Support for local breeds

Problems regarding support for local breeds

- Absence of stable, consistent and long term state policy of subsidies in animal husbandry – it is dramatically changeable every year
- Absence of complete animal registry of all autochthonous breeds – hens, pigs and buffalos are missing
- Insufficient amount of single subsidies – now they covers only half of difference between income of autochthonous and high productive breeds
- Insufficient budget head for subsidies – no enough money for all beneficiaries
Identification of problems

All mentioned problems were identified through:

• Realization of the projects
• Meetings with farmers
• Contacts with relevant stakeholders

Done so far

“Natura Balkanika” and its individual members have actively involved in preservation of autochthonous breeds since 2002:

• In situ on farm conservation of autochthonous pigs, sheep, goats and cattle
• Financial support for the breeders through the projects
• Institutional support for the breeders through participation in law making process
Initiatives and stakeholders

The initiatives for mentioned activities were mainly done by “Natura Balkanika”. The main stakeholders involved in them were:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Serbia
- Municipality of Dimitrovgrad
- Serbian Network for Rural Development
- Stado, Serbia Organica, Terras, Agroznanje and other organizations

Policy actors contacted

Local level:
Municipality of Dimitrovgrad

National level:
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Serbia,
Serbian Network for Rural Development
Achievements

• Significant contribution at national level in preservation and increasing number of heads of endangered autochthonous breeds
• Raising awareness about the importance of small farmers and high value nature farming at local and national level
• General and specific education of small farmers
• Contribution in preparation of national strategies in agriculture and legislative relevant for agriculture at local and national level

Next steps

• Providing support for: preservation and increasing number of heads of endangered autochthonous breeds, small farmers and high value nature farming at all levels
• Raising awareness about importance and models of cooperatives
• Contribution in preparation of legislative relevant for agriculture at all levels
• Fund raising
Lessons learned

It is necessary to:

- Raise awareness about the importance of autochthonous breeds and small farmers at all levels.
- Change the present status of Serbian farmers: old, poorly informed and without strong and effective cooperatives and associations.
- Increase involvement of the civil society organizations and farmers in decision-making and policy-making processes at all levels.

Thank you for your attention!