

Cost-effective conservation programmes – Basic requirements

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Dual strategy: Long term – short term storage

Long-term

Safe and preserve biodiversity 'for eternity'

- Recreate lost breeds or breeding lines
- As a back-up in case genetic problems would occur
- To allow development of new lines or breeds
- To support *in situ* conservation

Actively use the germ plasm

Short term



Choice of cell type

Cost effectiveness depends on type of germ plasm chosen (Sperm, embryos, oocytes, somatic cells)

What is most practical also depends on goal(s) of gene bank

- Long time storage, no updates or regular use
- Medium-term storage, but with regular exchange with *in situ* populations. E.g. semen used to support breeding schemes.

Semen and embryos can be updated regularly and be readily used in the field.

Possibilities

| | Semen | semen plus oocytes | embryos | somatic cells |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Samples needed to restore breed | 10000 | 2 x 100 | 200 | Depends on future efficiency of cloning |
| Backcrossing | Yes | No | No | No |
| Mitoch. genes collection possible | No | Yes | Yes | No |
| Cost of collection | \$\$ | \$\$\$ | \$\$\$ | \$ |
| Life young | Yes | human, cattle, horse, mouse, and rat. | Many species. Routine for Bovids, sheep, and human. | Yes (easily and cheaply) |
| How to use | Surgical or nonsurgical Insemination. Backcrossing ≥ 6 generations | ICSI \rightarrow In vitro culture \rightarrow surgical or nonsurgical ET | Surgical or nonsurgical ET | Culture somatic cells, isolate, culture, enucleate oocytes \rightarrow Transfer somatic nuclei to oocytes \rightarrow in vitro culture \rightarrow surgical or nonsurgical ET |
| Cost of use | \$ | \$\$\$ | \$\$ | \$\$\$\$ |
| Possible? | Yes | Yes | Yes | Low efficiency and clear risks. Future development is likely! |

Gene Banking; What is required

- Centralized Location
 - Accessible (roads/airport) for movement of germplasm to and from the gene bank.
- Physically secure location
 - (floods, hurricanes, temperature extremes).
- Sufficient infrastructure for operations
 - Electricity
 - Secure regular supply of liquid nitrogen
 - Physically built in a (veterinary) hygienic area
- A shadow location with duplicate collection is preferred
 - **Storage of irreplaceable genetic materials!**

Repository Size

- Countries will have to make their own assessment of how big of a repository they wish to develop based upon:
 - The number of breeds or populations of interest.
 - Pre-existing infrastructure.
 - Additional missions for repository staff (e.g., breed improvement).

Space Requirements – Small Repository

- Entrance (changing clothes/shoes)
- Wet lab ≥ 20 m² (preparation, evaluation)
- Freezing room ≥ 30 m²
 - Cold room (10 m²), or Cooler cabinet (2 m²)
- Storage rooms for Cryotanks > 30 m².
 - 250-500 l cryotanks ~ 300,000 straws.
 - 35-50 l. cryotanks ~ 14.000 straws.
- Office space for operations and database management (10 m²)
- Capacity to store or make excess liquid nitrogen



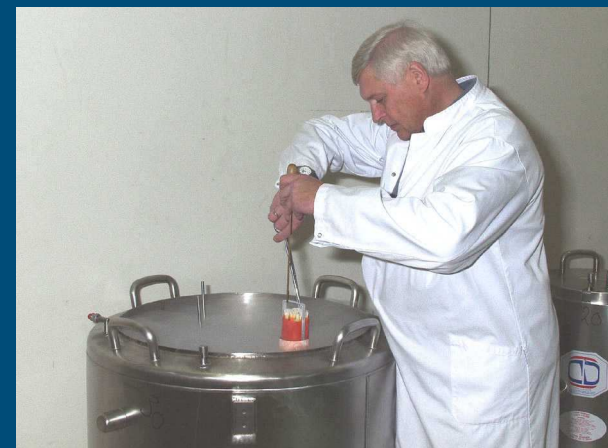
Storage room(s)

Storage room separated from production room

- Good ventilation
- Enough space between dewars (filling)
- LN2 filling system for dewars
 - By hand (???)
 - LN2 Pipeline, sensor-operated valves
- Alarm on dewars ? LN2 level warning system
- Identification on the dewars

Safety recommendations

- Liquid nitrogen rooms (freezing and storage)
 - Air refreshing equipment
 - O2 detectors; portables or on the wall
 - Alarm in case of failure
- Personnel safety equipment
 - Cryo gloves
 - Scissors and pincers
 - Eye protection
 - Shoes



Equipment

- Microscope (phase contrast)
- Media preparation facilities. Osmometer, pH meter
- Centrifuge
- Concentration measurement: Fotometer/counting chamber
- Cooling cabinet (preprocessing of semen samples)
- Straw printer
- Straw filling and sealing device
- Freezing device
 - Programmable? Not necessary. Practical is essential?
- Sterilizer cabinet
- Long term LN2 storage tank

Other items needed

- Diluents for semen of different species
 - In stock at -20 °C
 - Fresh made
- Freezing straws (0.5 and 0.25 ml)
- LN2 supply
 - Purchase from commercial vender
 - Own LN2 plant
- Data base system
- Procedures /protocols for different species
- Quality handbook

| KWALITEITSMANAGEMENTSYSTEEM Centrum voor Genetische Bronnen Nederland | |  |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| 7.2 | GENENBANK | Code: UIT-CGNAN-723 Datum: 24.01.2008 versie 1 Pagina: 1 van 1 |
| 7.2.3 | CONSERVERING, OPNAME & OPSLAG | |

7.2.3. CONSERVERING, OPNAME & OPSLAG

DOEL PROCES

Het verwerken, invriezen en opslaan van genetisch materiaal, volgens protocollen per diersoort.

TOEPASSINGSGEBIED

Genetisch materiaal van alle soorten landbouwhuisdieren kan worden ingevroren en opgeslagen in de genenbank. De opslag vindt plaats in vloeibare stikstof bij een temperatuur van -196 °C. Voor runderen is een scheiding aangebracht in een EU erkende en een niet EU erkende ruimte. De procedures zijn van toepassing voor CGN-AnGR

DEFINITIES

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Quarantaineperiode | Periode van 30 dagen die moet zijn verstreken zonder dat de donor ziekteverschijnselen heeft vertoond of ziekte uitbraak heeft plaatsgevonden waarna genetisch materiaal in de genenbank mag worden opgenomen. |
| Conservering | Dusdanig verwerken van materiaal, waarna dit materiaal (zeer) lang houdbaar blijft gedurende de opslag. |
| Dagstaat | Formulier (loopbrief) binnen het laboratorium, waarop alle gegevens van metingen en dergelijke tijdens het verwerkingsproces worden genoteerd. |
| Batch | Een hoeveelheid genetisch materiaal dat op een bepaalde productiedag van een bepaalde donor is verwerkt, waarvan de kwaliteit voor elke doses hetzelfde is. |

Protocols and Quality Handbook

- Well kept and accurate data base system
- All protocols must be documented
- Audit system
- Veterinary authority

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|
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Procedures / protocols

FAO Gene bank Cryo Manual

- Advice on how to set up a gene bank
- Advice on genetic tools and data base tools
- Procedures for Reproductive technology
 - Collection of material (semen, oocytes, embryos, somatic cells)
 - Use of material (AI, oestrus detection and -synchronisation, IVF, ICSI, ET, sex sorting, SCNT-cloning, etc)
- Procedures and protocols for cryopreservation of semen (cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, pig, horse, rabbit, poultry).

Paper work / database; Daily working list

- Information of material
 - Donor animal ID
 - Type (semen, embryos, ...)
- Lab evaluation data
 - Motility, volume, concentration....
- Information after freezing and storing
 - Number of semen straws per donor
 - Post thaw survival
 - Storage ID
- Information in database
 - Cryo-IS (Holland)

Rekenblad voor omrekenen Transmissie B&L 20 (vl. 15) en gev. concentratie, volume Medium 1 en 2, en aantal rietjes hanensperma

Gebruiksaanwijzing: Sperma wordt voorverdund met ± een half volume medium 1. 1 ml hanensperma in 4.960 ml natriumcitraatoplossing (28.5 g/l), spoel de pipetpunt uit met water. Transmissie direct na vortexen.

Vul de roze velden in. Lees af volume toe te voegen medium 1, medium 2, en aantal rietjes.

| Datum: | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
|--------|------|-------|-----------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|
| | Haan | Mot % | Transm. % | Gew. leeg (gram) | Gew. vol (gram) | Vol sperma (ml) | Conc. (10 ⁹ /ml) | Erbij Med 1 (ml) | Erbij Med 2 (ml) | # rietjes |
| 1 | 3687 | 80 | 40 | 10.00 | 11.00 | 0.98 | 2.18 | 0.21 | 0.59 | 7.7 |
| 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 11 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 12 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 13 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 14 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 16 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 17 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 18 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 19 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 20 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 21 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 22 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 23 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 24 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 25 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 26 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 27 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 28 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 29 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 30 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 31 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 32 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 33 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |
| 34 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ##### | ##### | ##### | ##### | #### |

Human Resources required

- Expertise required:
 - Genetics (quantitative or molecular)
 - Reproductive physiology/cryobiology
 - Information systems/database developers
- As repository increases in size a broader range of expertise within these disciplines can be added.

Gene Bank Operation Costs

- Starting costs (Facility, infrastructure, equipment)
- Recurring costs
 - The facility
 - Personnel
 - Liquid nitrogen; Other consumables
 - Extra costs for collecting material in the field or at the repository
- Costs very much depend on
 - Country / Situation
 - Size/ambition of the repository
 - Animal species / kind of germplasm

Gene Bank Operation Costs

- Costs is NOT necessarily the primary limitation in developing gene-banks for farm animals.
- One size does not fit all, each country and each situation needs to determine its own needs.
- Partnering with pre-existing facilities will reduce infrastructure costs
 - Research institutes
 - AI Centers
 - Large breeding farms
 - Plant gene banks.
- Our situation:
 - Our gene bank is relatively small
 - It is housed in existing Research institute
 - It made more profitable by including services to a commercial AI stud

Conclusions

- Repository establishment is not a one size fits all approach.
- Repositories can be established with modest funding.
- Physical security and continuity of operations plans need critical assessment and action plans
- Germplasm acquisition costs are modest and occur over multiple years
- Storing germplasm for maintaining genetic diversity and breed reconstitution is extremely cost effective.