
EDITORIAL

There has been a small gap between AGRI No. 13 and this one, due to budgetary restrictions within FAO. The regular publication is now restarting with the financial support of UNEP, with three issues per year, as long as you, the reader, make available enough material.

Meanwhile the day to day work on the Global Databank for Animal Genetic Resources is going on. A considerable amount of data which had been received and could not be validated before is now being processed and entered in the bank. We have established many new and efficient contacts in a lot of countries for which no or limited information was available before. In this regards the training courses on establishment and operation of genebanks and databanks have proved very useful. After two such courses held in May 1994 in Africa (in French at CIRDES in Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso and in English at ELCA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) the flow of data for the countries involved has increased significantly, both as regards the quantity, and more important, the quality of the information.

Discussions have been held with EAAP, and an agreement has been reached to develop a common Est of contact persons in Europe (Eastern and Western), who will be asked in a near future to update the data already entered in the Global Databank.

With all this new set of data, we plan to produce in 1995 a second edition of the World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity. This second edition will be available in English, French and Spanish, be expanded to include poultry and camelids, and include also a section on wild relatives of livestock species, which may be a source of diversity in the future. This second edition of the WWL is also necessary to redistribute the genetic resources between the new countries bom as a result of political changes occurring in Eastern Europe and in the former USSR.

The report of the working group for the design of the information system outlined a series of activities to be set up to establish the whole information system, known as DAD-IS. A first step has been implemented with the recruitment of a consultant to determine the user requirements (type of data to be stored, types of queries) and detail the field definition and structure. The next step will be the design of the user interface.