



## DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE CONSERVATION, IMPROVEMENT AND PROMOTION OF LIVESTOCK BREEDS

### INDEX

#### INTRODUCTION

#### OBJECTIVES

#### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: INVENTORY PRODUCTION, DEFINITION OF CHARACTERIZATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF BREEDS
- STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: PROMOTION OF REARING OF PURE BREEDS AND LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT
- STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: ANIMAL REPRODUCTION AND GENETICS
- STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: PROGRAMMES FOR INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, COORDINATION AND CAPACITY CREATION
- STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: MANAGEMENT AND DIFFUSION OF THE INFORMATION
- STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6: SUSTAINABLE USE AND ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR PROFITABILITY OF THE BREEDS AND THEIR PRODUCTS
- STRATEGIC PRIORITY 7: FUNDING

## INTRODUCTION

Animal genetic resources are the cornerstone of modern livestock rearing, given that they are the source on which livestock breeders depend to achieve varieties and improved breeds which will provide quality products, will contribute to maintain environmentally-friendly farming systems and to conserving traditions, at the same time as provide an answer to the new demands of society, to encouraging development and to satisfying human needs. All this makes up an example of the multi-functionality of agricultural activity, and its strategic value must be made use of and maintained for future generations.

In line with the above, the farming of livestock breeds must be characterized as pursuing, on the one hand, the greatest possible economical profit as a result of achieving animals, semen, ova or embryos of high genetic value and the foods and quality products which they are capable of providing, and, on the other hand, the full use of the advantages which may be exercised both in matters of environmental conservation, and in the social services and benefits which will be brought to the population depending on agriculture. To attain these objectives, a series of measures must be put together, which range from feed to animal handling, or from animal health to animal reproduction and genetic improvement.

Since the middle of the twentieth century, in a worldwide context characterized by the increase in the population's living standards and by new eating habits, profound changes began to come about in livestock farming, aiming at producing the products of animal origin which the consumer was demanding in larger quantity and at lower prices. These changes translated into the development of intensive livestock farming, no longer tied to the land and to the shorter productive cycles of the traditional extensive model. This intensification meant the zootechnical specialization of a sector of the livestock population, census growth, the increase in supply of products of animal origin on the markets, and the achievement of the necessary level of competitiveness for a scale economy; but it also contributed to compromise the survival of certain native breeds by crossing them with other outside breeds in order to achieve greater production: these native breeds are characterized by their accumulation of centuries of natural selection and a greater degree of hardiness, of adaptation to their habitat, of use of the resources which their natural environment provided, and of a very efficient transformation of those resources.

The evolution described determined the necessity to characterize, conserve and improve animal genetic resources and led to the creation of relevant measures at that time, such as the Decree 733/1973, which passed regulations on Genealogical Herd Books and the checking of livestock yield, or the Official Catalogue of Spanish Livestock Breeds, passed in 1979. However, the evolution of systems of livestock production and the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) have shown that measures still need to be taken to give support to native breeds, and so the necessity to update and structure this zootechnical regulation systematically, has been joined by the Administration's interest in passing regulations on programmes of conservation and sustainable use of said resources; the result of this has been the Royal Decree 2129/2008, December 26th, establishing the national Programme for conservation, improvement and promotion of livestock breeds.

This programme is in line with the new directives operating on an international level, both in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and in the European Union:

- In the international context, through commitments made with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the FAO World Action Plan for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of agrofood interest; of particular note is the 2007 Interlaken Declaration.

-In the European Union, with community zootechnical regulations and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which as well as guaranteeing free commerce of animals of a specific breed and their genetic material and allowing harmonization of zootechnical criteria, provides a suitable framework for the management and conservation of resources, with biodiversity being one of the great challenges to be met in the CAP checklist, in the face of increasing commitment to sustainability, the environment, quality and animal welfare, in line with the demands of society and of the consumer.

Given this new European agricultural model, native breeds are a clear example of multi-functionality, with benefits in three outstanding areas: financial, social and environmental. Likewise, the current CAP, based on decoupled payments, could well represent an important chance to make progress in the re-conversion to extensive farming of livestock rearing and the maintaining of farms; profitability is vital, and, to achieve this, high genetic quality of animals, animal health and good management conditions, good feed and other commercial and market factors which will lend value to the European production model.

While sustainable use of livestock resources would seem to give a leading role to native breeds on extensive farms, breeds aimed at intensive production should never be excluded, since the genetic improvement achieved in these breeds is the basis of supply for the population at competitive prices, as well as providing an important source of economic wealth.

Activities to date on the part of the State General Administration, and the grant programmes established to these ends, have made possible significant achievements in the inventory, conservation and improvement of the majority of the resources in existence, which are largely managed by the associations of livestock breeders. The development and modernization of the existing mechanisms, and the creation of new instruments of information which the new technologies permit, along with the measures which complement the conservation of animals in vivo with other necessary mechanisms for the future preservation of these resources (in vitro), must be adapted in a coordinated way to the new scenario, taking into account the different regulatory frameworks. Likewise it is important that all the activities have the support of society in general, and therefore it is vital that the role that livestock rearing as a whole, and specifically that of pure breeds, plays in the well-being of the population and of rural areas should be made known to all.

Particular attention should be drawn to the fact that the Commission for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Congress of Deputies, as the basis of a non-binding advisory resolution, requested, on the February 27th 2007, the Government to:

- Set up measures to avoid the deterioration of our animal genetic resources and to guarantee their preservation.
- Set up a coordinated National Plan with the Autonomous Communities for the organization, conservation, improvement and sustainable use of animal genetic resources.

Bearing all this mind, and considering that it is within the remit and responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment Countryside and Sea (henceforth MARM), along with the competent authorities of the Autonomous Communities, to take all possible care over the conservation and correct use of our heritage, and in consideration of Royal Decree 2129/2008, establishing the national Programme for preservation, improvement and promotion of livestock breeds, this Plan of Action for the development of all the lines of action is presented through 7 strategic priorities



## OBJECTIVES

This plan has as its aim the organization of the Spanish animal genetic heritage, guaranteeing the conservation of breeds in risk of extinction and the improvement of breeds which have already consolidated their position, in order to use them in the context of the new model of animal production, following community directives and the worldwide strategy of the FAO, with the following specific objectives which affect the various lines:

- To prepare and maintain a complete and up-to-date inventory of the animal genetic resources, their tendencies and possible risks.
- To promote the rearing of pure breeds through the work of associations of livestock breeders by means of the entering of individual animals in the genealogical herd books, their genetic evaluation in the framework of the improvement programme and testing to check the yield, along with spreading diffusion about the improvement programme generally available.
- To articulate and consolidate the technical support of centres specializing in reproduction and genetic matters, and establish reference levels for the analysis, organization and storage of genetic material.
- To promote improvements, technological advances and scientific progress in all areas of zootechnics.
- To guarantee coordination between all the bodies and entities involved in the conservation and use of animal genetic resources, within a broad process of participation and of collective work.
- To improve management of the information and make it reach all the entities involved, and livestock farmers and society in general. In order to this, a computerized national data bank will be created, the National Information System (ARCA) and a web portal, as a tool for management, consultation and reference.
- To adapt regulations and financial grant lines to the needs of the breed and of the livestock farmers, taking into consideration their evolution, technological advances, new conditioning aspects, as well as the need to empower native breeds and breeds in risk of extinction.
- To promote the sustainable use of our breeds of livestock and production systems based on good rearing practices and on extensive farming systems, optimizing their environmental role, their capability for adaptation and best use of natural resources, to maintain ecosystems and provide the consumer with quality products.

To this end, the following strategic priorities are established:





■ **Monitoring and analysis of the current situation of genetic resources**

To establish mechanisms for communication and recapitulation of information from the different administrations, associations, scientific entities or any other body which as a result of its activity may have data of interest available which will make it possible to keep knowledge up-to-date with regard to breeds in existence, their morphological, productive, reproductive or genetic characteristics, the animal census and distribution of livestock, along with the existence of stored genetic material.

To encourage activities and studies aimed at increasing knowledge about genetic resources and their situation, promoting the participation of entities, research groups and scientific bodies.

To evaluate, synthesize and make systematic the information in order to prepare reports about the situation and trends in animal genetic resources, in order to establish priorities, develop policies, grant schemes and to take appropriate measures.

To provide incentives for the creation and development of a Spanish Animal Genetic Resource Observatory.

■ **Updating of the Official Catalogue of Livestock Breeds of Spain**

The objective is to include new breeds. The aim is for all livestock breeds of zootechnical interest for Spain to be included in the Official Catalogue of Livestock Breeds of Spain. To guarantee the genetic accuracy in the inclusion of new breeds, a protocol is to be prepared which will establish the procedure, the documentation and the studies necessary for a breed to be incorporated and catalogued.

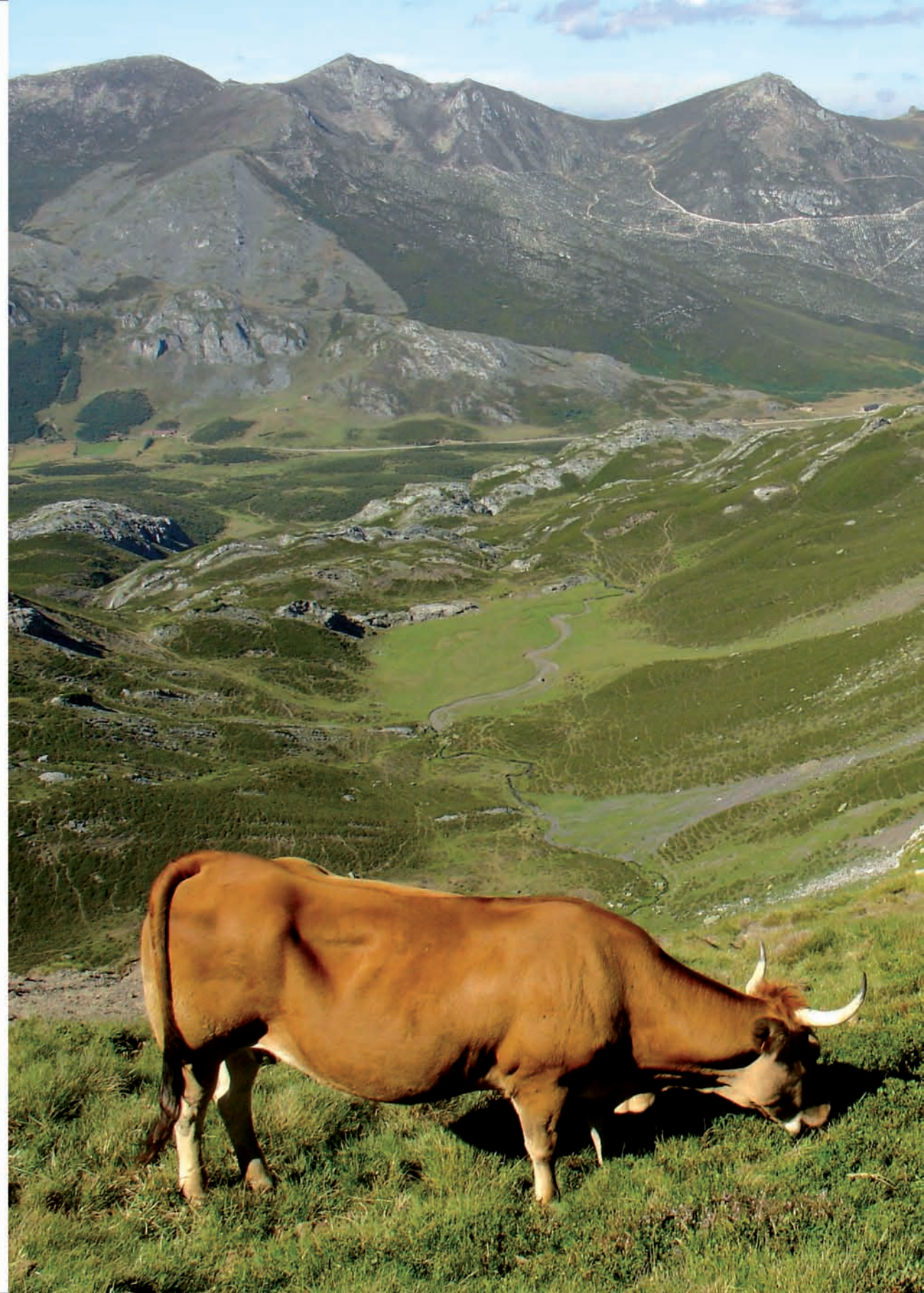
To update cataloguing, as a result of modifications in the census and, therefore, the new situation with regard to breeds and, as a result of this, decide upon the course of action to be taken and support programmes.

To adapt, where necessary, the classification of breeds in the Official Catalogue to reflect the current status of the livestock sector and the new trends which are being set from the European Union.

■ **National Alert System**

To carry out an analysis of risks (health, economic, affecting the population, etc.) based on the studies of and reports on the situation of genetic resources, and establish indicators which will allow monitoring of situations of danger and how they are evolving.

To take appropriate measures according to the risks and to identify the most compromising situations in order to apply exceptional measures where appropriate, which will prevent their disappearance or elimination (eg. for animal health motives).





### ■ Recognition and supervision of associations of livestock breeders

To undertake recognition of livestock breeder associations and organizations by the competent authority, and to keep the general register of organizations or associations up to date, along with its communication to the European Union.

To guarantee the fulfilment of the requirements and obligations by the associations for their official recognition and the subsequent exercising of their activities, in line with the approved regulating framework.

To promote the unicity of criteria for each breed, and where there are various associations for the same breed, to guarantee appropriate interconnection and coordination for the keeping of the genealogical herd book and the improvement programme.

To promote the creation and development of second level associations, the carrying out of promotional activities by the different administrations, and the establishment of mechanisms which will encourage appropriate management of the breeds.

### ■ Approving and managing the genealogical herd books

To approve, by the competent authority, of the new regulations for herd books and genealogical registers along with the updating of regulations already in existence.

To advance and promote the carrying out of parentage controls to guarantee the reliability of the registrations made in the Genealogical Herd Book and alternative methods, mainly in the extensive systems of production, to guarantee genealogical reliability with the objective relation of mother-offspring and paternity exclusion.

To advance specific international relations to establish links and collaborative activities with entities and laboratories to interconnect the information from the genealogical herd books for each breed, with procedures and validated and approved techniques in genetic issues.

### ■ Improvement programmes (conservation or selection)

To approve improvement programmes and their proposals for modification, evaluating the fulfilment of actions and the requirements stipulated in the current regulation, with the backing of a qualified centre for animal genetics.

To advance collaboration with research centres, universities and other entities involved in the development of improvement programmes, to promote the diffusion of the scientific and technological advances achieved in these centres, and to strengthen the networks of technical collaboration with all the national or international research centres.

To establish mechanisms to enable the incorporation of livestock farmers into the improvement programmes, and priorities to provide support for participating and collaborating farms.

To provide special support for programmes for the conservation of breeds in risk of extinction.

To promote the carrying out of studies into new ex situ conservation techniques using the experience and know-how of centres for reproduction and of livestock breeding associations, and advancing collaboration with other centres, and the development of new projects and research groups in this field.



### ■ Test to check the yield of livestock, evaluation of breeding animals and genetic evaluation

To propose the basic requisites which the performance screening test should meet for the evaluation of breeding animals included in the Genealogical Herd Books. Guidelines will be established for test to check the yield of livestock, specific for each one of the productive qualities.

To regulate the zootechnical requirements which the testing centres should meet in line with the regulations, and to prepare a list of the centres taking part in the improvement programmes, specifying species and breeds which are being worked on, contact details and location.

To standardize the system of animal used for breeding purpose, so that techniques, protocols and formats can be unified, according to species, breed and quality sought, in order to be able to establish significant comparison of the results obtained.

To promote studies into new techniques for evaluation and classification, and the possibility of adapting them to existing regulations, such as the practice of linear classification.

To encourage the design and development of training programmes, both for retraining and for first-time qualifications, aimed at morphological classifiers and judges, in order to advance and unify criteria on breed.



#### ■ Designation and authorization of reference centres

To designate reference centres and develop their capacities: The Colmenar Viejo Centre for Animal Selection and Reproduction, in the Autonomous Community of Madrid, is designated as the National Reference Centre for Animal Reproduction and the Animal Germoplasm Bank. The MARM's Central Veterinary Laboratory, in Algete, is designated as the National Reference Centre for Animal Genetics.

To establish and empower their respective functions, in line with current regulations, amongst which are collaboration, coordination and authorization of techniques, protocols, comparative tests, etc with the autonomous regional reproduction centres and animal genetics centres.

To enable the connection of the reference centres to the National Information System, thus guaranteeing the updating of the information contained in that system relating to both centres, and to promote the connection of centres on an international level.

#### ■ Organization of the centres for the obtaining and management of genetic material (reproduction centres, storage centres, gene banks) and embryo production and collection teams.

To register and regulate the centre and team codes, with a view to updating the national data base and the European Union data base.

To ascertain the level of activity and stock of the various centres, allowing subsequent action which will enable their expansion, be this commercial, for research, or of any other nature.

To undertake the analysis of problems arising which may affect them and the proposals for solutions: marketing, legislation, verification of genetic material from third countries, etc.

To establish and collate criteria for the creation and for the management of gene banks: genetic, biological and health criteria.

To evaluate the establishment of minimum zootechnics characteristics and requirements in genetic material to be used in the approved improvement programmes.

To update the National Information System with this data.

#### ■ Collection, analysis and storage of high-value genetic material genético

To empower the Animal Germoplasm Bank, which will house the genetic material of breeds in risk of extinction and of improving breeding stock, guaranteeing as a minimum the duality of samples recommended for correct conservation, avoiding unforeseen risks or situations.

To obtain and store the genetic material for its use in improvement programmes, either from the administrative bodies, or under the charge of the livestock breeders associations, with special attention to breeds in risk of extinction. This action involves establishing mechanisms for coordination with the autonomous communities for collection, transport and storage of this genetic material.



To make the high-value genetic material available to livestock breeders and livestock farmers association throughout Spain. To do so, information about this material will be made known through catalogues of high-value genetic animals and by means of the National Information System.

#### ■ Technical and information support for the enforcement of improvement programmes and breed purity monitoring.

To monitor purity of breed and of genealogies, by means of progeny testing and paternity exclusions.

To promote the undertaking of R+D+I studies and tests for their application in innovative reproductive techniques and in animal genetics, for the development of the improvement programmes, traceability, analysis of genetic variability, new selection criteria based on genes linked to production or animals illnesses etc, their publication and diffusion.



#### ■ Definition of organism and schedules for coordination

At an administrative level, the **National Commission for the Coordination of the National Programme for conservation, improvement and promotion of livestock breeds** has been created, presided over by the Directorate General for Agricultural and Livestock Resources, with the participation of all the Autonomous Communities. This commission aims to serve as the permanent organ for relations between the State General Administration and the Autonomous Communities in questions of zootechnics and, where necessary, to operate as the organ for study, analysis and proposal for zootechnical actions with regard to the breeds and their associations.

Action to be taken:

- To develop the functions of the Commission and approve the Ruling on internal operations and, where necessary, protocols for action.
- To create working groups and technical or scientific advisory groups, with the participation of the various public or private entities.
- To establish relations and participate in the programmes of other departments connected to the breeds through various courses of action, such as those relating to rural development, quality products and research projects.

#### ■ International participation

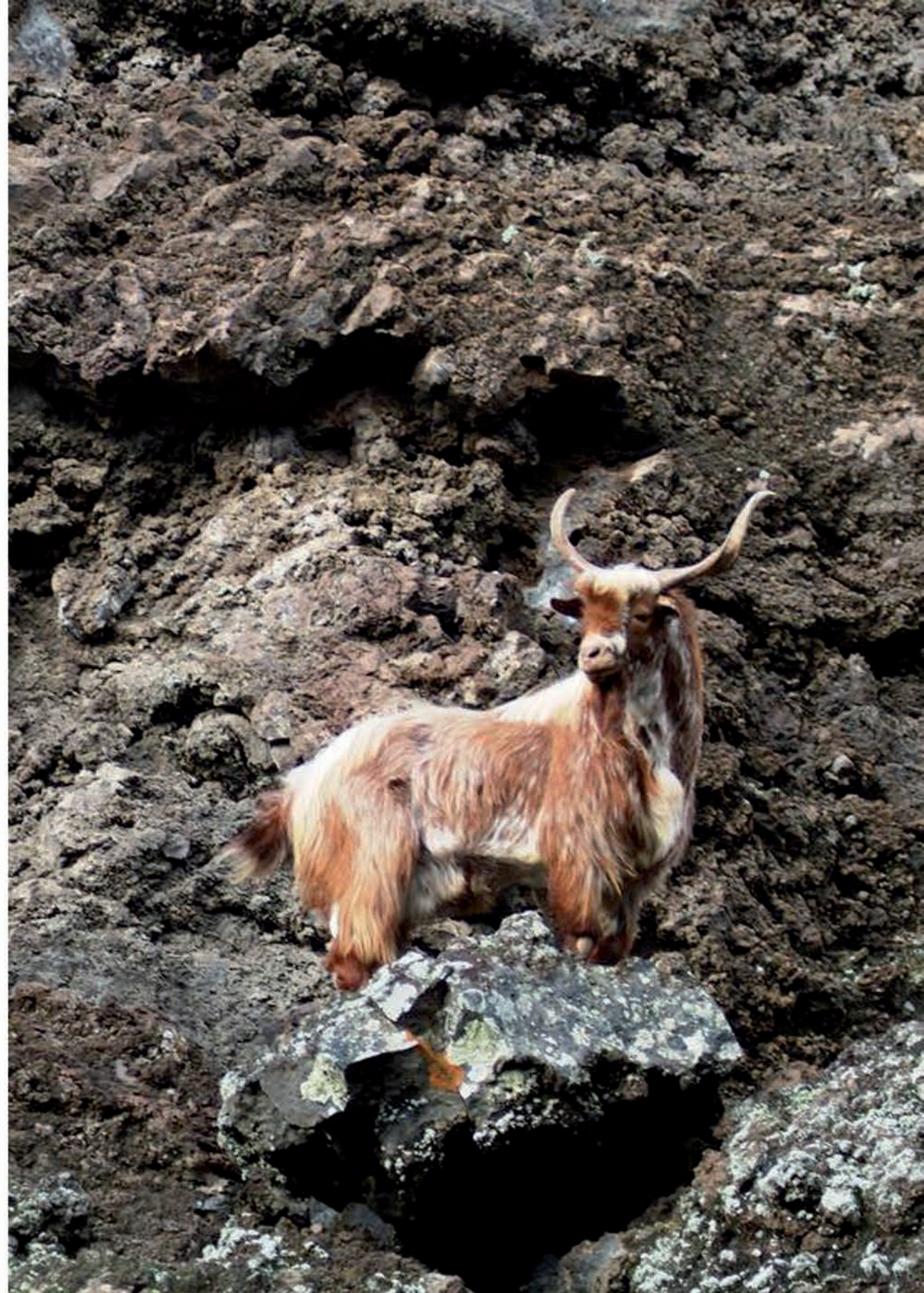
To maintain international representation and develop collaboration and cooperation schemes in zootechnics at various levels in institutions in which the MARM forms part and is a full member:

European Union: Participation in the Standing Committee on Zootechnics and in the groups of the Commission and the Council which deal with subjects relating to breeds.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): Actions through the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), the European Regional Focal Point (ERFP) and the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources, for the development of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources and the updating of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information Service (DAD-IS), in consideration of the fact that the MARM is the national Focal Point for the FAO and is in charge of national coordination through the Directorate General of Agricultural and Livestock Resources.

ICAR (International Committee for Animal Recording): this committee establishes the authorized international procedures for checking the performance of the different livestock breeds and is a Reference Centre for the E.U., having Subcommittees, such as Interbull, for cattle.

European Federation of Animal Science (EAAP): this association promotes European animal production; it studies and evaluates the problems which exist in animal production by means of the organization of congresses, symposia and seminars, it encourages the preparation and publication of studies and reports relating to animal production. It has created, in collaboration with the European Regional Focal Point, the European Farm Animal Biodiversity Information System (EFABIS), which is interrelated with the FAO information system (DAD-IS.).





International Society of Animal Genetics (ISAG): The MARM participates through the Algete Central Laboratory in the international collaborative tests which this body organizes to establish guidelines in order to standardize genetic markers in the various species.

Action to be pursued:

- To advance participation and collaboration with international entities, and the operating method of the national focal point.
- To encourage export of animals and products and to boost marketing by providing operators with the necessary tools, which will simplify and make the administrative procedures more straightforward (eg. CEXGAN, the web portal for foreign trade in livestock).
- To encourage agreements between entities and livestock farmer associations in the different countries, to exchange information, know-how, experience or animals or genetic material (eg. Activities with the International Federation of Native Latin American Breeds, (Federación Internacional de Razas Criollas: FIRC).

**■ Training in zootechnics: education, human resources and professional training**

To empower our training capacity in human resources specializing in the management and conservation of animal genetic resources.



The development of courses will be promoted and there will be participation in national or international training programmes and in workshops which deal with the different courses of action of the National Programme, thus responding to the needs and demands of the Administration and of the private entities. This specialized training must be updated periodically.

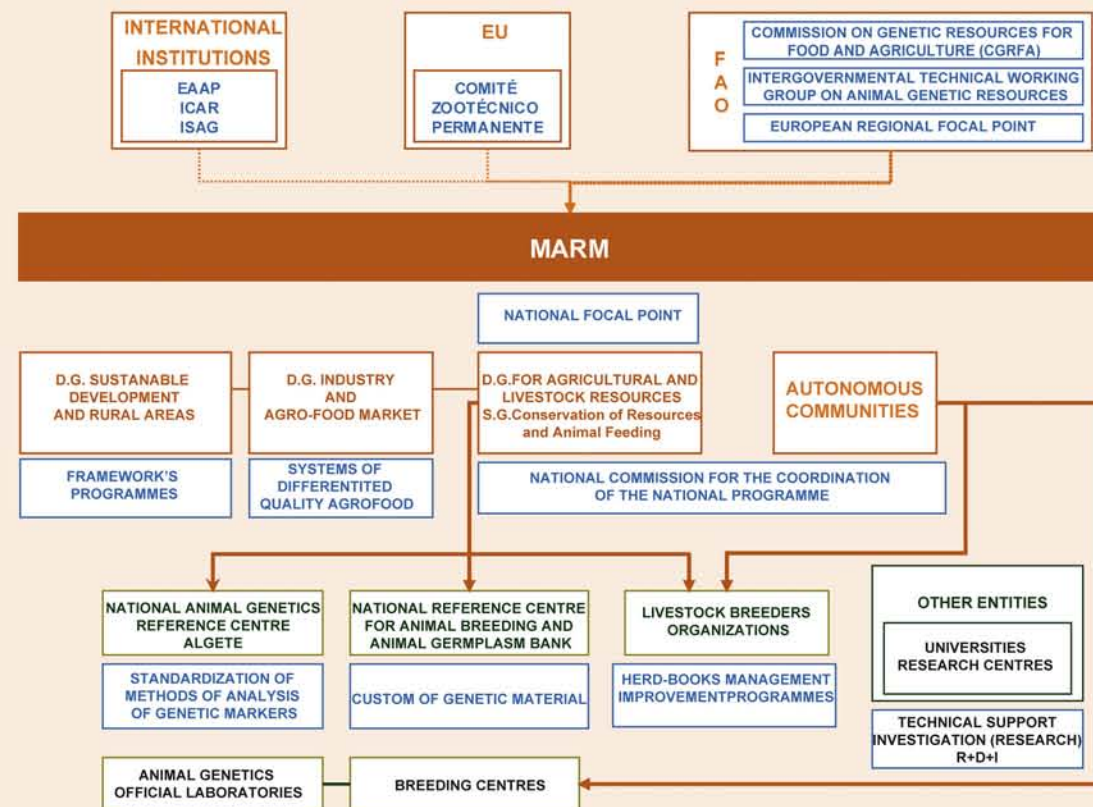
To improve collaboration between entities and institutions, and to encourage the exchange of information and know-how.

To ascertain and evaluate the situation, distribution and human resources capacities needed for the effective management of breeds and for the development of the National Programme, and to adopt the appropriate measures to guarantee sufficient availability of livestock.

**■ Revision and updating of the legal framework: regulations and policies**

- To strengthen the national institutions and to establish policies for the execution of the National Programme.
- To update and develop the zootechnics regulations.
- To make material and personal resources and budgets available for the various strategic priorities.

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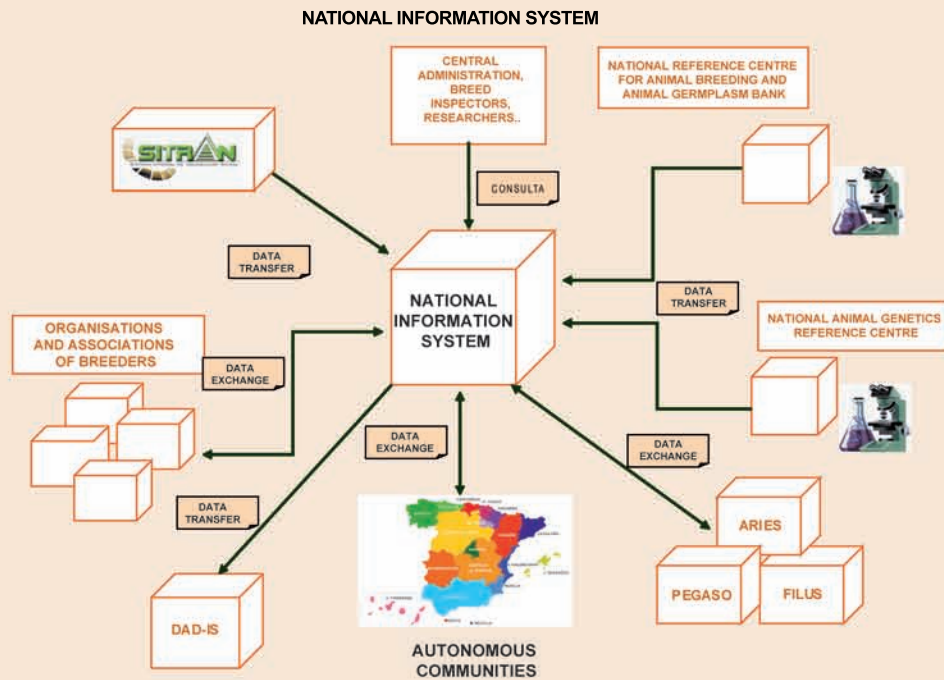
**Diffusion of improvement of breeding programmes**

Approval by the competent authority of the Programme for the diffusion of the improvements being developed by the associations and verification of its fulfilment, which will include, among other data, data referring to:

- Publications and programmes to increase general knowledge of the breed and its products and uses, with particular stress on the studies which reflect the market advantages deriving from the use of pure breed animals, and the promotion of its products.
- Plans for promotion, expansion and advertising.
- Distribution programmes for semen doses for progeny tests, or, where appropriate, natural service.
- Livestock farming competitive festivals.
- Preparation of catalogues of breed improver animals.

**National Information System (ARCA)**

As a tool for information and management, into which all information of interest about the breeds will be incorporated, and which will be connected to the entities which manage these breeds or are related to them or interested in them, with different levels of access.



**Publicizing activities and institutional promotional activities**

Development and promotion of the web portal for zootechnics, Zootecnia, which is linked to the portal of the MARM, the Directorate General of Agricultural and Livestock Resources

To undertake awareness, promotional and advertising campaigns for the breeds, their production systems and their products, aimed at society in general.

The promotion of zootechnical publications by the Administrative Bodies





■ **Promotion of production systems for native livestock breeds, using extensive farming systems, and the role in the conservation of the environment.**

To empower and lend support to farms with indigenous breeds, giving priority to those in risk of extinction, with enough land for the purpose of raising them, which undertake commitments with the competent authority to increase the animal census of pure breeds, and the fulfilment of certain environmental, animal health and welfare, and livestock density requirements, in line with the European production model.

To enable access for livestock farmers to advisory systems on the way they must integrate regulations on good livestock farming and environmental practice into the context of their farms.

To empower training work carried out by the Agricultural Training Schools and by other entities relating to extensive livestock breed farming.

To make profitable use of rural land and maintain the ecosystems with the greatest possible exploitation of natural resources and use of indigenous breeds on extensive farms, avoiding over-grazing.

To intensify action for the recovery of driving routes for livestock use, for the use of grazeable resources which are underused, and active participation in preventative measures against fires or desertification, by means of control of shrub undergrowth, the reduction of inflammable biomass and the maintenance of the vegetation cover.

To promote environmental education and public awareness of the natural values of rural areas.

■ **Increase in competitiveness in the production, processing and marketing of products deriving from livestock breeds.**

To undertake the structural characterization of the farms, taking into account data on breed purity, animal handling, marketing strategies, productive profitability, looking for existing strengths and opportunities, in order to improve their situation.

To analyse the current situation of the contribution of pure breeds to quality productions and to undertake financial studies of the production costs for pure breed animal in comparison to others, and the financial differential reached on the market, bearing in mind the demands and preferences of the consumer in quantitative and qualitative terms.

To study the current situation of export of pure breed animals, their genetic material, their products and the potential for opening up new markets.

Revaluation of the livestock productive potential through support for creation, improvement and modernization of businesses which process local and traditional products and which provide added value for these products.

To study the exploitation of sub-products of the agrofood industry, and to promote the production and use of renewable energies and their uses which are compatible with sustainable development, along with their relation with the adaptation of livestock farmers' activities and uses to the effects of climate change.

Promotion and communication among consumers of products of these breeds which are included in the systems of differentiated quality agrofood, such as Protected Geographical Indications and Protected Designation of Origin (P.G.I. and P.D.O.) Traditional Speciality Guaranteed (T.S.G.), organic livestock farming, integrated livestock production or other brands.



To encourage optional labelling on the various products in order to give the consumer information about the system of reproduction, diet, the breed and its traceability.

To provide incentives for the incorporation of the livestock farmers into systems designed to improve the quality of production and of the products of livestock breeds, principally the indigenous breeds, with processes certified by independent entities, providing guarantees for the consumers with regard to the quality of the products.

To lend support to the formulas and systems of integration, cooperatives and agrofood industries, to attain greater competitiveness and profitability in the processes of production, marketing, processing and distribution of foodstuffs from indigenous breeds.

■ **Study, valuation and contribution of livestock breeds to society, diversification of rural areas, improvement of quality of life and cultural aspects.**

To undertake the socio-economic characterization of the agricultural population and its integration into the associations of breeders, with forecast of its evolution, by means of surveys and data collection from diverse sources, and studies on the role played by livestock farmers to prevent the depopulation of rural areas.

Identification of the elements of cultural identity relating to the local livestock breeds and the traditions of each autonomous community, including gastronomy, cultural or artistic activities, agrotourism or therapeutic activities.

To promote training, research, and innovation, in relation to the livestock breeds in order to open up new areas for development and for development of strategies, ensuring thus the instruments which will allow for financial diversification in rural areas.

Development of themed tourism with the use and promotion of the breeds and their products.



### ■ Grants for breeders associations

The MARM gives grants aimed at officially recognised organizations and associations of breeders for the management of the genealogical herd books and for the conservation, improvement and promotion of pure breeds of production livestock. There is funding, in line with the community framework for economic assistance programmes and through various regulations, for the following zootechnics programmes, either managed centrally through the MARM or with funds which are distributed territorially through the Sectorial Conference to the Autonomous Communities, with special priority for indigenous breeds and for breeds in risk of extinction:

- Education and training in zootechnics
- Organization of competitions, auctions, national and international exhibitions and trade fairs, and the costs incurred through participation in such activities.
- Creation and maintenance of genealogical herd books. Funding is also available for studies, publications and statistics on ethnological, zootechnical and productive aspects of the species, along with their morphological and reproductive characterization.
- Tests aimed at determining the performance of livestock. In particular, subsidies are available aimed at covering the costs generated by activities for official milk production monitoring, as a vital instrument in the development of selection schemes for cattle, sheep and goats to improve milk productivity.
- Tests aimed at determining the genetic quality of the livestock, through improvement programmes and for breeds in risk of extinction, with particular funding for:
  - Preparation of programmes for conservation and genetic improvement, and their implementation.
  - Creation of banks of gene bank, semen and frozen embryos or live embryo transfer in officially authorized centres.
- For the national Programme of genetic selection for resistance to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in sheep, the subsidies are aimed at three specific uses:
  - Application of programmes of genetic selection
  - Use of artificial insemination centres, creation of DNA banks and artificial insemination programmes.
  - Compensation for slaughter of males with VRQ allele
- Packages for investment in testing centres, reproduction centres and farms and practices marking innovation in breeding.

Likewise, there are MARM subsidies aimed at associations or federations of pure breeds which belong to officially recognised livestock associations or organizations with scope above and beyond an Autonomous Community, for their activities and work.

Furthermore, within the framework of the Programmes for Rural Development, agro-environmental grants are available to livestock farmers who raise endangered breeds and who meet certain requirements





### ■ Grants for differentiated and quality productions

Grants aimed at promoting production systems for native livestock breeds raised on extensive farms, for farms which meet certain requirements with regard to space, based on raising animals of native breeds, raised in their natural habitat, using natural resources and at the same time encouraging their sustainable use, and the incorporation of these breeds into programmes for the quality of production.

Grants aimed at promoting the production of quality agrofood products of animal origin, in line with the social demand for harmless foodstuffs and greater information about their origin and processing, which will serve as an incentive to put integral systems in place for the traceability of the quality livestock productions, which involve each and every one of the production and marketing stages; these systems are monitored through quality control which is carried out by third parties.

### ■ Indirect grants

Investment in private centres or centres under contract and in agreements to lend support to the various actions in the Programme (IT, personal, laboratory and technical assistance resources).

Studies approved by the MARM Programme of Studies and assignments for zootechnical activities which will be made available to the sector.

