
EDITORIAL

Complete and reliable information on one hand, and effective communication on the other, are essential aspects of modern science and of the attempts to apply it in agriculture. Several aspects of the FAO/UNEP programme for animal genetic resources conservation and management are concerned with compiling, classifying and making available accurate descriptions of the world's domestic animals and birds. One is the creation of Regional Data Banks for Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, to hold characterizations of indigenous breeds and of the environments to which they are adapted. Another is the preparation of Monographs of the genetic resources of two of the world's largest countries, China and the USSR, whose animals are not well known or documented for access in other countries. Additionally, the Breed Dictionary compiled by Mason and published by the Commonwealth Bureau of Animal Breeding and Genetics is being updated again, and should contribute greatly to accuracy of description. News items on these topics are included in this issue.

Additionally, a list of Definitions used in Animal Genetic Resources is published, the international use of which should contribute to clarity of thought and communication. We are also pleased to publish the first letter to the Editor of AGRI, and we invite more. AGRI is available as a forum for debate of the difficult issues to be faced in some aspects of animal genetic resources. Readers are also encouraged to compile a list of their national colleagues and international acquaintances working with animal genetic resources who should be receiving AGRI, and then send it to the Editor of AGRI. Duplications will be eliminated here. By ensuring that this Newsletter is widely read and used, can we ensure that information and communication are fostered and enhanced.