

SAVE-News 2/2001

This newsletter is issued four times a year by SAVE Foundation (Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe)

International SAVE - DAGENE Conference, Budapest/Hungary

From August 20-23, 2001, SAVE Foundation and its partner organisation DAGENE (Danubian Alliance for Gene Conservation) will organise in collaboration with the OMMI Institute in Budapest a series of conferences to the topic "Rare Breeds and Seeds in Central Europe".

Programme:

- 20-21 August: Joint SAVE-DAGENE International Meeting of Mangalica Breeders (topics: reports and discussions on the development of the populations in the different countries, herdbook, type classification, DNS analysis, exchange of breeding animals), excursion to Hungarian breeding farms.
- 21-22 August: "Study Tour for Native Breeds": visit of the Farmer-Expo at Debrecen and to the farm estate of the Hortobagy national park with old Hungarian animal breeds (Steppe cattle, Racka sheep, Nonius horses).
- 23 August: Conservation of Endangered Plants in Hungary and Slovakia (expert meeting)
- 23 August: "International Symposium on Conservation, Management and Use of Rare Livestock Genetic Resources", joint meeting of the Rare Breeds International (RBI) and the European Association for Animal Production (EAAP).

In the frame of these conferences also the annual meetings of the bodies of SAVE Foundation will take place. The above mentioned conferences are open for third parties. Documents for information and registration are obtainable at: SAVE Head Office, Paradiesstr. 13, D-78462 Konstanz, Germany. E-mail: office@save-foundation.net .

Project Turopolje Pigs

Turopolje pigs in Croatia are excellently adapted to their often flooded environment and thus unique. They are able to look for food in the water and sometimes even dive for mussels. Turopolje pigs are probably amongst the last pigs in Europe which still stalk the oak forests accompanying the flooded river valley all around the year. The rough pasture and flooded hard-wood valleys situated between Sisak and Stara Gradiska were fused into the Nature Park Lonsjko Polje which comprises of ca. 500km². A small and overloaded but functioning park administration was set up. The Nature Park Lonjsko Polje represents a cultivated landscape which was typical for large parts of Central Europe about 100-150 years ago. Today, the flooded river valley sand rough pastures in Lonjsko Polje are the unique "living" example of such a landscape. With the creation of the Nature Park, governmental conservation measures for the Turopolje Pig are reinforced. The breed is the most endangered Croatian livestock species besides the

Dubrovnik Pramenka sheep. The park administration has obliged itself to actively support the conservation of Turopolje Pigs and to integrate the pig into the park's conservation concept. The animals proved to be an important factor for the management of the rough pastures: they keep them open. For this year, funding has been applied for and approved of. It will be used to buy breeding animals and to establish a nucleus-herd owned by the park.

The SAVE Foundation is going hand over its conservation project to the Park's Administration with a safe conscience. Turopolje pigs have not been saved for the rest of times, but the park administration will - in co-operation with the responsible Croatian bodies - summon up the necessary forces to reach this aim. We wish them all the best and success for their work! One of the most difficult SAVE-projects finds thus its end.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease

The European continent had quite luck with the Foot-and-Mouth Disease. But the epidemic showed the extreme danger for rare breeds. Preventive stamping-out methods of the animal stock of entire regions acutely threaten long-term efforts dedicated to the conservation of the diversity of domesticated animals. SAVE Foundation is very concerned and has therefor addressed the EU commission and the ministries for agriculture of many countries. Not only endangered breeds of zoo animals should receive the necessary protection, but in future also endangered breeds of farm animals. SAVE Foundation refers within this context to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which includes the broad variety of agriculturally utilised plants and animals into protection measures as defined in article 2.

To read the generalised content of the letter from SAVE Foundation to the responsible persons at the EU Commission from April 11, 2001, visit our website <<http://www.save-foundation.net>> and take there in the column <Actuality> the link <SaveNews special>

SAVE Focus 2000/2001

The new edition of the SAVE Focus reports (in English) on the problems, the development, the need for action and the co-ordination engagement for endangered breeds distributed across the national borders in Europe (Hucul horses, Mangalica pigs, Girgentana goats, Pustertal and Red cattle and six sheep breeds). For more and better information not only addresses of the responsible people, stockdatas and special breeding remarks of these 11 breeds in 13 countries are given. A new column informs about breeding problems and diseases, this time the topic is Maedi Visna, a sheep disease spread over nearly all sheep breeding countries. There are information about history, epidemiology and transmission, incubation and symptoms, and possibilities of treatment.

The SAVE Focus is available at the SAVE Foundation, Paradiesstr. 13, D-78462 Konstanz, Germany. E-mail: <office@save-foundation.net> (price: Euro 7.- plus postage).

Project co-ordination in the SAVE Head Office

Since Spring 2001 Ms Wiebke Bruen works as project co-ordinator with SAVE Foundation at the Head Office in Konstanz, Germany. She studied geography at the Saarland University in Germany with focal point bio-geography in the areas species survival, environment and nature protection, as well as developing countries. In different engagements in Berchtesgaden National Park, Naturland Foundation Saar and in a research project in Guatemala she gathered practical experience. You may find more information about the staff of SAVE Foundation at the column <Contact> of the SAVE website <<http://www.save-foundation.net>>

Important dates (extract)

13-15 June: Workshop on Finance for Biodiversity, Montreal, Canada. Info: <http://www.biodiv.org>, E-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org

22-24 June: Slow Food Festival in Bonn, Germany; "Arc of taste", Furtherance of regional products and their producers; Info: <http://www.slowfood.de>

8-12 July: 4th Europ. Conference on Grain Legumes, Towards the Sustainable production of healthy food, feed and novel products, in Krakow, Poland. E-mail: c.boutin-aep@prolea.tm.fr

20-21 August: International expert meeting for the co-ordination of the Mangalica breeding, Budapest, Hungary. Contact: SAVE Head Office: office@save-foundation.net

20-23 August: "Rare Breeds and Seeds in Central Europe", International SAVE - DAGENE Conference, Budapest/Hungary, with annual meeting of the SAVE bodies. Documents for information and registration are obtainable at: SAVE Head Office, Paradiesstr. 13, D-78462 Konstanz, Germany. E-mail: office@save-foundation.net .

Conference Programme:

- Joint SAVE-DAGENE International Meeting of Mangalica Breeders
- Study Tour for Native Breeds (Farmer-Expo Debrecen, Hortobagy National Park)
- Conservation of Endangered Plants in Hungary and Slovakia (expert meeting)
- Joint RBI-EAAP International Symposium on Conservation, Management and Use of Rare Livestock Genetic Resources

2 September: 6th Living Inheritance Expo at the 'Pontslag', Balegem part of Oosterzele, near Ghent in Flanders, Belgium. Info: E-mail: uitgeverij.martens@skynet.be

21-24 September: Exhibition "Vegetables incognito - forgotten and unknown garden heritage"; Botanical Garden of the University Vienna, Austria; Information: info@arche-noah.at

=> Further information is available from:

SAVE Foundation, Head Office, Paradiesstr. 13, D-78462 Konstanz / Germany
Web: <http://www.save-foundation.net> ; E-mail: office@save-foundation.net

May 21, 2001