

Global priorities in conservation of farm animal genetic resources

S u m m a r y

The continuous erosion of farm animal genetic resources imposes severe threat for the future of animal breeding and for food security worldwide. The increased realization of the need to enhance and coordinate activities for conservation of animal genetic resources led to initiation of intergovernmental discussion on this subject through the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. In March 2001 FAO launched a process for preparation of the First Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources. The First Report will be based on Country Reports that are strategic reports identifying national priorities for conservation and sustainable utilization of farm animal genetic resources as well as reports from international organizations and various thematic studies. The paper presents preliminary results of the First Report development process, and conclusions arising from Country Reports. The four priority areas for better management of farm animal genetic resources are described. The paper provides analysis of priorities related to conservation of animal genetic resources and underlines several issues that require further consideration.