Beef quality differentiation in the framework of Serrana de Teruel endangered breed conservation programme

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Serrana de Teruel (ST) is a dark or tabby-breed raised traditionally in South Aragon due to its great coping ability to harsh environments. Characterization of population structure, and morphological, zootecnic and genetic values of ST were conducted. Individuals showed medium to high homogeneity and harmony degree, being most of the animals straight profiled, eumetric and sublongilineus, although smaller in size than other close breeds. The thirty microsatellites analysed for biodiversity studies showed good diversity values despite its low effective population size (180 individuals in 2007). These studies provided basis for a conservation genetic programme and in 2007 ST was officially breed recognised. Germplasm banks were established, containing 6400 doses of semen from 7 males, and 40 embryos obtained from 10 males and 5 females. To assess their viability, ten embryos were transferred to receptor cows, being pregnant 4 of them. In order to guarantee the long term maintenance of ST, a prospective study of the meat value chain was carried out. A qualitative questionnaire was applied to all stages of the meat chain, from farmer to consumer, in the breed influence area. Concurrently, carcass and meat quality of ST calves was studied and several diversification alternatives for labelled calves market have been assessed (animals slaughtered at 470 and 700 kg live-weight, bulls and steers). Good performances and high quality products with no commercial constraints in the beef market were obtained. This study should provide the standard requirements for a labelled meat product that allows the farmer survival and assures ST breed conservation.

Are PDO projects adding value to local breeds: comparing two case studies, Nustrale and Cinta Senese pig breeds

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Protected Designation of Origin is generally adding value to the product on the market. When based upon the mandatory use of local breeds, are PDO adding also value to these breeds and what kind of value? We compare two cases of previously endangered and now recovered local pig breeds: Nustrale in Corsica island (France) and Cinta Senese in Tuscany (Italy). Protection in Tuscany as Cinto Toscano is already obtained (for the pork meat) at national level (European registration still in progress), when the application for a PDO in Corsica as Prisuttu (dry cured ham of Corsica) is not yet completed. In both situations, breed census is growing and animals are reared in pasturelands and forests referring to traditional practices. 5 questions must be emphasized as main discussion: - Name to be protected. PDO name must avoid any confusion with the name of the breed. What decisions to be made by administrations, breed managers and PDO appliers? - Content of PDO specification. Code of practices regulates the use of the local breed within a livestock system. Is it valorizing rusticity and adaptation of the animals? - Environmental impacts. As herds are reared on the pasturelands, some degradation can occur. Is natural resource managed in a sustainable way? - Distribution of added value within the supply chain. Are lack of productivity and carcass adiposity compensated by raw material price? - Heritage value of such protection. Local breed brings a strong image to the product. Is PDO bringing to the farmers new attractiveness for the local breed? PDO projects mobilizing local breeds can add value for the breeders according the shape of the supply chain. Value is including symbolic and cultural elements able to attract new breeders and to help in recovering endangered local breeds.