



**Regional Expert Meeting**  
**Livestock based Geographical Indication chains as an entry point to**  
**maintain agro-biodiversity**  
**20-21 October 2009 Budapest, Hungary**

Food and other products that have a specific geographical indication (GI) and possess special qualities or characteristics became widely acknowledged by consumers, and the demand for such products has significantly increased in the past decade. Protected geographical indications are promising tools to support rural economies and livelihoods by adding value to locally available resources, diversifying the rural economy and are major contributors to the preservation of biodiversity and landscape.

Animal genetic resources are the primary biological capital for livestock development, and are vital to food security and sustainable rural development. Many indigenous breeds have special adaptive traits, such as disease resistance, climatic tolerance and the ability to digest low-quality feed and to survive with reduced or uncertain supplies of feed and water. Yet, the values of these resources are poorly understood and their management has been neglected. This has resulted in substantial erosion of genetic diversity and the extinct of some livestock breeds.

But what are the limits/possibilities for GIs to contribute to the conservation of livestock genetic resources and agro-biodiversity?

In order to examine this topic, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and FAO Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe organize Regional Expert Meeting on 'Livestock based Geographical Indication chains as an entry point to maintain agro-biodiversity' to be held in Budapest, Hungary on 20-21 October 2009.

The 'Livestock based Geographical Indication chains as an entry point to maintain agrobiodiversity' Expert Meeting will be the third in the series of events that FAO have recently organized in order to raise awareness about the importance of traditional products and their role in agriculture and rural development and agro-biodiversity preservation. The Budapest Expert meeting together with the South-East Europe Technical Seminar "Quality Food Products linked to Geographical Origin and Traditions" held in Belgrade, Serbia in December 2008 and the Technical Forum "Geographical Indication and its contribution to Food Security" held at the Berlin Forum International Green Week in January 2009, have the objective to constitute an important knowledge base for practitioners, scientists and decision- and policy makers for their work related to geographical indications and rural development.

**Organizer:** FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) and Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEU)

**Date:** Tuesday, 20-21 October 2009 from 09.00 till 16.00

**Venue:** FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) and Sub-regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEU)  
Budapest  
Benczúr utca 34.  
1068

**Objectives of the workshop:**

- to consider to what extent GI products can contribute to conservation of Livestock Genetic Resources and rural development;
- to share experiences on use of GIs for conservation of Livestock Genetic Resources;
- to draw lessons learnt from GI producers and
- to make recommendations for policy makers.

During the one day workshop renowned experts will provide answers, among others, to the following questions:

- *Are livestock based GI commodity chains a threat – an opportunity – or are they neutral towards biodiversity?*
- *How should GI support policies (as part of rural development support) be formulated in order to contribute to biodiversity for conservation of animal genetic resources and sustainable livestock production systems ensuring quality and safety of the GI food products?*
- *How can society remunerate the positive contribution of GI producers to biodiversity?*

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