

In the Karen Commitment, representatives of pastoralist and indigenous livestock keeping communities appeal to the FAO, other international organisations, and governments to recognise their breeds as products of their communities and to exempt them from patenting

But why do we wait for the
big guys to act?

- What about a „Public Registry“ of breeds associated with those communities that do not want patenting?
- Indigenous people are entitled to their own cultural practices, according to the UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

UN Draft Declaration

Article 3

- Indigenous peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4

- Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, economic, social and cultural characteristics, as well as their legal systems, while retaining their rights to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.

Another interesting convention...

On 20 October 2005, the UNESCO General Conference approved the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Are breeds „cultural expressions“?

Cultural expressions are those expressions that result from the creativity of individuals, groups, and societies, and that have cultural content.

The process (1)

Could be a way of

- Establishing community-created breeds as prior art
- Mobilizing and raising awareness of communities
- Projecting the issue
- Establish breeds as important human heritage and the role of pastoralists/livestock keepers in managing it.

The process (2)

- Could have important implications in case of outbreaks of pandemics (e.g. EU-directive)
- Could be similar/parallel to the one the FAO has done with governments for DAD-IS, but involve „communities“ and NGOs.

Other ideas

- The communities/breeders associations could claim that their breeds are „varieties“ and therefore can be exempted from patenting under EU patent law
- The registry members could apply for a process patent on all breeding practices that do not use genetic markers for breeding decisions

- The registry members could market their products as GMO-free and produced under natural conditions

Question:

Who would „own“ most of the genes and diversity? The livestock keepers or Monsanto?

Whose products would consumers prefer?