

Letter from Editors

Animal genetic resources have been contributing to both food and agriculture for more than 12,000 years, providing meat, milk products, eggs, fibre, fertilizer for crops, manure for fuel and draught power. It is estimated that, directly and indirectly, domestic animals supply about 30 percent of total human requirements for food and agriculture. However, the value of animals for the human beings went far beyond its mere economic role. The human have gained into the temperament of these animals including an inspiration in culture and the arts expressed among literature, religious customs, legends, and the oral and written language. Therefore, the animals have been the source of a multitude of creative inspirations for the human – literature, mythology, legends, maxims – they all contain clear reflection of the animal.

The purpose of this booklet is to communicate the relationship between local livestock and human, especially to recognize the role domestic animals play in agriculture vs. non-agriculture and/or socioeconomic vs. cultural function, e.g. the value of livestock to households in member economies of APEC region. However, this requires fully support from all member economies because the value and importance of the animals will vary between different types of system. In the non-commercial systems the animals, having a value within the family economy, also have a socio-cultural significance, which are difficult to evaluate in economic terms. It is also clearly the animals kept in certain conditions or households in developing member economies were used for multiple purposes and their importance to the families was immense.

Buffalo, cattle, chicken, pig and quail species from economies are reported in this booklet, an effort of international communication. The editors wish to express our grateful appreciation to the authors for their contributions. In addition, some of scientists helped to contact with authors, and review, edit and critique all the material presented in the booklet. Their contributions are gratefully appreciated. Particular thanks are due to Su-San Chang, Wu-Li Chang, Der-Cheng Chou, Tin-Chin Chou, Yung-Yu Lai, Yung-Yi Sung, Tracy Tung and Ming-Che Wu. The administrative and financial assistance of Breeding and Genetics Division, Livestock Research Institute, Council of Agriculture, towards the printing of color plates is also gratefully acknowledged.

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