Community-based management of animal genetic resources
– A Tool for Rural Development

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Unlike the situation with respect to plant genetic resources, truly participatory approaches to the conservation of animal genetic resources have not yet been developed and thinking is still dominated by conventional ex-situ and in-situ conservation. Community-based Management of Animal Genetic Resources (CBMAnGR) was conceived as an approach that integrates the livelihoods needs of local communities and the call of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to conserve biodiversity in its “natural habitat”. On this topic a workshop, organized by SADC/FAO/UNDP project on “Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources in the SADC Region”, the Southern Africa Centre for Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Training (SACCAR), the SADC Livestock Coordination in Botswana and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) through the project “Managing Agrobiodiversity in Rural Areas”, was held from 7 to 11 May, 2001 in Mbabane, Swaziland.

During the workshop a conceptual framework for CBMAnGR was worked out:

![Conceptual Framework for CBMAnGR](image)

**Advantages and benefits of community based management of AnGR**
- Communities have interest in all the natural resources on which their livelihoods depend, including the AnGR
- Deep understanding of what it takes to utilize AnGR in a sustainable manner
- Local communities have the commitment for the effective management of these resources so long as support and incentives are made available to them
- Operational benefits as farmers organise themselves for collective actions

**Recommendations**
At the end of the workshop, a statement was issued which included the following recommendations for further action:
- Promote participatory AnGR management based on local knowledge and resources for enhancing capacity in animal breeding, development and conservation
- Conduct economic valuation surveys and investigate and develop markets for animals and animal products
- Develop policies on the rights of local communities, farmers and breeders, and the regulation of access and benefit sharing to AnGR
- Formulate policies to support CBMAnGR in the region
- Ensure that proper mechanisms are put in place for research and development of CBMAnGR
- Bring the importance of CBMAnGR to the attention of FAO and other important stakeholders in the CBD implementation process

Further information including the workshop report can be found at [http://www.gtz.de/agrobiodiv](http://www.gtz.de/agrobiodiv)