

## Provisional Agenda WG 3 - Techniques of maintaining endangered breeds *in situ*

February 9, 2008

- 09.00 – 10.30 h
    - Introduction -continuous utilisation maintains breeds as dynamic entities, adapted to both the needs of the society and the production environment. minimising costs for conserving breeds *in situ* is to maintain breeds that retain the potential to be economically self-sustaining.
    - What experience of the subject is in the Work Group?
      - Round Table discussion
    - Options for *in situ* conservation
      - Choose the breed**
        - Need to assess the economic value
        - Need of reliable data on performances of the breed and fitness traits
        - Awareness for interaction between farm management and the characteristics of the breed.
        - trials at rescue farm level for the evaluation of purebreds and crossbreds to understand potential use of the local breed
        - Cultural and historical merit,
        - Special traits that are of interest,
        - Genetic uniqueness:
        - Risk status of the breed,
        - Selection across breeds:
    - Preparation for plenary session
  - 10.30 – 11.00 h coffee break
  - 11.00 – 12.30 h
    - Options for *in situ* conservation continued
  - Techniques**
    - Remove the constraints that decrease the economic performance of the local breed
    - Improve infrastructures and technical assistance;
    - Community-based management of animals:
  - Genetic:**
    - selection programs may increase genetic ability for productivity
    - Breeding goals should take into account the conservation value of the breed
    - Breeding schemes should be adapted to the farming environment
    - Mating to avoid inbreeding:
    - Group mating: in the *in situ* conservation program
    - Uniformity of the family size:
  - Production and marketing** – briefly as it is being discussed fully by another Work group
- Lunch
  - 14.00 -16.00 Plenary session to share Work Group discussion
  - 16.00 – 19.00h
    - HERDBOOK - Data for each animal and flock/herd
    - Continuation of ELBARN project – preparations for plenary closing session on 10th

### Aims:

Produce a set of guidelines on the above subjects that can be used by Ark and Rescue Centres to plan their breeding strategy and to advise other breeders.