

# SAVE-News 2/2002

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

## **The Updated Study “Agricultural Genetic Resources of the Alps”**

In 1992 CIPRA (the International Committee for the Protection of the Alps) asked the foundation Pro Specie Rara to make a study on the "Agricultural Genetic Resources of the Alps". Between the French Maritime Alps and Slovenia about 100 endangered breeds each comprising less than 1.000 animals were identified. In about 40 % of these cases no conservation efforts were made. It was an essential implication of the study to modify the "snap shot of 1993" into a permanent observation, as the situation of the endangered breeds and varieties is always changing. To be able to recognise negative developments in time, it should be of greatest importance to establish an effective, transboundary monitoring system. This took place from 1995 on by building up the "Monitoring Institute for Rare Breeds and Seeds in Europe" in St. Gallen (Switzerland).

In 1999 CIPRA – again financially supported by the Bristol Foundation – assigned the "Monitoring Institute" to update the study and to more intensively work on the situation of plant varieties. As in the different countries not only the numbers of the remaining populations but also the general legal and political conditions had changed, this originally intended update resulted in an overall new edition. The new study consists of about 630 pages of text, which is too much for being published in full length (2 volumes). Therefore the "Monitoring Institute" decided together with the ordering body only to edit the synthesis in five languages and to enclose the whole text in English and German as CD-ROM. As probably nobody will read the work in its whole length, it was from the beginning conceived as a reference book. We hope that this solution will meet the existing demand.

Now the translations have been finished. The synthesis can be downloaded in the four languages of the Alps as well as in English from the webpage of the Monitoring Institute as PDF-file (<http://www.monitoring-inst.de>). As far as the main text is concerned, this is currently proofread. At request of the Bristol Foundation the publication shall be printed by Paul-Haupt Verlag, Bern, Switzerland.

## **Swiss National Exhibition and Agricultural Seeds Diversity**

The Swiss Foundation Pro Specie Rara (PSR) had a special idea for her 20th anniversary. It entered an alliance with the wholesaler Coop and will present special activities at the Swiss National Exhibition "EXPO 02". Luckily this year a national exhibition is taking place, as these are carried out only every 30 years. The EXPO 02 composes of

diverse 'Arteplages' (platforms), which have been erected in three neighbored lakes. On 'Arteplage' Neuenburg (Neuchâtel) PSR and Coop will show the following:

- In "Vivavaria" PSR shows 365 faithful reproductions of old apple varieties
- In the Coop restaurant "Biotavola" delicate meals are prepared from different PSR products of biological quality, for example Blue Potatoes and the meat of Woolly Pigs.
- The exhibition platforms "Bubbles" are being planted with PSR-vegetables
- In the project area "Manna" four special exhibitions with regard to different PSR-subjects are in preparation.

For its anniversary Pro Specie Rara has also arranged for special publications: the book "Haferwurzeln und Feuerbohne" with interesting stories on former use and customs of 120 now forgotten vegetables has already been presented this spring. In autumn the "Tierbuch 2002" in which the 19 breeds cared for by PSR are presented in detail and structure and development of PSR are portrayed, shall follow. Additionally, PSR had the name "Pro Specie Rara" registered as trademark for a better marketing of the products. You can find more on this subject in the biannual SAVE-Report (can be subscribed).

## **Practical processing for the proof of parentage**

It is necessary to accomplish an international exchange of Mangallica pigs for blood refreshing between the remaining populations, to prevent degeneration and signs of inbreeding. Here it is of special importance to determine clear genetic distances of particular animals.

During the meeting of the Mangallica Coordinators in Budapest in August 2001, the Typifix-system was described as a suitable technology. In this system, a piece of ear tissue is taken, when the small piglets are tagged. The tissue is stored in a box, which has the same number as the tag in the ear. In the following genetical examination the alleles at 10 different gene locations will be examined. As a result you get evidence about the parents: "The parents declared are, respectively are not the real parents." It is not possible to get information on genetic distances. In Budapest offered SAVE Foundation to spread the Typifix-system and to co-ordinate an international blood exchange. Due to the new information it is questionable, whether this technology will allow for the importances of Mangallica-breeding and should be spread. SAVE is still looking for alternatives, which are easily applicable for the practical work of breeders.

## **Important dates (extract)**

6-9 June: "Local breeds and their typical products". Meeting in Agerola, Italy (near Naples) organised by R.A.R.E.; Information: [v.peretti@libero.it](mailto:v.peretti@libero.it)

13-15 June: "Farming with Nature". Conference of the Carrefour Wageningen in the Netherlands to the topic 'nature management by farmers and private individuals'. Information: <http://www.farmingwithnature.info>

1-2 July: "Labelling and Marketing of Organic Farming Products in the EU - Increasing Confusion or More Transparency?" Seminar of the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) at Maastricht, The Netherlands. Information: Winny Curfs [w.curfs@eipa.nl.com](mailto:w.curfs@eipa.nl.com)

4 -5 July: "The relevance of genetic resources on the conservation of pasture landscapes and biodiversity" at Böblingen, Germany. Organised by Euronatur. Information: [schneider-jacoby@t-online.de](mailto:schneider-jacoby@t-online.de)

25-30 August: "The Third European Congress on Restoration Ecology" in Budapest, Hungary. Information: <http://www.botanika.hu/restoration>

29 August: Meeting of the 'Rare Breeds International' (RBI) in Kairo, Egypt, in the frame of the yearly conference of the EAAP. Information: Cesare Mosconi [mosconi@eaap.org](mailto:mosconi@eaap.org); Web: <http://www.rbi.it>

12-14 September: "The Role of Non-Governmental Organisations in Mountain Areas", Annual Symposium of CIPRA in Liechtenstein. Information: <http://www.lgu.li>

14-16 October: "Le patrimoine génétique: la diversité et la ressource", La Châtre, France. 4th national colloquium of the Bureau des Ressources Génétiques. Information: [brg@inapg.inra.fr](mailto:brg@inapg.inra.fr)

24-28 October: "4<sup>th</sup> Salone del Gusto". exhibition center Lingotto, Torino, Italy. World congress of oenogastronomy. Info: [salone@slowfood.it](mailto:salone@slowfood.it) ; Web: <http://www.slowfood.com>

28 Oct. -1 Nov.: "Bishkek Global Mountain Summit" in Bishkek, Kirgistan. Information: [andrewvf@mail.ru](mailto:andrewvf@mail.ru)

7-9 November: Conference on "Ecolabels and the Greening of the Food Market", Boston, Massachusetts (USA); Organizers: Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University. Contact: [willie.lockeretz@tufts.edu](mailto:willie.lockeretz@tufts.edu) ; Web: <http://nutrition.tufts.edu/conted/ecolabels>

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=> Further information is available from:  
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