



Anna Caroli<sup>1</sup>, Flavia Pizzi<sup>2</sup>

# LIVESTOCK BIODIVERSITY

<sup>1</sup>Dipartimento di Scienze Biomediche e Biotecnologie (DSBB)  
Università degli Studi di Brescia - Brescia

<sup>2</sup>Istituto di Biologia e Biotecnologia Agraria (IBBA)  
CNR - Milano

# LIVESTOCK BIODIVERSITY: PREVIEW

1. Livestock biodiversity and human culture
2. Local livestock breeds
3. Breed characterisation
4. *In situ* conservation strategies
5. *Ex situ* conservation strategies



# LIVESTOCK BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN CULTURE

## Origin and domestication of livestock species

Domestic species	Wild Ancestor	MtDNA	Domestication	Time	Location
		clades	events*	B.P.	
<b>Cattle</b>	Aurochs (3 subspecies) (extinct)				
<i>Bos taurus taurus</i>	<i>B. primigenius primigenius</i>	4	1	~ 8000	Near & Middle East (west Asia)
	<i>B. p. opisthonomus</i>	2	1	~ 9500	northeast Africa
<i>Bos taurus indicus</i>	<i>B. p. nomadicus</i>	2	1	~ 7000	northern Indian subcontinent
<b>Horse</b>	Extinct				
<i>Equus caballus</i>		17	multiple	~ 6500	Eurasian steppe
<b>Goat</b>	Bezoar				
<i>Capra ferus</i>	<i>Capra aegragus</i> (3 subspecies)	5	2	~ 10000	Near and Middle East, northern Indian subcontinent
<b>Sheep</b>	Asian mouflon				
<i>Ovis aries</i>	<i>Ovis orientalis</i>	4	2	~ 8500	Near and Middle East/Turkey (Central Anatolia)
<b>Pig</b>	Wild boar				
<i>Sus scrofa domesticus</i>	<i>Sus scrofa</i> (16 subspecies)	6	6	~ 9000	Europe, Near and Middle East, China Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia

Source: FAO. 2007. *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, edited by Barbara Rischkowsky & Dafydd Pilling. Rome.

# LIVESTOCK BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN CULTURE

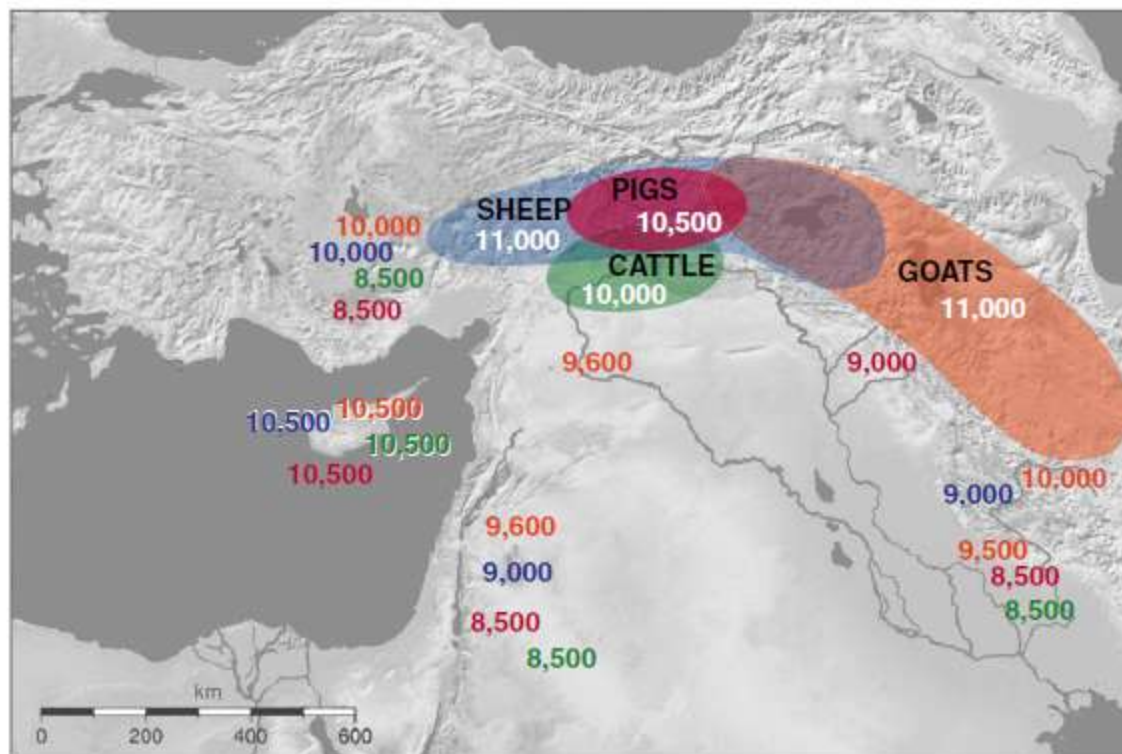
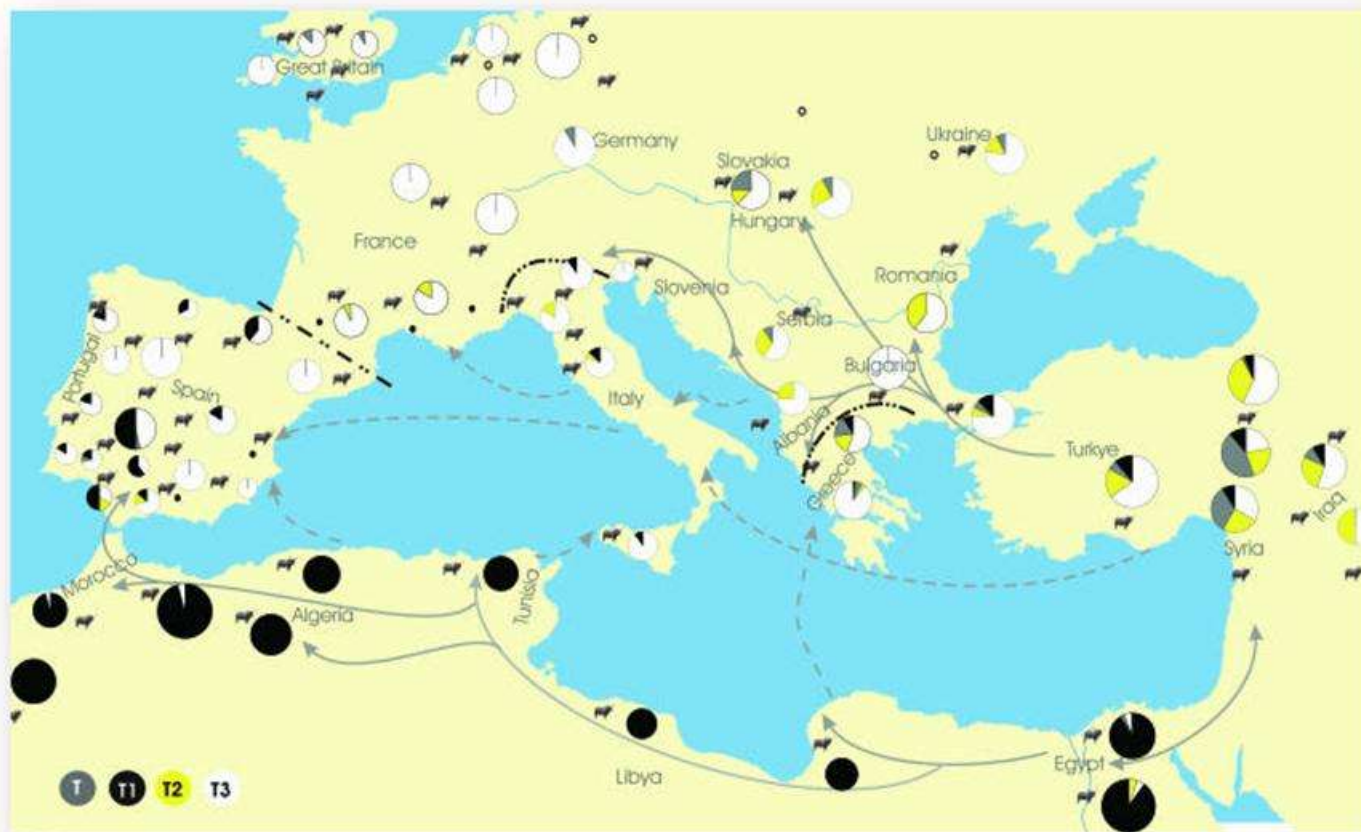


Fig. 1. The origin and dispersal of domestic livestock species in the Fertile Crescent. Shaded areas show the general region and the approximate dates in calibrated years B.P. in which initial domestication is thought to take place. Dates outside of the shaded areas show the approximate date when the domesticate first appears in a region. Orange, goats (*Capra hircus*); blue, sheep (*Ovis aries*); green, cattle (*Bos taurus*); fuscia, pigs (*Sus scrofa*).

Source: Zeder MA 2008. Domestication and early agriculture in the Mediterranean Basin: Origins, diffusion, and impact. PNAS 105 11597–11604

# LIVESTOCK BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN CULTURE



## Cattle diffusion in Europe

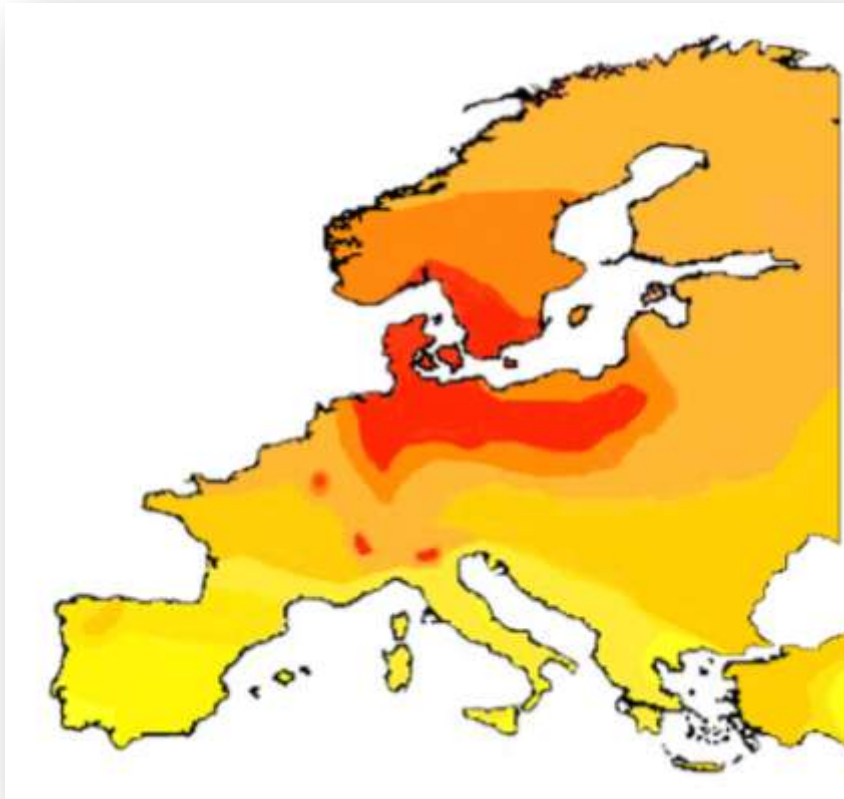
Source: Beja-Pereira et al. 2006. The origin of European cattle: evidence from modern and ancient DNA. PNAS 23 103:8113-8.

# LIVESTOCK BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN CULTURE

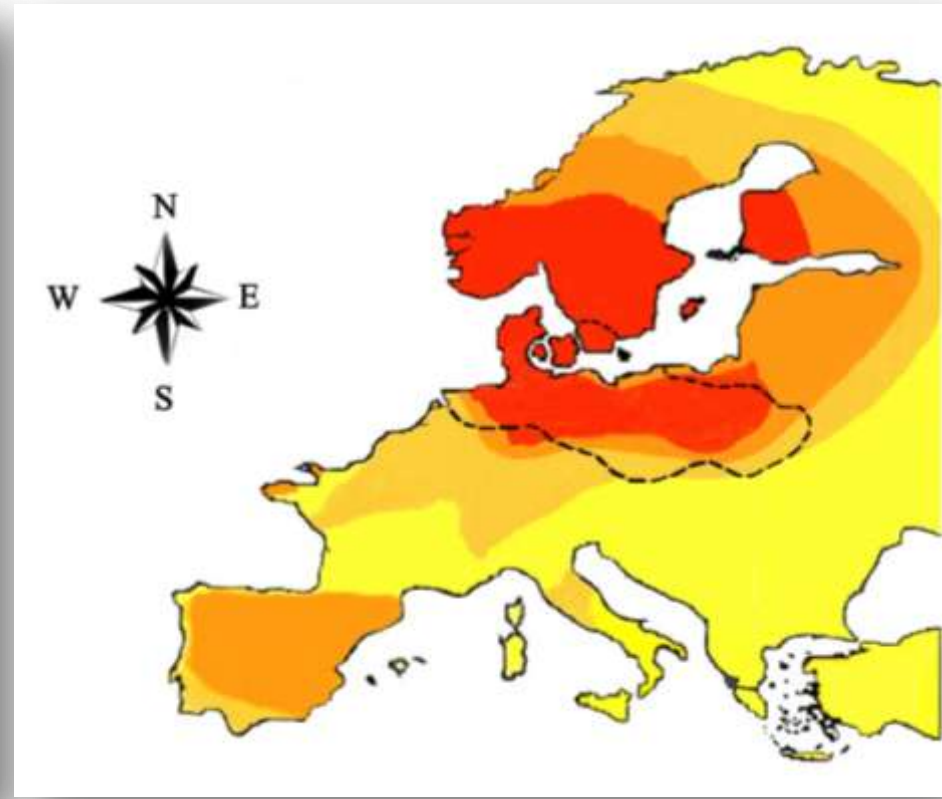
- Livestock biodiversity is integral to human culture, history, environment, and economy.
- Example: dairy cattle will be considered.
- Cheese was made 9000 years ago.
- Milk from domestic cows has been an important food source for over 8000 years, especially in lactose-tolerant human societies.
- Some human populations have the genetically determined ability to digest lactose by persistent lactase enzyme in adulthood, benefiting from the rich food resources occurring in cows' milk.

# LIVESTOCK BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN CULTURE

Source: Beja-Pereira et al. 2003. Nature Genetics 35:311–313.



Map of allele frequencies at the cattle milk protein genes



Map of lactase persistence allele in European human populations

# LIVESTOCK LOCAL BREEDS

- Thousands of livestock breeds have evolved to fit particular environments and farming systems
- Biodiversity is a prerequisite for genetic improvement and environmental adaptation



<http://www.agraria.org/>

*Giant Italian **Chianina** reared from Roman times*



<http://www.fao.org/>

*Trypanosome tolerant African **N'Dama***



# LIVESTOCK LOCAL BREEDS

- However, diversity of Animal Genetic Resources (**AnGR**) has been in a continual state of decline
- Main causes:
  - trends in the livestock sector
  - disasters and emergencies
  - animal diseases, control measures
- Need for safeguard strategies



# LIVESTOCK LOCAL BREEDS

- AnGR are managed by Global Plan of Action (Food and Agriculture Organisation, 2007)
- Strategic Priority Area 1: Characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks
- World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity (**WWL-DAD**): information system (**IS**) to identify and monitor livestock breeds



Apulian livestock:  
Murgese horse  
(by Elisa Pieragostini)<sup>10</sup>































# LIVESTOCK LOCAL BREEDS

**6379** livestock breeds belonging to 30 different species reported in WWL-DAD 3<sup>rd</sup> edition

DAD-IS: <http://dad.fao.org>

Source: FAO 2000 World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity. Scherf, B. (ed.)

TABLE 1.1.1 SPECIES INCLUDED IN WWL-DAD:3

MAMMALIAN species		AVIAN species	
	Buffalo		Chicken
	Cattle <sup>1</sup>		Duck
	Yak		Turkey
	Goat		Goose
	Sheep		Muscovy Duck
	Pig		Guinea fowl
	Ass		Partridge
	Horse		Pheasant
	Bactrian Camel		Quail
	Dromedary		Pigeon
	Alpaca		Cassowary
	Llama		Emu
	Guanaco		Nandu
	Vicuña		Ostrich
	Deer <sup>2</sup>		
	Rabbit		

# LIVESTOCK LOCAL BREEDS

Table 3. Status of information recorded in the Global Databank for Animal Genetic Resources.

Year of analysis	Mammalian species		Avian species		Countries covered
	Number of national breed populations	% with population data	Number of national breed populations	% with population data	
1993	2 719	53	–		131
1995	3 019	73	863	85	172
1999	5 330	63	1 049	77	172
2006	10 512	43	3 505	39	181
2008	10 550	52	3 450	47	181

Source: FAO (2009b).

In 2008, 48% of mammalian breeds and 53% of avian breeds recorded in DAD-IS had no population data recorded (Martyniuk et al., 2010)

# LIVESTOCK LOCAL BREEDS

Different actions in defense of AnGR are developed.

## Animal resources



012: Cattle

<http://www.regionalcattlebreeds.eu>



066: Livestock breeds

<http://www.elbarn.net>



020: Farm animals

<http://efabis.tzv.fal.de/cgi-bin/index.cgi>



067: Livestock globalview

<http://www.globaldiv.eu>



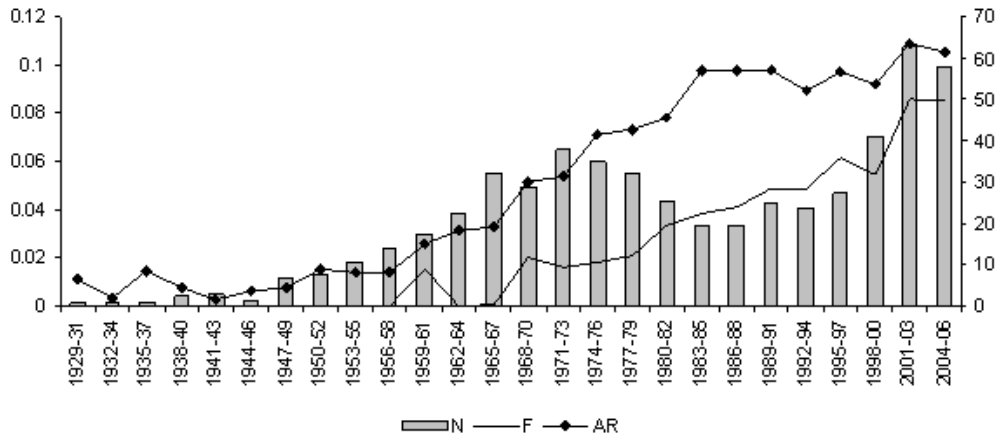
040: Sheep

<http://www.heritagesheep.eu>

Five projects funded by the European Community Program 2006-2011 for genetic resources

# BREED CHARACTERISATION

Conservation of AnGR relies on **demographic characterisation** of breeds and definition of correct breeding schemes.



Martina Franca donkey  
Apulian livestock (by Elisa Pieragostini)

Trends in level of inbreeding (F), average relatedness (AR) and number of individuals by year of birth in the period 1929-2006.

R. Rizzi (2011): Monitoring of genetic diversity in the endangered Martina Franca donkey population.  
J. Anim. Sci. (in press)

# BREED CHARACTERISATION

**Zootechnical characterisation** is also a prerequisite for safeguard.

Garfagnina goat (Tuscan breed at risk of extinction)

Data on:

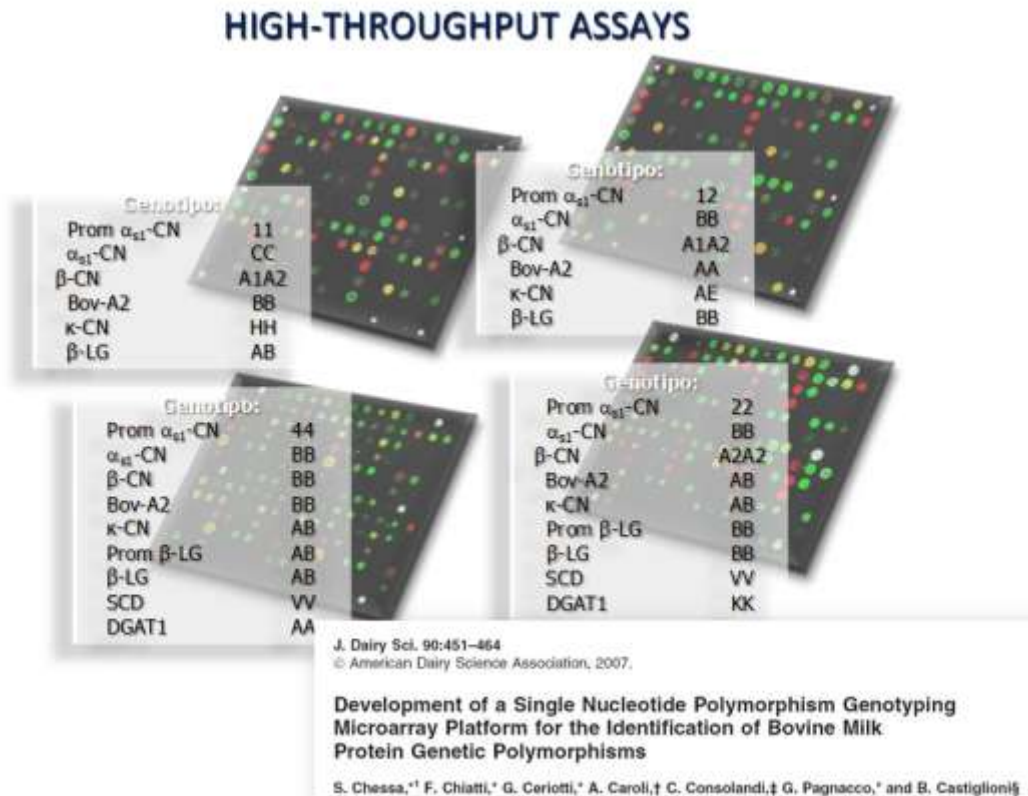
- size of the breed
- zoometric measures
- breeding system
- milk quality



Source: Martini et al. (2010). The Garfagnina goat: a zootechnical overview of a dairy local population. *J. Dairy Sci.* 93, 4659-4667.

# BREED CHARACTERISATION

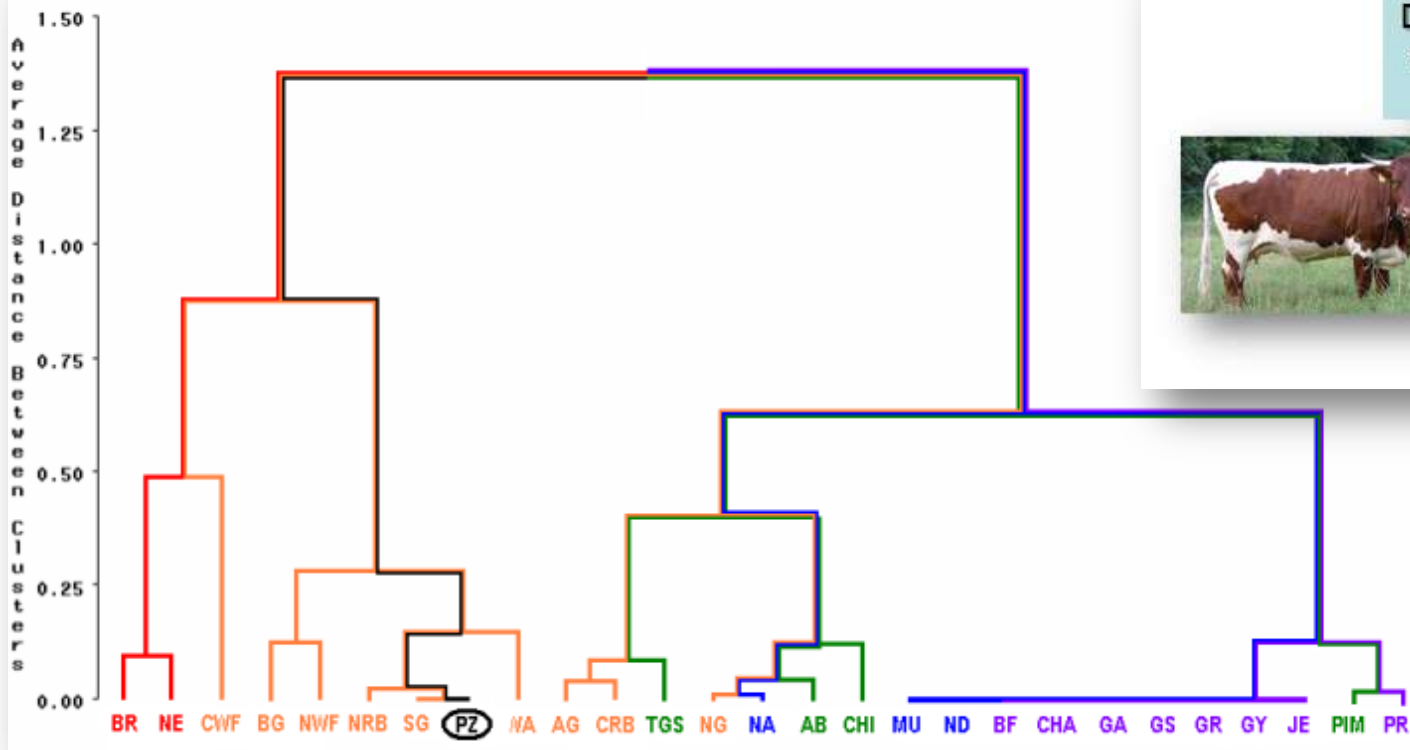
**Molecular genetic studies:** allow to identify and monitor the genetic diversity within and across breeds and to reconstruct their evolution history.





# BREED CHARACTERISATION

## CLUSTERING OF CATTLE BREEDS FOR $\alpha_{s2}$ -CASEIN



Do you know if your relatives have ever been in Pinzgau?



Erhardt et al. (2009). *60th EAAP Annual Meeting*, Barcelona, Spain.

Caroli et al. (2010). *J. Dairy Sci.* 93, 1260–1265.

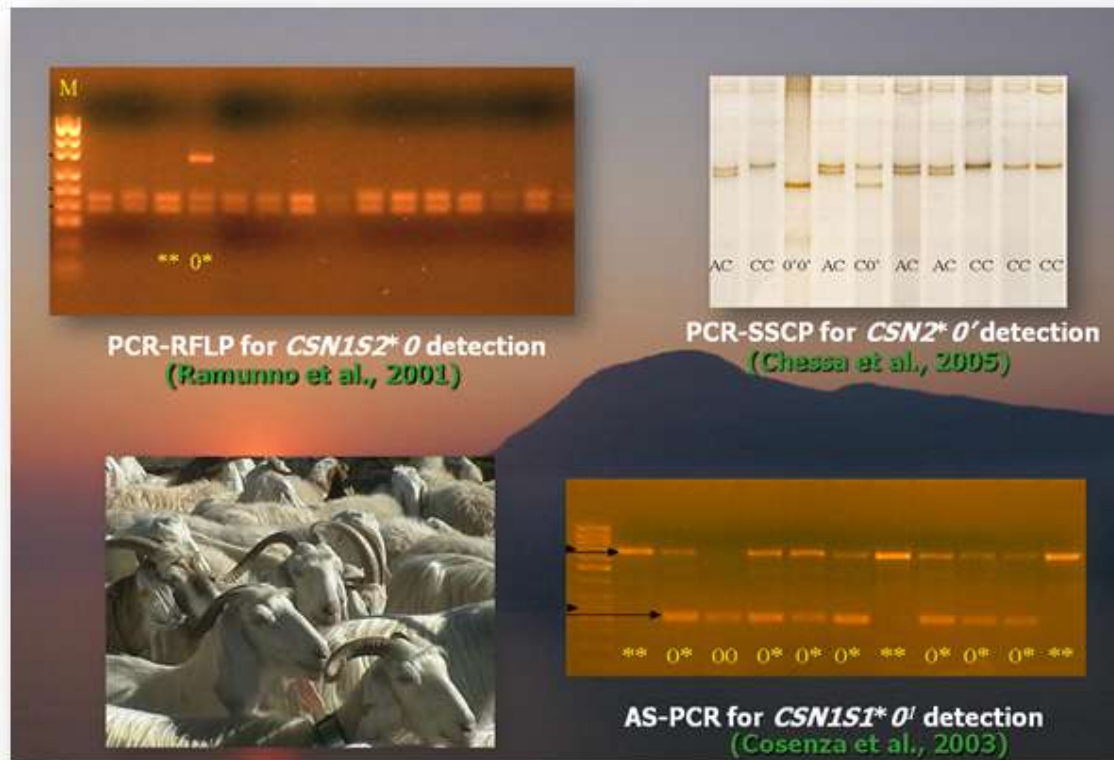
# BREED CHARACTERISATION

Database/project name	URL	Pigs	Cattle	Goats	Sheep	Chicken	Other sp.	Type of data included
AVIANDIV	<a href="http://aviandiv.tzv.fal.de/">http://aviandiv.tzv.fal.de/</a>	n	n	n	n	y	n	Microsatellite genotypes, SNPs
CaDBase	<a href="http://www.projects.roslin.ac.uk/cdiv/">http://www.projects.roslin.ac.uk/cdiv/</a>	n	y	n	n	n	n	Microsatellite genotypes
PigDBase	<a href="http://www.projects.roslin.ac.uk/pigbiodiv/index.html">http://www.projects.roslin.ac.uk/pigbiodiv/index.html</a>	y	n	n	n	n	n	Microsatellite and AFLP genotypes
PEDE: Pig Expression Data Explorer	<a href="http://pede.dna.affrc.go.jp/">http://pede.dna.affrc.go.jp/</a>	y	n	n	n	n	n	Full-length cDNA clones and ESTs
AnimalQTLdb	<a href="http://www.animalgenome.org/QTLdb/">http://www.animalgenome.org/QTLdb/</a>	y	y	n	y	y	n	Quantitative Trait Loci data
ARKdb	<a href="http://www.thearkdb.org/arkdb/index.jsp">http://www.thearkdb.org/arkdb/index.jsp</a>	y	y	n	y	y	y	Genome mapping data
ChickVD: Chicken Variation Database	<a href="http://chicken.genomics.org.cn/index.jsp">http://chicken.genomics.org.cn/index.jsp</a>	n	n	n	n	y	n	Sequence variation map, primarily SNPs
Bovine Genome Project	<a href="http://www.hgsc.bcm.tmc.edu/projects/bovine/">http://www.hgsc.bcm.tmc.edu/projects/bovine/</a>	n	y	n	n	n	y	BAC and Whole Genome Shotgun (WGS) libraries
Cattle Genome Database	<a href="http://www.cgd.csiro.au/">http://www.cgd.csiro.au/</a>	n	y	n	n	n	n	Comparative mapping, QTL
LivestockGenomics	<a href="http://www.livestockgenomics.csiro.au/">http://www.livestockgenomics.csiro.au/</a>	n	y	n	y	n	n	Genome Browsers (maps) and SNPs
Pig Genomic Informatics System	<a href="http://pig.genomics.org.cn/">http://pig.genomics.org.cn/</a>	y	n	n	n	n	n	Gene annotations, maps, SNPs
Bovine Genome Database	<a href="http://genomes.arc.georgetown.edu/drupal/bovine/">http://genomes.arc.georgetown.edu/drupal/bovine/</a>	n	y	n	n	n	n	Genome analysis and annotation, QTL
US Poultry Genome Project	<a href="http://poultry.mph.msu.edu/">http://poultry.mph.msu.edu/</a>	n	n	n	n	y	y	SNPs, BACs linked to genes, primers
COMRAD – comparative radiation hybrid mapping	<a href="http://www.projects.roslin.ac.uk/comrad/introduction.html">http://www.projects.roslin.ac.uk/comrad/introduction.html</a>	n	y	n	n	n	n	Whole genome radiation hybrid map
Gallus Genome Gbrowse	<a href="http://birdbase.net/cgi-bin/gbrowse/gallus08/">http://birdbase.net/cgi-bin/gbrowse/gallus08/</a>	n	n	n	n	y	y	Wide array of chicken genome data
Geisha – gallus expression <i>in situ</i> hybridization analysis	<a href="http://geisha.arizona.edu/geisha/">http://geisha.arizona.edu/geisha/</a>	n	n	n	n	y	n	<i>In situ</i> hybridization information
AgBase	<a href="http://www.agbase.msstate.edu/">http://www.agbase.msstate.edu/</a>	y	y	n	y	y	y	Genome, functional annotations
BBSRC ChickEST Database	<a href="http://www.chick.manchester.ac.uk/">http://www.chick.manchester.ac.uk/</a>	n	n	n	n	y	n	ESTs
Chicken full-length cDNA Database	<a href="http://bioinfo.hku.hk/chicken/">http://bioinfo.hku.hk/chicken/</a>	n	n	n	n	y	n	cDNA

# BREED CHARACTERISATION

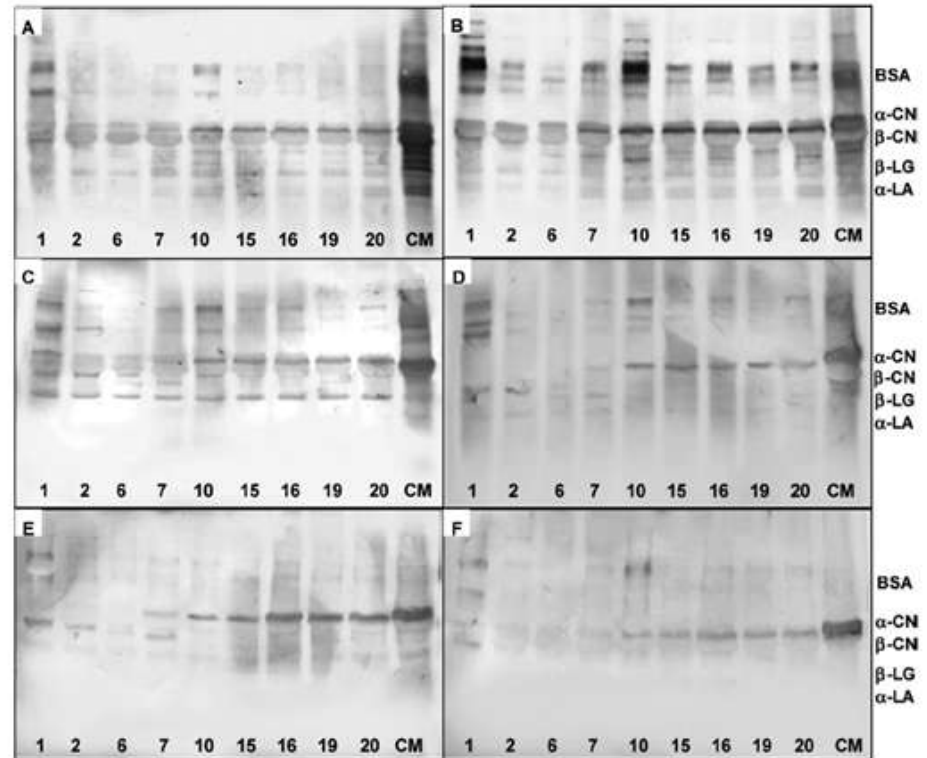
Particular **nutritional properties** of animal products can be characterised for local breed valorisation

Example: null alleles at goat caseins



# BREED CHARACTERISATION

- Lower milk allergenic reaction observed for two milk samples ( $\alpha_{s1}$  *CN 00* and *0F*) from local breeds
- Results confirmed by skin prick test on 6 allergic children



Source: Ballabio et al. (2011). Goat milk allergenicity as a function of  $\alpha_{s1}$ -casein genetic polymorphism. J. Dairy Sci., 94, 998-1004.

# ***IN SITU* CONSERVATION STRATEGIES**

- *In situ* conservation strategy is very important to conserve a breed within its natural habitat



Apulian local breeds (Courtesy of dott. Silvio Schito)

# ***IN SITU* CONSERVATION STRATEGIES**

- *In-situ* conditions: conditions where genetic resources exist within ecosystems and natural habitats, and, in the case of domesticated or cultivated species, in the surroundings where they have developed their distinctive properties (Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992)



Apulian livestock (by Elisa Pieragostinii)

# ***IN SITU* CONSERVATION STRATEGIES**

- The presence of local breeds on a farm can be linked to a precise strategy, e.g. cultural affection of farmers to breeds of their parents.
- Example: Italian Reggiana and Modenese cattle kept by some successful Holstein farmers

Gandini et al. 2010. Motives and values in farming local cattle breeds in Europe: a survey on 15 breeds. *Animal Genetic Resources*, 47:45–58.



# IN SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Efficient *in situ* conservation strategies: based on the self-sustainability of the breed



Razza Reggiana



Figura 4. Marchi Identificativi del Parmigiano Reggiano di razza Reggiana.

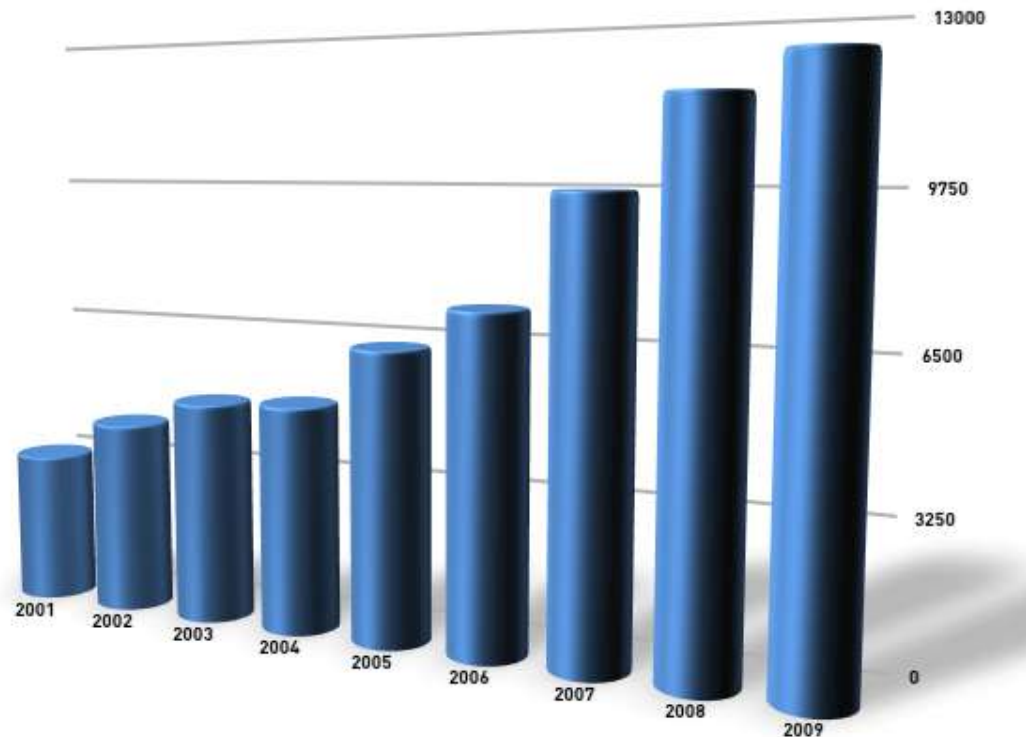
Gandini G., Maltecca C., Pizzi F., Bagnato A., Rizzi R. 2007. Comparing local and commercial breeds on functional traits and profitability: the case of Reggiana Dairy Cattle. J. Dairy Sci., 90: 2004–2011.



# IN SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Efficient *in situ* conservation strategy

Production of “Parmigiano Reggiano of Reggiana”



# IN SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

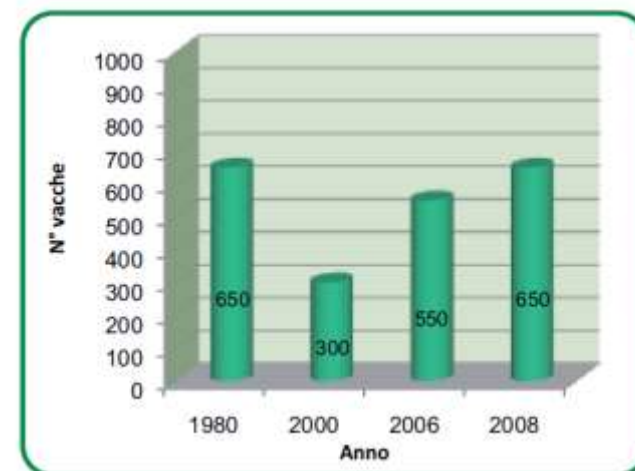
**REPORT**



**La razza Modenese BVP in breve**



Figura 4. Forma di Parmigiano Reggiano prodotta con solo latte di vacche Modenesi.



# IN SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

## RAZZE ANIMALI DA REDDITO ALLEVATE IN LOMBARDIA

Specie	Caprina
Razza	Verzaschese o Nera di Verzasca



### VERZASCHESE O NERA DI VERZASCA



#### Origine e zona di diffusione

È una razza originaria del Canton Ticino e in particolare nella Valle Verzasca che si estende dall'estremità settentrionale del Lago Maggiore verso Nord, dove viene allevata in forma semibrada da tempo imprecisabile.

Lo scambio di animali ha da sempre interessato le aree prealpine al confine con la Svizzera, per la comunanza di alcune aree di pascolo; il grosso incentivo all'allevamento di questa capra si è verificato però negli anni '70 quando sono stati importati dall'Svizzera **riproduttori** allo scopo di sostituire la locale popolazione caprina, molto eterogenea. È una razza rustica e resistente sia alle alte che alle basse temperature. Viene allevata in greggi medio-grandi e l'allevamento è di tipo semi-estensivo.



#### Presenza nelle Province Lombarde

In Lombardia è diffusa soprattutto nella provincia di Varese (Val Veddasca) e nelle valli dell'Alto Lario (Como), ed anche in Val Chiavenna (Sondrio) la consistenza registrata nel **Registro Anagrafico** è di 2.791 capi in 52 allevamenti. Presente anche nella provincia di Bergamo.



#### Caratteristiche morfologiche

È un animale di taglia medio-grande.

**Testa:** leggera, profilo fronto-nasale rettilineo, orecchie sviluppate ed erette, collo robusto, ben unito alla **spalla** e al **garrese**. Le **corna** sono sempre presenti in ambo i sessi, lievemente arcuate all'indietro con una leggera torsione verso l'esterno.

**Tronco:** spalla larga ben legata al torace, garrese di lunghezza media, **torace** profondo e largo, con coste ben arcuate; cosce muscolose.

**Mammella:** ben sviluppata, larga alla base. Il **mantello** è completamente nero, lucido, con **pelo** corto e fine, più fitto nella stagione invernale; i becchi hanno la **barba** e peli più lunghi sul garrese; la  **pelle** è morbida, fine ed elastica.

**Altezza** media al garrese: Maschi cm.80 - 90, femmine cm. 75 - 85

**Peso** minimo: Maschi Kg 90, femmine Kg. 70.



#### Caratteristiche produttive

È una razza a **duplice attitudine** ha una produttività di latte e carne molto buona.

Prolificata pari al 121%

**Capretto** alla nascita: 5,00-6,00 kg

**Produzioni medie latte** (AJA 2003): 364 litri con 3,27% di grasso e 3,06 di proteine.

Il latte viene destinato alla trasformazione per ottenere prodotti tipici a **"latte crudo"**: formaggi freschi e stagionati a partire dalle lavorazioni lattica o presamica, **yogurt, ricotta**. A questa razza è legata la produzione di un formaggio tipico **"Formaggella del Luinese"** per il quale è in corso il riconoscimento di prodotto DOP.



#### Per saperne di più

Il Registro Anagrafico per questa razza è stato attivato in Italia nel 1997 ed è tenuto dall'Associazione Nazionale Pastorizia (ASSONAPA)  
Viale P. Togliatti 1587, 00155 ROMA  
Tel. ☎: 06-4090013 - fax 06-40900130  
[info@assonapa.com](mailto:info@assonapa.com) - [www.assonapa.com](http://www.assonapa.com)

### CAPRINI

- Camosciata delle Alpi
- Saanen
- Bionda dell'Adamello
- Frisa Valtellinese o Frontalasca
- Lariana o Capra di Livio
- Orobianca o di Val Gerola
- Verzaschese o Nera di Verzasca



Regione Lombardia  
Agricoltura



# IN SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Cultural value of a local breed (safeguard of landscape, preservation of ancient local traditions)

(Gandini and Villa, 2003, J. Anim. Breed. Genet. 120, 1–11)

Table 1. Analysis of cattle breeds as historical witnesses<sup>a</sup>

Breed	Historical value <sup>b</sup> in the areas of:			
	Landscape	Gastronomy	Folklore	Handicrafts
Bianca Val Padana	+	++	-	-
Chianina	+	+	+	-
Garfagnina	+	-	-	-
Maremmiana	++	-	++	++
Modicana	++	++	-	-
Reggiana	+	++	-	-
Valdostana Castana	++	++	++	++
Valdostana Pezzata Nera	++	++	++	++
Valdostana Pezzata Rossa	++	++	++	++

<sup>a</sup>For breed antiquity, agricultural systems associated with each breed and their presence in higher artistic expression, see text.

<sup>b</sup>-, negligible value; +, limited value; ++, noticeable value.

# ***IN SITU* CONSERVATION STRATEGIES**



**Grazing Bionde dell'Adamello**

Source: <http://www.associazionerare.it/>

# ***IN SITU* CONSERVATION STRATEGIES**



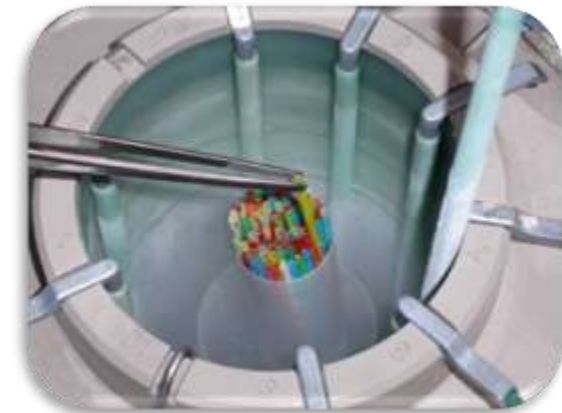
## **Battle of the Queens**

Source: <http://www.naturaosta.it/cultura.htm>

**When in situ conservation is not feasible, or as a support to *in situ* conservation:**

## **EX SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES**

*EX SITU in vitro* refers to conservation external to living animal in an artificial environment, under cryogenic condition including, *in alia*, the cryoconservation of embryos, semen, oocytes, somatic cells or tissue having the potential to reconstitute live animal (including animal for gene introgression and synthetic breeds) at a later date (FAO, 2007)



# EX SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

## National Cryobanks



**Table 2 Summary of annual reports provided by 25 European countries reporting on their activities implementing the *Global Plan of Action* from September 2009 to August 2010**

Country	No. of breeds reported to DAD-IS <sup>3</sup>	Strategic Priority 1 Characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risk	Strategic Priority 2 Sustainable use and development	Strategic Priority 3 Conservation	Strategic Priority 1 Policies, institutions and capacity building	National strategy or/and action plan planned for 2010/11/under development or adopted	National advisory committee to guide national implementation of GPA established	National law planned to review/harmonize or adopted in view of GPA	Cryobank for national AnGR planned for 2010/11/ under development or operational
Albania	42	+	+	++	++	✓		✓	
Belgium	71	+	+	++	++			✓	
Croatia	33	++	+	++	++			✓	
Cyprus	18	++	+	++	+			✓	
Czech Republic	100	+	+	+++	++	✓		✓	
Finland	23	++	++	+++	++	✓		✓	
Germany	185	++++	++	++++	+++	✓	✓	✓	
Greece	37	++	++	+++	++	✓	✓	✓	
Hungary	91	++	++	+++	+++	✓	✓	✓	
Iceland	6	++	+++	+++	+++	✓		✓	
Ireland	34	++	++	++	+++		✓	✓	
Italy	263	++	+	+++	not reported			✓	
Latvia	10	+	++	++	not reported			✓	
Montenegro	6	++	+	++	+	✓	✓	✓	
Poland	114	+++	++	++++	+++	✓	✓	✓	
Romania	114	+	+	+	+	✓		✓	
Serbia	41	+++	++	+	+			✓	
Slovakia	39	++	not reported	++	+++			✓	
Slovenia	63	+++	+	+++	+			✓	
Spain	203	++++	++++	++++	++++	✓	✓	✓	
Sweden	50	+	+	++	+	✓		✓	
Switzerland	38	++++	++	++++	++			✓	
Turkey	92	++	+	++++	++	✓	✓	✓	
Ukraine	163	+	+	+	+			✓	
United Kingdom	264***	+++	++	++++	++	✓	✓	✓	

**72%**

Actions described as (+) initiated to (++++) if all actions are fully implemented and regular monitoring is undertaken.

## National Cryobank planned for 2010-2011

[http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/documents/ITWG\\_AnGR\\_6/CGRFA\\_WG\\_AnGR\\_6\\_10\\_Inf10.pdf](http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/documents/ITWG_AnGR_6/CGRFA_WG_AnGR_6_10_Inf10.pdf)



# EX SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

## Type of genetic material stored

Semen and embryos form the most common material for the cryopreservation of farm AnGR



Possibilities	Limitations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carry the entire genome including extra-nuclear genetic material</li><li>• Allow the complete and immediate recovery of the breed in case of extinction</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Freezing not available for all species</li><li>• High cost</li><li>• In small population not enough embryos donors</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Freezing technique routinely available in all species</li><li>• Low cost</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To reconstruct extinct breed several backcrossing and high number of doses are needed</li><li>• &lt;100% genome recovered, cytoplasmatic effect lost or altered</li></ul>

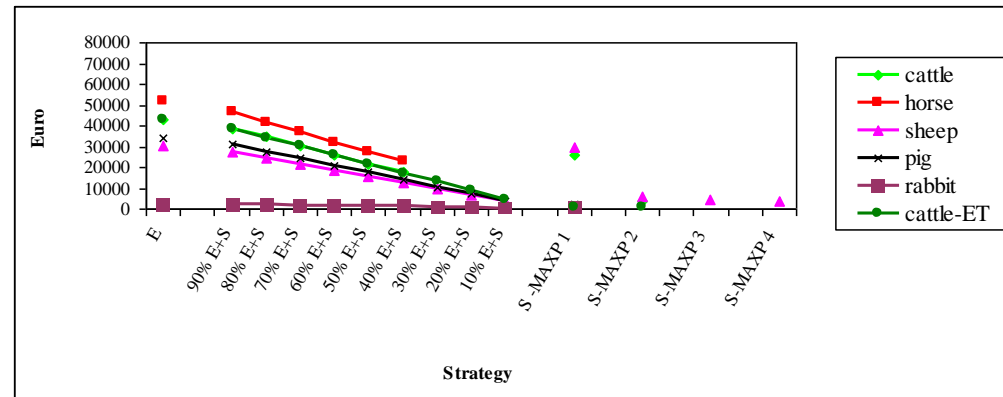
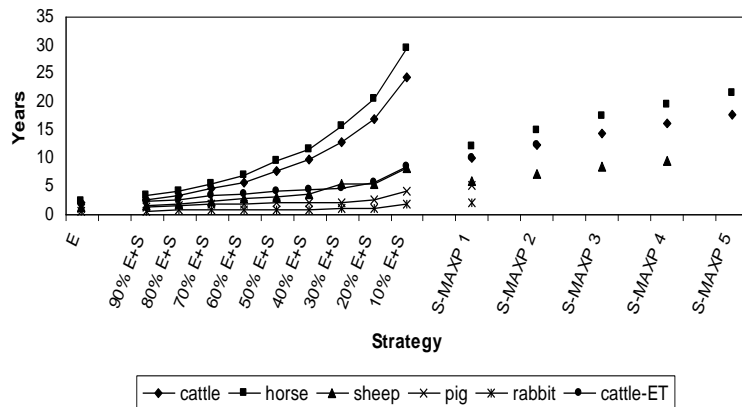
# The costs of breed reconstruction from cryopreserved material in mammalian livestock species

## Three strategies:

- Embryos,
- Embryos in combination with semen,
- Semen.

## Three cost measures:

- time required for population reconstruction,
- cost for creation of the gene bank,
- number of years-keeping-female to reach reconstruction.



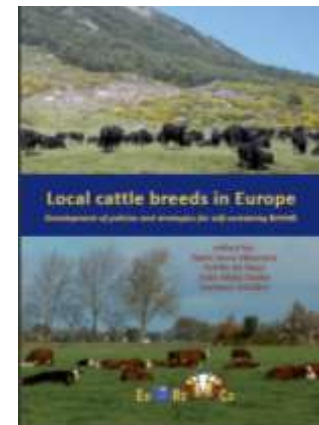
Boettcher P.J., Stella A., Pizzi F., Gandini G. (2005). The Combined Use Of Embryos And Semen For Cryogenic Conservation Of Farm Mammal. Genetic Resources. Genetics, Selection, Evolution 37, 657-675

Gandini G. , Pizzi F., Stella A. , Boettcher P.J. (2007). The costs of breed reconstruction from cryopreserved material in mammalian livestock species .Genetic, Selection, Evolution 39, 465-479



This project is aimed at assisting conservation, development and sustainable use of autochthon, local or regional cattle breeds. These breeds are recognized as **important elements of agrobiodiversity, of agro-ecosystems and of our cultural heritage** in Europe. The most secure **conservation strategy** for those breeds is to **promote measures which contribute to self-sustainability** of the breed.

<http://www.regionalcattlebreeds.eu/publications/documents/9789086866977cattlebreeds.pdf>





**A detailed survey was carried out:**

- **to compare cryopreservation activities and policies in Finland, France, Italy and the Netherlands.**
- **to detect similarities and differences between these 4 countries,**
- **to compare the countries' strategies with the international Guidelines,**
- **to formulate recommendations for initiating or strengthening cryopreservation programmes.**





# EX SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

For a total of **52 local breeds** from Finland, the Netherlands, France and Italy detailed information on **2,536 bulls** was collected.

Country	Breed classification according to FAO criteria					Total
	Critical	Endangered	Critical maintained	Endangered maintained	Not at risk	
Finland	0	2	0	0	1	3
France	1	0	1	12	4	18
Italy	0	1	1	9	12	23
Netherlands	1	3	0	0	4	8
Total	2	9	4	17	19	52

# EX SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

## Number of bulls and number of doses in storage

	N° of bulls	N° of doses
 Finland	223	351 981
 France	563	1 307 166
 Italy	1091	264 208
 The Netherlands	659	1 095 162



 Western Fincattle breed



 Reggiana



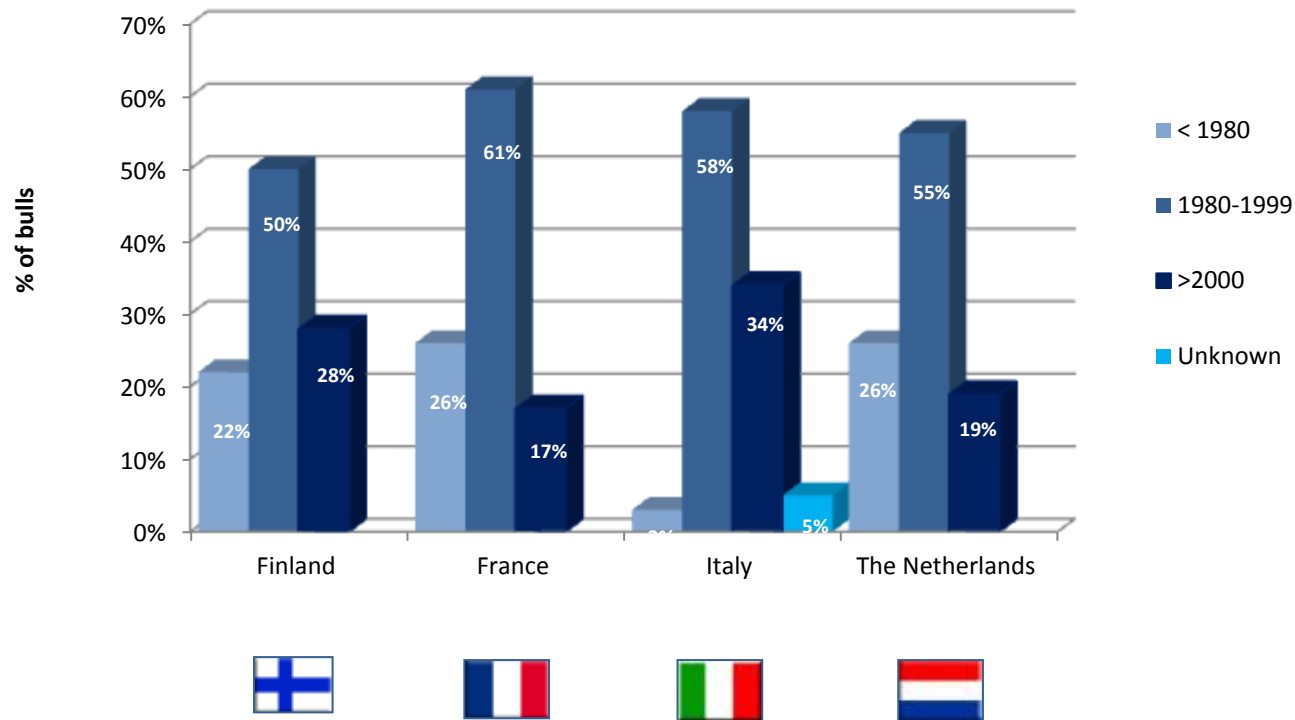
 Villard de Lans Breed



 Meuse-Rhine-Yssel cattle (MRY)

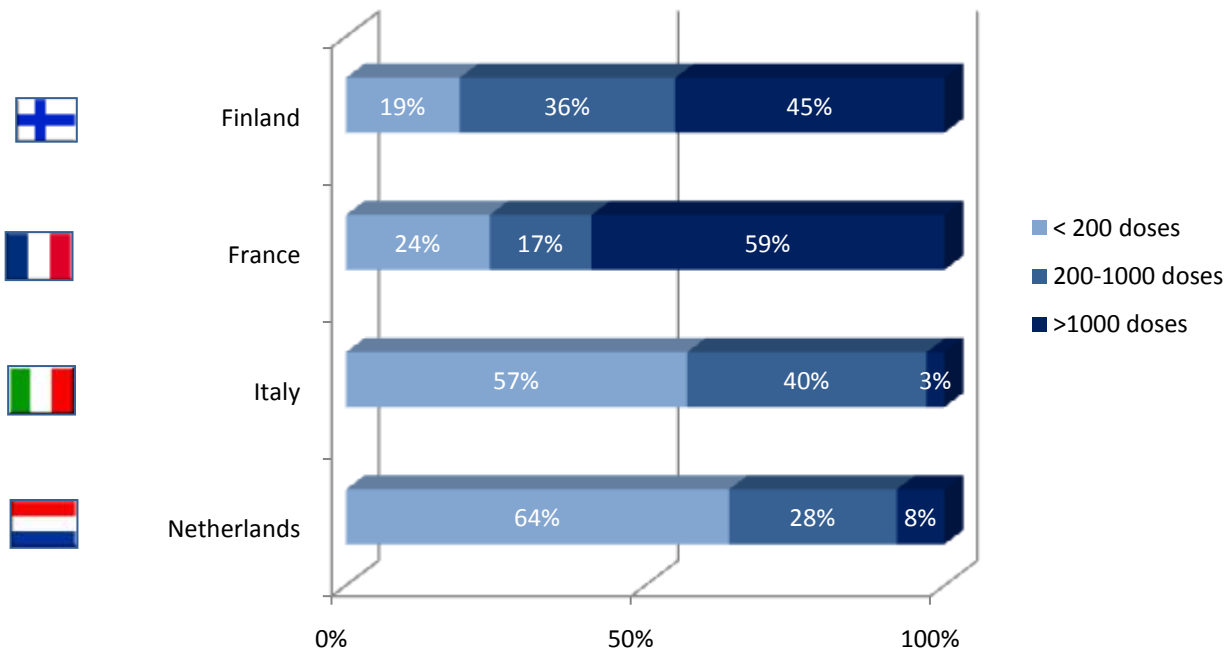
# EX SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

## Birth date of bulls



# EX SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Sampling strategy  
Distribution of semen doses per bull



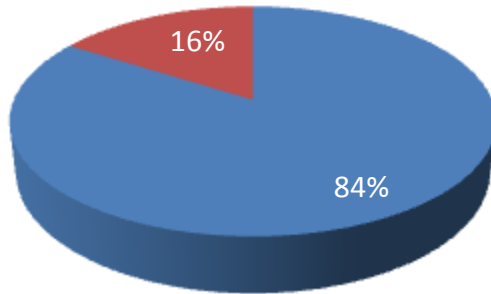


# EX SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

## Semen sample storage – sites /breed

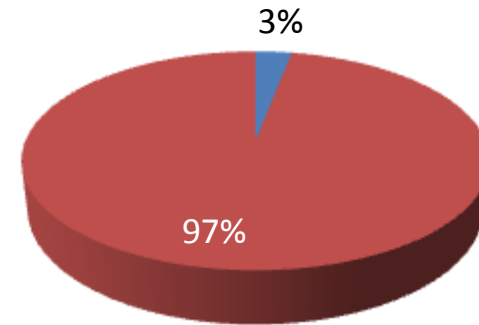
### Cabannina

■ AI center   ■ research



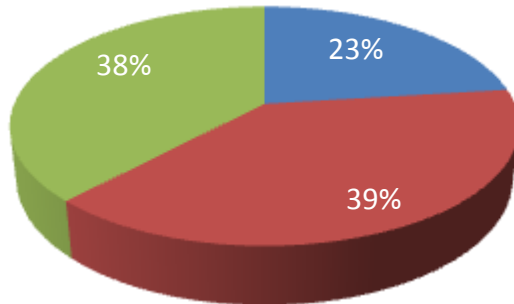
### Reggiana

■ AI center (PI)   ■ AI center (MO)



### Varzese

■ Centro FA   ■ research 1   ■ research 2



**Italy:**  
fragmented collections,  
lack of coordination

# ***EX SITU* CONSERVATION STRATEGIES**

## **Network of the Italian Animal Genetic Resources Cryobanks – CRIONET-IT**

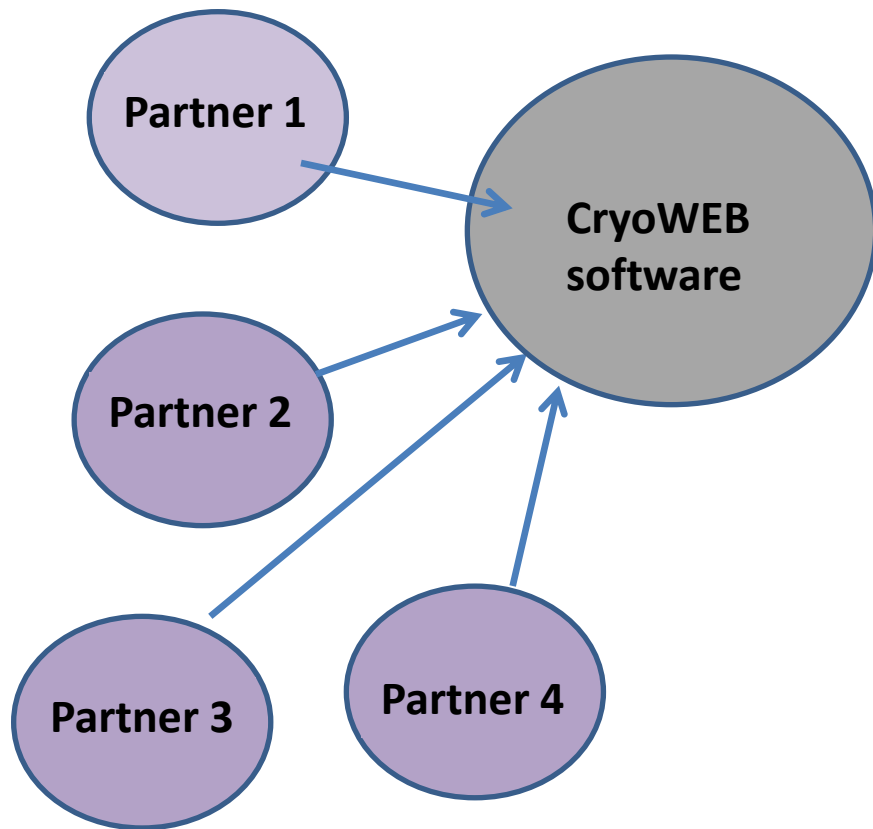
**Created in 2010 in collaboration with the Department of Veterinary Science and Technology for Food Safety (UNIMI) in order to:**

- Share, through a virtual bank, the information concerning cryo-preserved genetic material of farm animals breeds
- Create a network of institutions involved in cryo-preservation of local breeds.



# EX SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

## Network of the Italian Animal Genetic Resources Cryobanks CRIONET-IT



### Main features

- Single database
- Partners feeds the database with the information of their collection
- Partners are responsible for the information of the collection not necessary the owners of the materials
- Only dose stored as genetic reserve are recorded in the network

# EX SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

## Homepage Network

Home **Partners** Collaboratori Materiale stoccato Conservare la Biodiversità Cryoweb - area riservata

**CRIONET-IT** è composto da Partners che condividono le informazioni relative a materiale genetico di razze di interesse zoo-economico crioconservato a scopo di riserva genetica. \*

In **CRIONET-IT** sono archiviate informazioni relative a materiale genetico (materiale seminale, embrioni, oociti, cellule somatiche) conservato come back-up da utilizzare in caso di comparsa di problemi genetici nelle razze, quali perdita di linee genetiche, eccessiva consanguineità, o per la ricostruzione della razza in caso di estinzione. CRIONET-IT inoltre archivia informazioni relative a materiale stoccato (es. sangue, bulbo pilifero) come possibile fonte di DNA.

### ELENCO PARTNERS

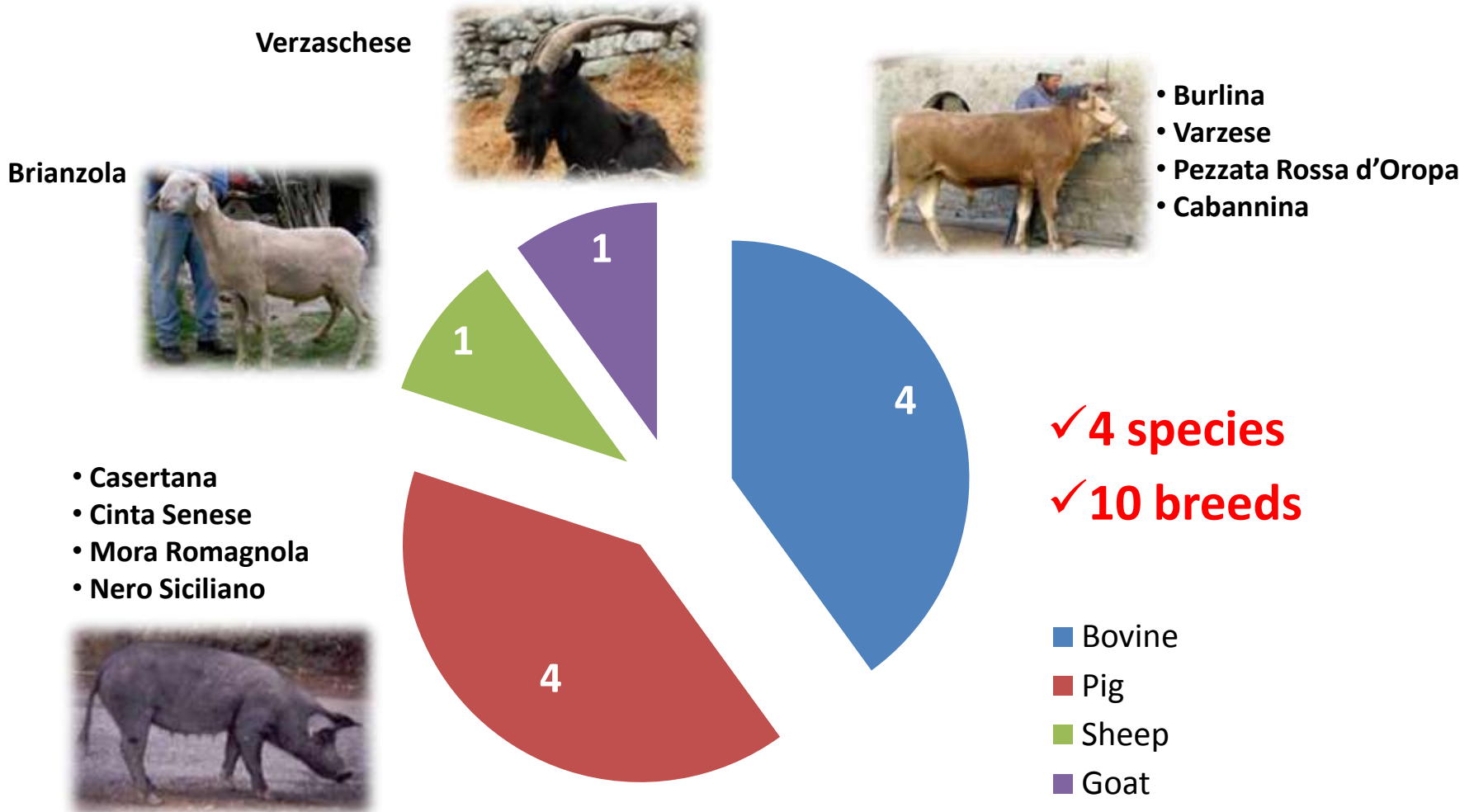
1. [Associazione Nazionale Allevatori Bovini di Razza Reggiana - Banca Genetica;](#)
2. [Banca delle Risorse Genetiche Animali Lombarde - LABank;](#)
3. [Comunità Montana Valli del Verbano;](#)
4. [Criobanca del Germoplasma Animale "Giuseppe Rognoni" - IBBA-CNR](#)
5. [Riserva genetica della razza Burlina - Associazione Provinciale Allevatori di Treviso;](#)
6. [Riserva genetica della razza Cabannina - Associazione Provinciale Allevatori di Genova;](#)

\* I Partner sono responsabili dell'informazione archiviata in CRIONET-IT.

<http://www.genrescryonet.unimi.it>

# EX SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

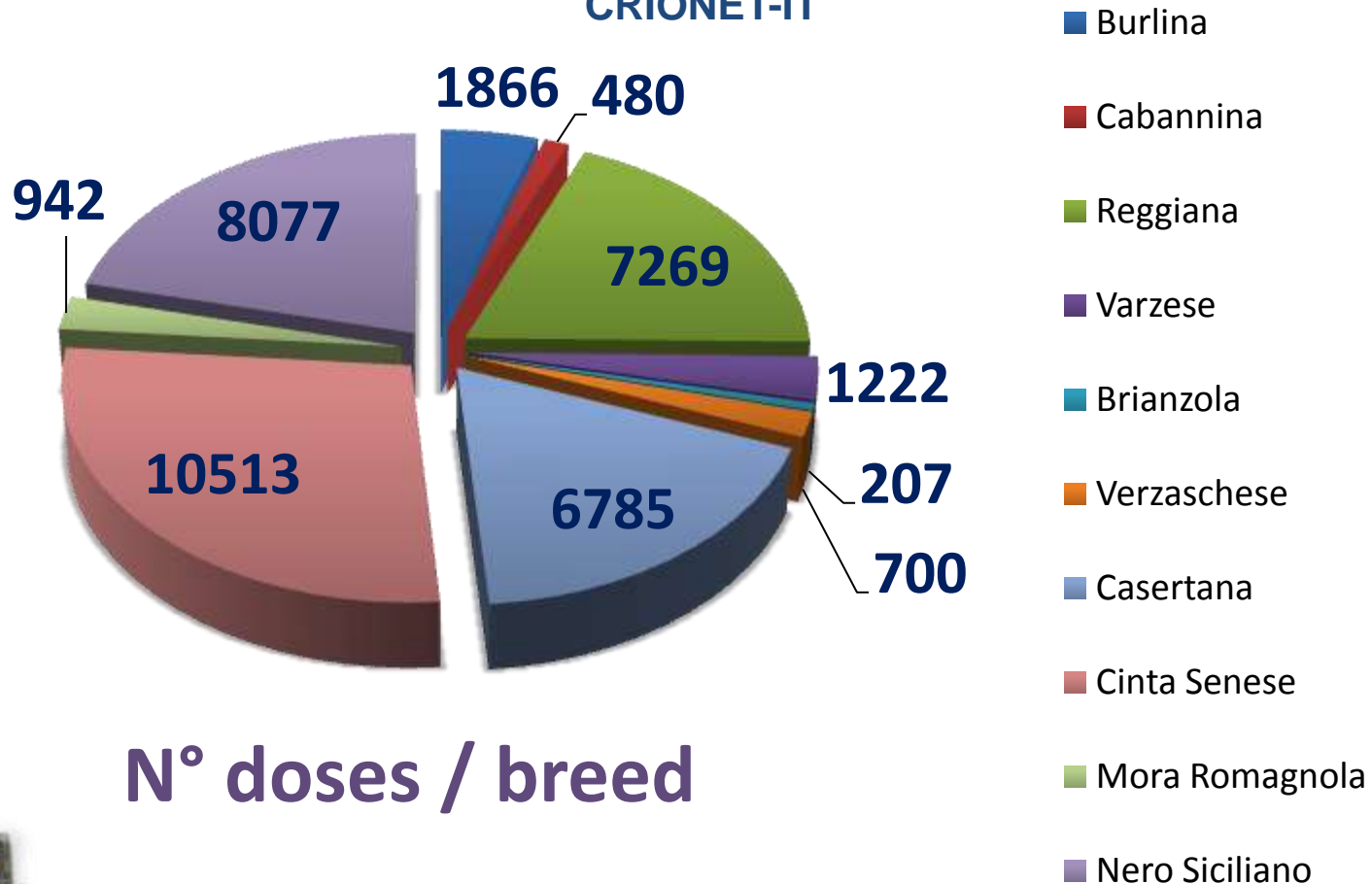
## Network of the Italian Animal Genetic Resources Cryobanks CRIONET-IT



**Material stored: n of breeds for species**

# EX SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

## Network of the Italian Animal Genetic Resources Cryobanks CRIONET-IT



N° doses / breed

✓ Bovine: 10837 paillettes

✓ Sheep: 207 paillettes

✓ Pig: 26317 paillettes

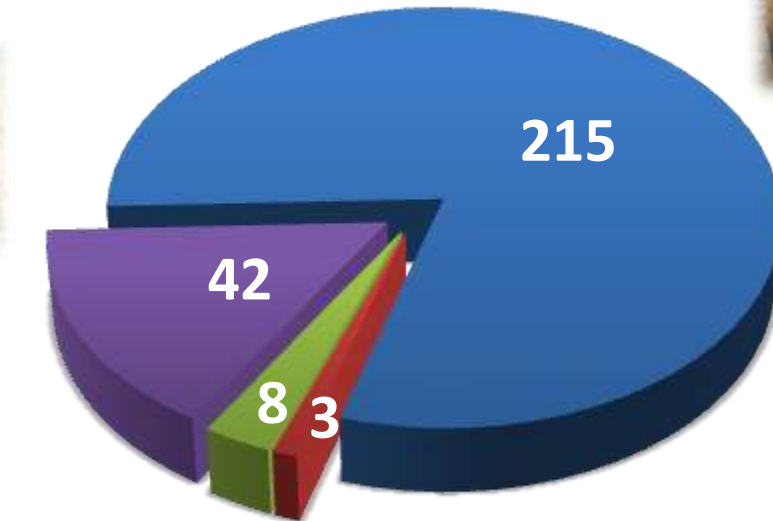
✓ Goat: 700 paillettes

✓ 38061 paillettes



# EX SITU CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Network of the Italian Animal Genetic Resources Cryobanks  
CRIONET-IT



- Bovini
- Caprini
- Ovini
- Suini



✓ 268 donatori

Material stored: n of donors for species

Grazie per  
l'attenzione!

# In ricordo di un maestro di signorilità'

## L'attività' del prof. Giuseppe Rognoni nella Pezzata Rossa Italiana

L'ANAPRI

**In** Friuli V.G. si fece conoscere ed apprezzare già dalla fine degli anni '40 per aver sperimentato il vaccino contro la Brucellosi (BUCK 19). Ha presieduto la CTC ANAPRI dal gennaio 1979 fino al 2007, in qualità di esperto zootecnico di nomina ministeriale. Durante questo lungo periodo si è distinto per la capacità di saper ascoltare tutte le istanze, anche se contrastanti tra loro, stando sopra le parti, con l'unico scopo di poter prendere le decisioni migliori a beneficio della maggior parte degli allevatori di Pezzata Rossa. Questa sua virtù gli ha consentito di guidare l'ANAPRI per un così lungo periodo, durante le scelte selettive più importanti, in nome del progresso scientifico ma al tempo stesso rispettando la dignità delle tradizioni. Non si possono dimenticare alcune delle decisioni tecniche più importanti prese

dalla CTC ANAPRI durante la sua presidenza:

- Utilizzo del Performance test nel programma di selezione (1980)
- Prima valutazione genetica in Italia con il metodo BLUP (1984)
- Cambio del nome della razza da FRILANA ad ITALIANA (1985)
- Adozione del programma di selezione GIOVANI TORI (1990)
- Utilizzo del metodo BLUP ANIMAL MODEL nella valutazione genetica (1991)
- Adozione del sistema lineare di valutazione morfologica armonizzato a livello europeo (1997)
- Definizione dell'indice di selezione IDA (1998)
- Test Day Model (2005)

Un ringraziamento a nome di tutti i componenti della Commissione Tecnica, del Comitato Direttivo, del Direttore e personale Anapri, nonché degli allevatori di Pezzata Rossa Italiana. ■



Il Prof. Rognoni interviene durante l'Assemblea Anapri

### *Al mio professore*

*Riservato ed accogliente,  
coraggioso eppur prudente,  
campagnolo e gran signore,  
genetista e allevatore.*

*Lui, maestro da imitare,  
...pronto sempre ad imparare!  
Sguardo attento a tutto il mondo,  
per andare fino in fondo  
della vera Consistenza  
che fa lieta l'assistenza.*

*"Siate sempre generosi!"  
"State attenti a figli e sposi:  
la famiglia innanzi tutto!"  
"Se volete portar frutto,  
fate tutto con bontà  
e cristiana carità!"*

*Ci riecheggiano nella mente,  
ed ancor ciascuno sente,  
quelle semplici parole  
che diceva alla sua "prole"  
di discepoli ... maledetti  
nel cercar d'esser maestri!*

*Ci rimane dentro il cuore  
il suo sguardo indagatore,  
la sua innata simpatia,  
la sua timida allegria.*

Anna

