



## Computer exercise - Databases

The purpose of the exercise is to get acquainted with some useful databases and other information sources available on the Internet, all related to animal genetic resources and livestock production in developing countries.

### Task 1 – Animal Genetics Training Resource (AGTR)

Explore the Animal Genetics Training Resource to get familiar with its contents. (Remember that some modules are course literature.)

### Task 2 – FAO Statistical Databases

Use the FAO Statistical databases to find information about livestock numbers of different species in different countries and changes over years

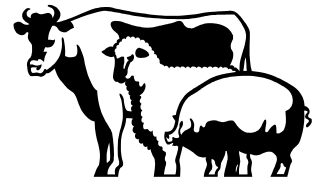
- Select a species and see how the number of heads of that species has changed over the years 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008 in at least 5 different countries (4 developing countries and 1 developed). The results will automatically be presented in a table. To make a chart, press download to open the data in Excel. Produce a graph from the figures.
- Select 5 species for meat and find out the number of producing animals of that species in 5 different countries in the tropics in the year 2008. Make sure to present the results in a graph.

**Reporting a+b:** Copy the graph you produced and paste into a Word file. Write a few conclusions and reflections from the results.

### Task 3 – Livestock Breed Databases

Use the breed databases DAD-IS, DAGRIS, AGTR and “Breeds of Livestock” to find breed information. Choose a livestock breed of your own interest (a breed used in the tropics) and look e.g. for the following information:

- Origin
- Distribution/habitat (e.g. world region(s), countries)
- Population size (risk for extinction?)
- What is the breed mainly used for?
- Specific characteristics?
- Performance/production (e.g. milk yield per lactation, daily gain, etc)
- Any other information you find interesting



Choose another breed if the breed is not present in most of the databases.

**Reporting:** Summarize briefly (copy/paste) in a Word file (max 1 page) the information you find about the breed of your choice and include differences and similarities between the databases. What information can be found where?

### Task 3 – Familiarize with some information sources

Go to the websites listed in page 2 under the headings Web Resources (Additional Information Sources & Organizations), as well as Library, to get an overview of what information is found at those websites. Explore the State of the World report and its country reports. You may also have a look at the LEAD website.

### Final reporting

Write a brief summary with own reflections on how you can use these databases in the future.

Some resources and websites included in ILRI-SLU Animal Genetics Training Resource (AGTR) version 2

<http://agtr.ilri.cgiar.org>

Websites listed below are sorted under headings corresponding to the "buttons" under which they appear in the AGTR

**Breed information**

AGTR Breeds database <http://agtr.ilri.cgiar.org/BreedInformation/breedlist.htm>

**Web Resources - Databases**

Breeds of Livestock <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/>

DAD-IS (Domestic Animal Diversity Information System) <http://www.fao.org/dad-is/>

DAGRIS (Domestic Animal Genetic Resources Information Systems) <http://dagris.ilri.cgiar.org>

FAOSTAT (FAO Statistical Databases) <http://faostat.fao.org/>

LEAD (Livestock, Environment and Development Toolbox) <http://www.fao.org/lead/>

**Web Resources - Additional Information Sources**

State of the World AnGR incl. country reports <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1250e/a1250e00.htm>

FAO Corporate Document Repository <http://www.fao.org/documents/>

FAO Catalogue On-Line <http://www4.fao.org/faobib>

WAICENT Information Finder <http://search.fao.org/opensearch?query=&lang=>

**Web Resources - Organizations**

FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) <http://www.fao.org/>

ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute) <http://www.ilri.org>

IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute) <http://www.ifpri.org>

**Library**

Full text documents included in the AGTR <http://agtr.ilri.cgiar.org/Library/library.htm>