

Activities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic in the field of Animal Genetic Resources

*„Animal Biotechnology 2017“
5th International Scientific Conference
7th December 2017*

*National Agricultural and Food Centre –
Research Institute of Animal Production in Nitra, Lužianky*

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Biodiversity and animal genetic resources (AnGR)

- Conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture *in-situ* and *ex-situ* and their utilisation in a sustainable way
- Conservation of animal genetic resources – not only rare breeds of farm animals but all populations
- Trend of increasing globalisation: international breeding companies - imported breeding material - genetics of high productive potential (e.g. simmentalisation of Slovak spotted breed)

International obligations – brief overview

- **Convention on Biological Diversity**

Entered into force on 29th December 1993

Main goals:

- ❑ Protect the biodiversity at all levels, from genetic level to species and ecosystems
- ❑ Promote sustainable use of the biodiversity components
- ❑ Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources

Slovakia accessed CBD on 23th November 1994 as the 79th member.

- **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the CBD**

Entered into force on 11th September 2003

- ❑ Governing the movements of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology from one country to another

The Protocol came into force for Slovakia on 22th February 2004

- **Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the CBD**

Entered into force on 12th October 2014

Main goal:

Create greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources by:

- ❑ Establishing more predictable conditions for access to genetic resources.
- ❑ Helping to ensure benefit-sharing when genetic resources leave the country providing the genetic resources

Slovakia became a contracting party to the Nagoya Protocol on 28th March 2016 as the fifth Member State of the European Union.

National legislation

- **Act No 194/1998 Coll. on farm animal breeding**
 - rights and obligations of the recognised breeders' organisations carrying out breeding programmes and other authorised persons
 - specific provisions on conservation of gene pool and historical value of endangered breeds for their future use
 - a new Act is currently under preparation
- **Act No 263/2015 Z. z. on competence for access to genetic resources and exploitation of benefits resulting from their use**
 - partial implementation of Regulation (EU) No 511/2014 on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)
 - the competence of the state administration authorities and the competences of legal persons
- **Regulation No 75/2015 rules on the provision of support in connection with Rural Development Programme measures**
 - measure 10 Agri-environment-climate payments
 - breeding and maintaining endangered animal species (breeds)

National frame of AnGR regulation

- **MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**

- manages the performance of state administration in the area of conservation and the use of all genetic resources
- established Working group for biodiversity

- **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

- legislation in the field of AnGR
- manages the performance of state administration in the field of AnGR for food and agriculture
- provides financial support – institutional support, payments for the farmers, state aid...

- **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD CENTRE – RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL PRODUCTION IN NITRA (NAFC – RIAP)**

- National Coordinator – Assembly of National Coordinators in European Regional Focal Point for AnGR
- *in vivo ex situ and in vitro* conservation
- maintaining the national gene bank
- maintaining Slovakia's Farm Animal Biodiversity Information System (EFABIS)

- **SLOVAK UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE IN NITRA**

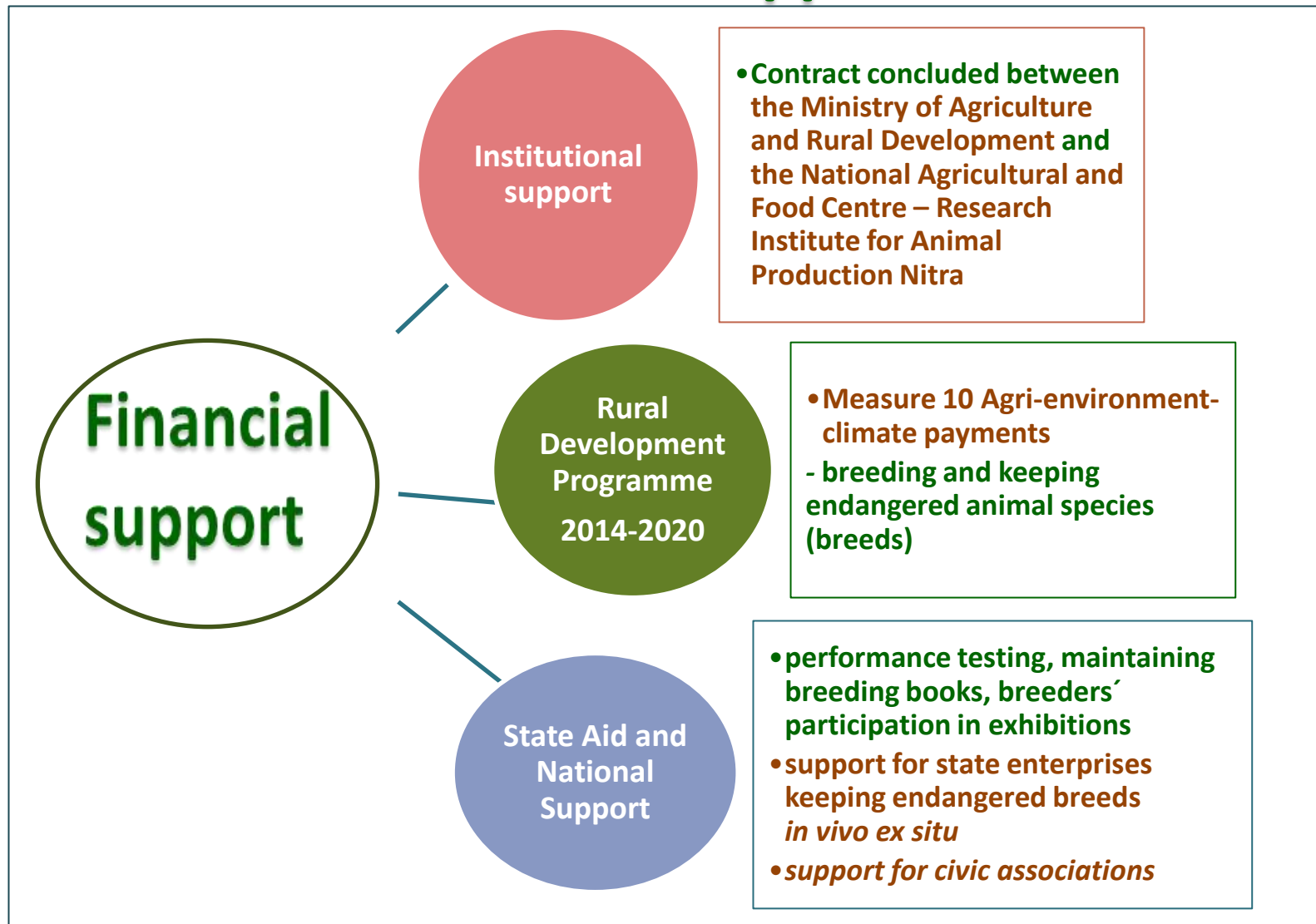
- research and education

Monitored Breeds in Slovakia

Breeds monitored in European Farm Animal Biodiversity Information System (EFABIS)		
Species	Breeds total	Breeds extinct (0 animals)
Cattle	16	3
Chicken	20	0
Duck	3	0
Goat	5	1
Goose	4	0
Horse	11	0
Pig	10	2
Quail	4	0
Rabbit	43	0
Sheep	14	0
Turkey	1	0



Financial support



Institutional financial support

Annual Contract between:

- the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR and
- the National Agricultural and Food Centre – Research Institute for Animal Production Nitra

The activities included in contract are research, monitoring and administration in the field of AnGR including EFABIS database

Year	Research tasks	Professional assistance tasks	Total national budget
2014	262 914	76 000	338 914
2015	250 008	84 500	334 508
2016	244 274	334 100	578 374
2017	210 076	322 670	532 746
2018	Budget is currently being prepared.		

Financial support

RDP 2014 - 2020

Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020

Measure 10 Agri-environment-climate payments

- breeding and keeping endangered animal species (breeds)
- provided for farmers as compensation of their income loss due to lower production
- the farmer enters the measure with a 5-year obligation in relation to number of livestock units (LU)
- the applicant is required to complete the training course
- payment rate is 200 € per livestock unit (LU)

Supported species and breeds:

Cattle Slovak Pinzgau

Sheep Valachian Sheep (indigenous), Askanian Merino, Improved Valachian Sheep, Tsigai

Goats White Shorthaired Goat, Brown Shorthaired Goat

Horses Slovak Warmblood Horse, Hutsul, Furioso, Nonius, Slovak Sport Pony, Lipitsan, Shagya Arab, Noric of Murany Type

- the breeds Improved Valachian Sheep and Tsigai were added by the 2nd modification of the RDP 2014 – 2020 (approved by the European Commission in March 2017)

Financial support

RDP 2014 - 2020

Supported livestock units

[LU/cal. year]	2014	2015	2016	2017*	Total
Livestock Units	-	2 198,45	1 268,65	2 072,00•	5 539,10

*No of LU is being currently evaluated

•mostly new approved breeds (Improved Valachian, Tsigai)

Financial support

[thousand EUR]	Less developed regions Art. 59(3)(a) of Regulation 1305/2013		Other regions (Bratislava) Art. 59(3)(d) of Regulation 1305/2013		SR total	
	National budget	EAFRD*	National budget	EAFRD*	National budget	EAFRD*
Cal. year 2016	586,35	439,76	20,97	11,11	607,31	450,87
	1 026,11		32,08		1 058,18	

*European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

Effect – support for farmers

Species	Breed	Females entered in herd/stud-books				
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cattle	Slovak Pinzgau	1 697	1 430	1 491	1 583	1 674
Sheep	Valachian	225	314	349	383	553
	Askanian Merino	34	24	27	30	39
	Improved Valachian	16 250	12 393	10 398	7 354	7 732
	Tsigai	13 296	10 012	7 809	6 320	5 691
Goats	White Shorthaired	832	774	1 031	843	634
	Brown Shorthaired	122	99	67	70	116
Horses	Slovak Warmblood	868	923	980	895	863
	Hutsul	110	150	-	107	106
	Lipitsan	186	185	-	163	165
	Nonius	26	38	37	29	28
	Furioso	162	172	150	181	175
	Shagya-Arab	197	181	-	131	128
	Noric of Murany Type	104	112	106	110	114
	Slovak Sport Pony	92	75	70	76	109

initial population for RDP 2014-2020
 increase in comparison to the initial population

State Aid and National Support

State Aid

- performance testing and genetic evaluation
- establishing and maintaining breeding books
- breeders' participation in exhibitions

Year	2014	2015	2016
EUR	1 020 000	950 000	900 616

Year	2014	2015	2016
EUR	385 000	378 791	379 999

Year	2014	2015	2016
EUR	94 360	65 000	64 999

National Support

- support for state enterprises keeping endangered breeds *in vivo ex situ*

*National Stud Farm Topolčianky
Forests of the SR (up to 2014)*

Year	2014	2015	2016
EUR	1 141 000	1 219 970	1 226 802

- support for civic associations

*Slovak Breeders' Union
2 bee breeders' associations
Slovak Union of Racing Pigeon Fanciers*

Year	2014	2015	2016
EUR	506 046	511 911	423 644

Promotion: Exhibitions of farm animals



Promotion:

Exhibitions of farm animals

The Ministry supports the following exhibitions where live animals of various breeds are presented. Within these exhibitions, domestic food products and a proper animal care are also presented in an attractive way.

National exhibitions:

- National exhibition of farm animals, (within the National agricultural exhibition „Agrokomplex“, Nitra)
- Farmers' yard exhibition (within the National agricultural exhibition „Agrokomplex“, Nitra)
- Oveňalie 2017 (sheep exhibition), Východná
- Horse, Trenčín
- XX. state animal exhibition and II. international animal exhibition of V4, 25.-26.11.2017

Regional exhibitions:

- Slovak pinzgau cattle breeders' day, region of Liptov
- Slovak cattle breeders' day, Prešov
- Regional horse exhibition
- Regional sheep and cattle exhibition, Kamenica
- Breeders' day in open-air museum, Vychylovka
- Beef cattle breeders' day, Medzianky

Following steps

- **Preparation of the new Act on Farm Animal Breeding taking into account**
 - implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/1012 („Animal Breeding Regulation“) including its specific provisions for endangered breeds
 - principles of access to genetic resources and exploitation of benefits resulting from their use (Access and Benefit Sharing, ABS)
 - improving the national system of AnGR protection: National reference centre and National gene bank for AnGR
- **Further cooperation with the Ministry of Environment**
 - cooperation in preparation of legislation
 - membership of Ministry of Agriculture, NAFC – RIAP and Slovak University of Agriculture in Working group for biodiversity
- **Other activities**
 - establishing permanent *in vivo ex situ* collection of animals
 - better promotion - food products linked to a specific breed
 - improving education – experts, breeders, public
 - raising public awareness for the need of AnGR protection



Photos used in the presentation:

*mps.r.sk, cehz.sk, agrokomplex.sk, nppc.sk, shutterstock.com,
ifauna.sk, kysuckemuzeum.sk, wikipedia.sk, rno.sk*

Thank you for your attention!

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MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

