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A survey of stakeholder attitudes towards bio bank management in Europe



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Aim

Identification of needs, attitudes and preferences of different stakeholders regarding animal genetic resources (AnGR) in Europe.

Background

•Livestock **bio banks are not well-established** globally, despite their potential impact on human health and food production systems (Groeneveld, 2016) and livestock diversity facilitates the adaptation of production systems (FAO, 2015).

•There is a **need to strengthen institutional frameworks** for the management of AnGR and the emergence of new technologies.

•EU funded project IMAGE aims to **enhance the use of genetic collections**, to upgrade bio bank management and to demonstrate its benefits.

•Next to this sociological research, IMAGE organises **annual stakeholder meetings and dialogues** which facilitate communication and cooperation among a variety of parties.

Material and methods

Online survey with N=105 after QC

Main professions of participants:

- Breeders/Breeding organisation
- Science
- Extension service provider

29 questions on the following topics:

- Importance of AnGR management
- Concern about loss
- Attitudes towards new technologies,
- Opinions about bio bank access & funding,
- Bio bank decision making,
- Ownership
- General satisfaction with the status quo

Results

•A majority of participants are at least somewhat **concerned about loss of rare breeds** (85%) and considered the importance of management of animal genetic resources as (very) high (75%). Strongly favoured management strategies were bio banks (52%) and genomic selection (52%).

•Regarding collection strategies, **endangered breeds/diverse animals should be prioritised** over profitable animals.

•Breed societies and public research institutions should have **free access** to material, while private entities should pay a nominal fee (>50% agreed).

•Most **authority** in bio bank decision making should lay with breed societies and public researchers.

•Regarding funding, there was a **clear preference for public funding** for bio banks.

•The work of bio banks in animal genetic resource management was found to be somewhat, mostly or fully adequate at the moment by 70% of stakeholders in this survey.

Conclusions

This study found a generally positive attitude of stakeholders of animal genetic resources in Europe towards an increased use of bio banks to conserve genetic diversity in the livestock sector, funded and controlled by public (research) institutions and breed societies,

