحكم الهيئات الفرعية لمركز التنسيق الإقليمي،
- اختيار مؤسسة لإيواء الأمانة الخاصة بمركز التنسيق الإقليمي،
- تحديد الإجراءات ذات الأولوية لخطة العمل المتعلقة بمركز التنسيق الإقليمي.

ب. شارك في ورشة العمل، 15 مشاركا من 05 بلدان كلهم أعضاء في الاتحاد الإفريقي وهم الجزائر، مصر، ليبيا، موريتانيا وتونس.

ت. افتتح رسميا ورشة العمل التي عقدت في مقر المعهد الوطني للفلاحة من قبل الدكتور شواكي صلاح نائب المدير العام للمعهد، المفتش حامد حمداني ممثل وزارة الزراعة و التنمية الريفية و الدكتور نوالا سمبليس نائب المدير العام للمنظمة الإفريقية للموارد الوراثية الحيوانية.

ث. ترأس الجلسات المختلفة ممثلين عن كل من الجزائر، موريتانيا وتونس كما ان التدخلات النوعية لكل من الدكتور ادوارد نانقوماشة و الدكتور تشانقاي بيسانق ساهلت من عمل الورشة.

2. الورشة الثانية

أ. بعد عرض لمشروع "تعزيز قدرة الدول الأفريقية على الحفاظ والاستخدام المستدام للموارد الوراثية الحيوانية" من قبل فريق مكتب الاتحاد الإفريقي للموارد الوراثية الحيوانية، قدم بدوره نقاط الاتصال الوطنية للموارد الوراثية الحيوانية تقريرا موجزا عن حالة هذه الموارد في بلدانهم لغرض تبادل المعلومات والخبرات في مجال الحفاظ والإدارة المستدامة للموارد الوراثية الحيوانية. أعقب هذه التدخلات حورا بين المشاركين لاثر ما قد قيل في المدخلات السابق عرضها.

ب. تم أيضا عرض اقتراحات فيما يخص دور ومسؤوليات نقطة الاتصال الوطنية ونقطة الاتصال الإقليمية والإبلاغ عن تجربة كل من نقاط الاتصال شبه الإقليمية في غرب أفريقيا، وسطها، شرقها وجنوبها.

ت. ثم ناقش المشاركون في جلسة عامة عن ماهية بنية نقطة الاتصال الإقليمية الفرعية وهي المؤسسة المخولة لإيواء الأمانة والإجراءات ذات الأولوية لنقطة الاتصال الإقليمية.

3. نتائج عمل الورشة الثالثة

بعد المناقشة، وصل المشاركون إلى النتائج التالية:

أ. تشمل نقطة الاتصال الإقليمية في شمال أفريقيا على:

لجنة توجيهية تتألف من ممثلين عن جميع الجهات المعنية في الدول الأعضاء (القطاعين العام والخاص، المجتمع المدني والباحثين الخ).

ب. تستضاف الأمانة من قبل مؤسسة وطنية لمدة 05 سنوات بعدها سيتم عقد انتخابات أخرى حيث ان المؤسسة المنتهية ولايتها قد تمثل مجددا.

ت. المنسق سيكون مسؤولا عن الإدارة العامة للأمانة

ث. اختيرت الجزائر لاستضافة مركز التنسيق من خلال المعهد الوطني للزراعة والقيام بدور المنسق الإقليمي في شمال أفريقيا

ج. قد تم تحديد الإجراءات التالية كأولويات لنقطة الاتصال الإقليمية:

- إنشاء قاعدة بيانات وتهيئة الموقع لنقطة الاتصال،

- إنشاء شبكة بحث علمي وتبادل المعلومات،

- إنشاء لجنة توجيهية،

- حصر وتوصيف الموارد الوراثية الحيوانية لتحسين المعرفة بشأن التنوع البيولوجي على المستوى الإقليمي،

- تحديد الأهمية الاجتماعية والاقتصادية للموارد الوراثية الحيوانية على المستوى الإقليمي،

- مواءمة السياسات والأنظمة لإدارة الموارد الوراثية الحيوانية؛

- إنشاء هيكل عصري للحفاظ على الموارد الوراثية الإقليمية؛

- التنسيق فيما يخص البحوث ونشرها ونقل المعلومات؛
- العمل على تكوين قدرات بشرية، قادرة على مواكبة الأدوات والبروتوكولات العصرية ذات الصلة،
- رفع مستوى الوعي حول أهمية الموارد الوراثية الحيوانية؛
- تنظيم لقاء للجنة التوجيهية في أكتوبر / نوفمبر 2014؛
- مواكبة مواقف أعضاء شمال أفريقيا في المحافل الدولية و ذلك في مجال الحفاظ على الموارد الوراثية الحيوانية.

يقدم المشاركون شكرهم الخالص لحكومة الجزائر و لترحيبها بهم أثناء إقامتهم ونهني الجزائر لدوره كمضيف لأمانة اللجنة الفرعية لمركز التنسيق الإقليمي شمال أفريقيا للموارد الوراثية الحيوانية.

تم القيام به في الجزائر العاصمة، 10 يونيو 2014

ورشة العمل