

FEDERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE ASOCIACIONES DE GANADO SELECTO

IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCAL BREEDS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF SPAIN

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INTRODUCTION

The Spanish territory enjoys a great diversity which can be explained by several factors. Its large surface and unique position allow it to receive the important influence of the Cantabrian and Mediterranean Seas on one hand, and the Atlantic Ocean on the other. All these elements have resulted in numerous ecosystems with a rich variety of livestock breeds. The lack of attention given to local breeds throughout the past decades has led to many of them being in danger of extinction; some of them have even disappeared already. At present, the situation has begun to change, in spite of the difficulties that affect the sector. Thankfully, there is a better knowledge and more appreciation of the potential of Spanish local breeds. Consequently, top quality products are able to be produced under natural conditions. Better results with some Spanish local breeds have been achieved due to the implementation of the new strategies. Currently, the success obtained with some of these breeds constitutes a path which can be followed and applied to the rest of them to improve their production and condition.

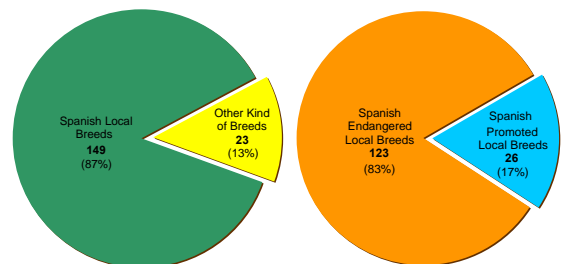
SPANISH PROMOTED LOCAL BREEDS

Retinto
Cattle BreedRubia Gallega
Cattle BreedManchega
Sheep BreedRasa Aragonesa
Sheep BreedMalagueña
Goat BreedMurciano-Granadina
Goat BreedIberian (entrepelado)
Pig BreedPurebred Spanish
Horse Breed

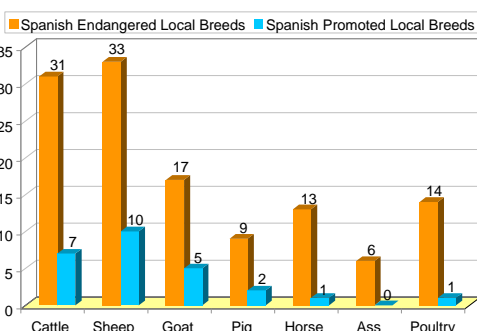
LOCAL LIVESTOCK BREEDS

Of the 177 breeds currently included in the Official Catalogue of Livestock Breeds of Spain, 149 belong to the group of local breeds, this large set representing just over 84% of all breeds in our country. This is very important for several reasons. On the one hand, it demonstrates the richness and genetic variability present in Spain. And, on the other hand, it contributes developing many of the most disadvantaged areas which are close linked to these animal populations. Also, within the group of Spanish local breeds there are two different groups: the Spanish Promoted Local Breeds and the Spanish Endangered Local Breeds. The first one, apart from other things, has got enough census and infrastructure to develop a breeding program and it represents 17% of the Spanish local breeds. And the second one, with lower census, generally located in a punctual area of the country and a conservation program in place, accounting for 83% remaining within the overall Spanish breeds.

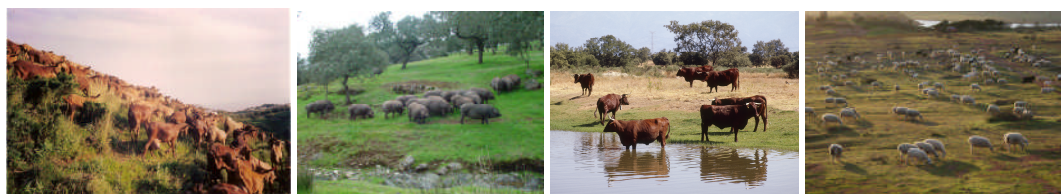
SPANISH ENDANGERED LOCAL BREEDS

Bruna Pirineos
Cattle BreedAlistana Sanabresa
Cattle BreedChurra Tensina
Sheep BreedMontesina
Sheep BreedBlanca Celtibérica
Goat BreedNegra Serrana
Goat BreedCabalo Galelo
Horse BreedZamorano-Leonés
Ass BreedUtrerana Chicken
Breed

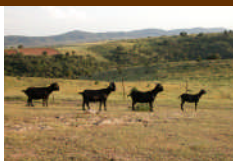
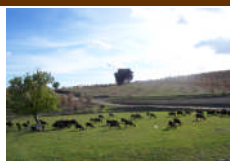
IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL BREEDS



These breeds generate wealth and contribute to rural development, especially on the most deprived and poorer areas of the country because of their type of farming systems, more oriented towards the extensive one. Thanks to its hardiness and its ability to use all of pasture and forage rate, maximize the resources generated in these areas of the country and contribute to fix human population to this kind of area. This kind of breeds is also valuable reservoirs of genes for adaptive and economic traits, providing diversified genetic pool, which can help wide genetic diversity. Therefore, Spain needs to keep options open by maintaining wide genetic diversity.



STEPS TO BE FOLLOWED



Among the different strategies to be implemented by each of these breeds, the development carried out by some of them represents a clear example/model to be followed for those which have begun their organization later years, or have had over the years more kinds of constraints. A clear example is found in the Iberian pig breed, which, thanks in part to an excellent marketing strategy, it has demonstrated the differential quality of their meat, boosted by its very special farming system it has managed to improve the situation faced by this breed some years ago. Other clear examples can be found in breeds like the Rubia Gallega Cattle breed, the Murciano-Granadina goat breed, the Purebred Spanish horse breed, etc., which started to show their potential and quality of their products many years ago in Spain and abroad.