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## INTRODUCTION

The second recommendation of the FAO and United Nations Environment Programme Technical Consultation on Animal Genetic Resources Conservation and Management (Rome, June 1980) reads as follows:

“FAO/UNEP are requested to arrange for the preparation and distribution of an international newsletter on the conservation and management of farm animal genetic resources. The newsletter should provide information about training programmes, techniques, activities and developments; should contain a correspondence section; and should be a means of stimulating cooperation on a worldwide basis”.

The Working Group which met after the Consultation in order to discuss the implementation of the recommendations commented as follows:

“The Working Group would like FAO/UNEP to prepare and distribute a newsletter, similar to that published by the IBPGR. The newsletter should contain material in one of three languages (English, French or Spanish) with summaries in the other two languages. The newsletter should be published as soon as editorial and financial resources are available, perhaps on a quarterly basis, in order to stimulate interest and activity at national and regional level. The importance of good quality articles, particularly in the early issues, was stressed.”

The present publication (AGRI) is the first issue of the newsletter. The Editor would like to thank all those who have sent contributions, and now appeals for a continuous flow of articles. Since it is a newsletter we are particularly interested in receiving news items about meetings, other activities in the field of documentation, conservation and evaluation, and new publications.

In an early issue we should like to publish a list of national organizations specifically concerned with the conservation and management of animal genetic resources and information is particularly requested in this field.

AGRI will also be used as a vehicle for updating and publishing the information collected earlier for the Inventory of Special Herds. This was issued as a draft report but was never published because of its incompleteness. It is now considered more appropriate to publish information on conservation country by country and to include all the conservation activities and not only accounts of the special conservation herds.

FAO/UNEP follow-up action to the other recommendations of the Consultation is summarized in the first article. We would like in later issues to record the activities in individual countries whether by governments or by non-governmental organizations. Both groups and individuals are encouraged to send in regular reports and news items. It is only by such cooperation that AGRI can be made a success by fulfilling its function of stimulating action and maintaining contact between all those concerned with farm animal genetic resources.