



Exhibit

## Biodiversity, Food, and Culture Discovering the Diversity of Farm Animals

Berne, 2 March 2007

# FAO Conference and Exhibit in Interlaken

## Discovering livestock diversity

**From 1 to 7 September 2007, the Casino Kursaal in Interlaken, Switzerland, will host the First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). At the same time, an exhibit on the town's Höhematte meadow entitled "Biodiversity, Food, and Culture – Discovering the Diversity of Farm Animals" is intended to convey to the general public why it is important to conserve livestock breed diversity. Exhibitors interested in participating are still welcome to contact the organisers.**

For several years the FAO has been making efforts towards elaborating a worldwide strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture. A key element of this strategy is the preparation of a report on the state of the world's animal genetic resources. The First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, to be held in early September 2007, will provide an opportunity to endorse this report and set priorities for the conservation and sustainable use of livestock breeds. Switzerland as the host country has mandated its Federal Office for Agriculture with the organisation of the event.

Participants will be coming from over 160 countries, and for most of them this will most likely be their first visit to Switzerland. Aside from the negotiations they will therefore also be given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with Swiss agriculture and, in particular, Swiss livestock breeds. Plans include excursions as well as an on-site exhibit focusing on the topics of livestock breed diversity, food, and culture. The exhibit on the Höhematte meadow will last from 1 to 4 September and is intended to raise the general public's awareness of the importance of livestock breed diversity conservation by highlighting interrelations between livestock breeds, food security, and culture, as well as illustrating the effects of diversity. Several Swiss livestock breeds will be exhibited in open-air enclosures outside the exhibition tent in cooperation with ProSpecieRara.

On Tuesday, 4 September 2007, the exhibit will also be the scene of an official reception in connection with the technical conference. The list of invited guests includes Swiss Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard, assistant Director-General Alexander Müller, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity Ahmed Djoghlaif, and other high-ranking guests.

National and international associations and organisations concerned with livestock and animal husbandry, as well as breeders, producers, research and training institutions, industrial enterprises, farmers, agricultural cooperatives, fodder producers, veterinarians, ethnologists and relief agencies are invited to participate in the exhibit. Information on the technical conference and the exhibit are available at <http://www.angr-expo.ch> Interested exhibitors are asked to contact the Federal Office for Agriculture.

### Information:

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