



# Matching genetic resources and breeding objectives with the constraints in tropical farming systems

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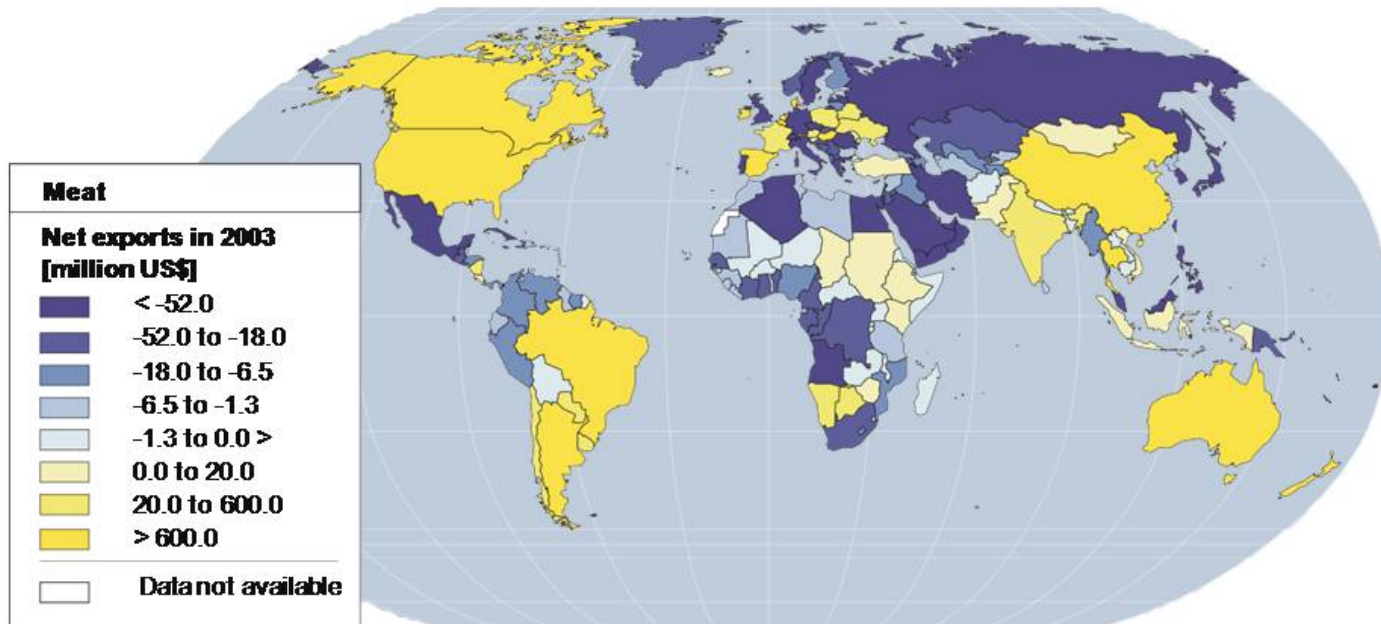
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# Dissatisfaction in animal products coverage in the tropics

Net exports – meat



Source:  
FAOSTAT.



# Which ways to increase livestock productivity in the tropics?

- **Import of exotic breeds:** Some success stories (in large population)... in which local breeds conservation is part of the program



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BAIF Bhavan, Dr. Manibhai Desai Nagar, Warje, Pune 411058, India

promoting/organising crossbreeding  
between Holstein and Jersey bulls  
and Gir Zebus and Jaffarabadi Buffalo cows



**International Trypanotolerance Centre**  
**Banjul, The Gambia, West Africa**

Promoting crossbreeding of N'Dama cattle

with exotic dairy breeds

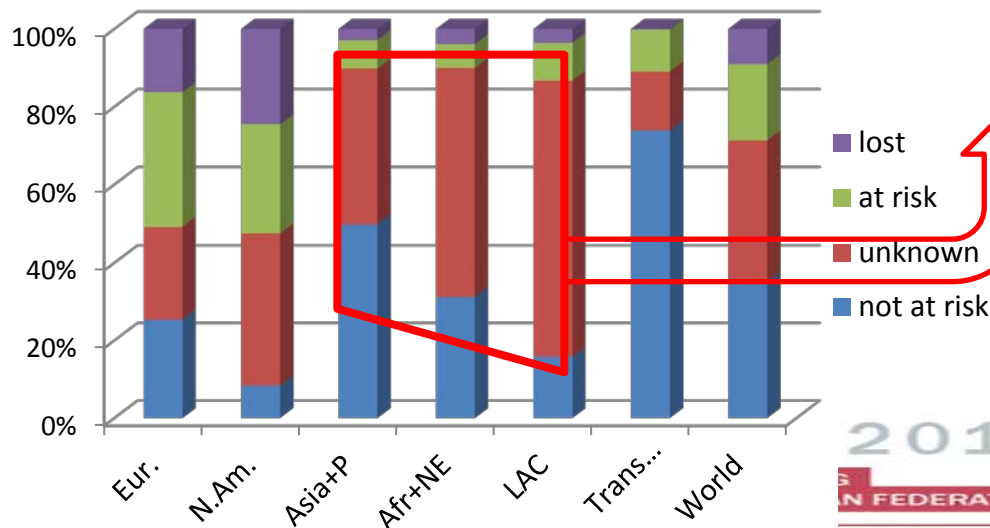
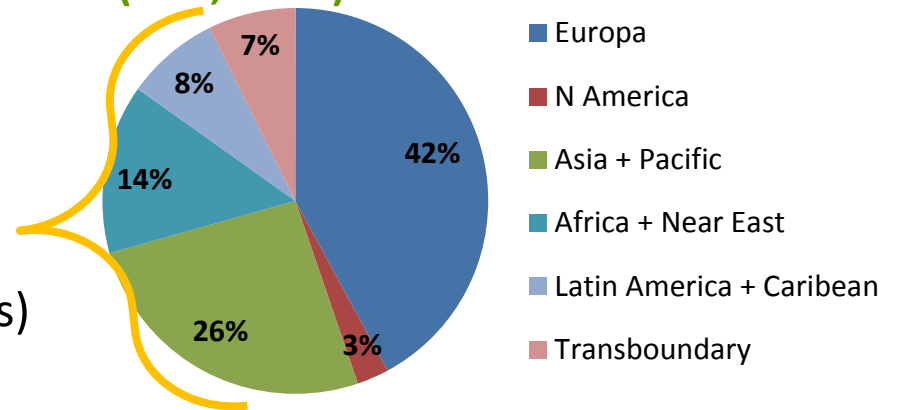


# Which way to increase livestock productivity in the tropics?

- **Import of exotic breeds:** ... and a lot of bad experiences without any analysis of failures

## Situation of local and regional breeds (FAO, 2008)

- 48 % of local and regional breeds are present in Asia + Pacific , Africa + Near East, Latin America + Caribbean (among 5599 mammals and 2017 avians)



- Risk status is generally unknown (40 to 70 % according to the region)

- Crosses and substitutions with transboundary breeds threaten these endogen resources



# Which ways to increase livestock productivity in the tropics?

## ■ Preservation and improvement of local breeds

In small populations,

- Favour sustainability through balanced abilities
- Take into account multipurpose functions of animals and systems

↪ Identify the brakes of stakeholders' attachment to their local breeds and adapt the speech



# An experiment in West Africa: The Djallonké open nucleus breeding program



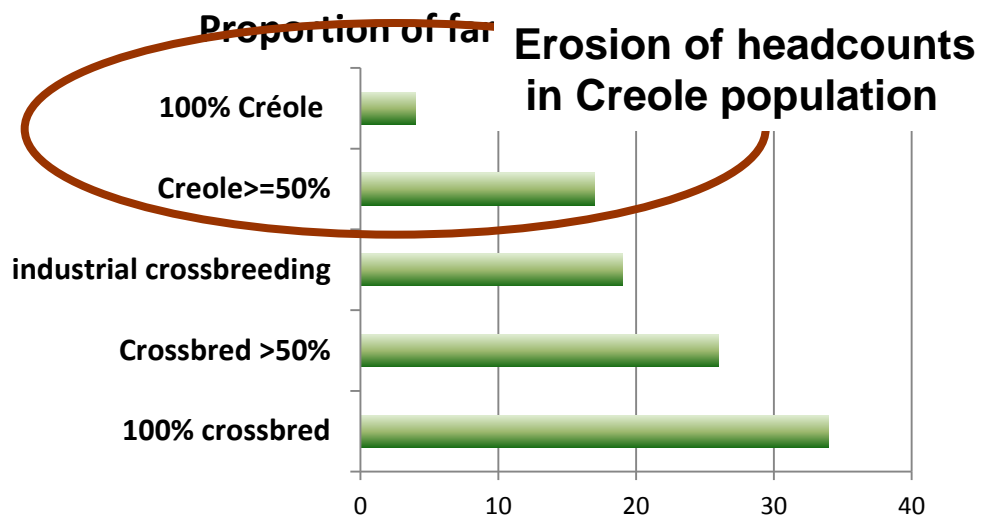
**National improvement program** emphasizing on smallholders since 1983 in Côte d'Ivoire

- **Goal** : improvement of growth performances with a focus on the utilization and conservation of the local Djallonké breed
- **Structure**:
  - central performance evaluation station for rams (the nucleus)
  - farmer flocks of breeding ewes only (the base population)
- **Constraints taken indirectly into account**



# An experiment in the caribeans: The Guadeloupean Creole goat

A **participative action** between:  
The farmer cooperative  
The extension services  
INRA researchers



A public extension policy favouring exotic imports

# A 4-point approach

- 1. Characterization** of farming systems and farmers' expectations in field surveys (Gau et al, 2000; Gunia, et al 2010)
- 2. Identification** of the base population & **estimation** of genetic variability available (Gunia, et al 2011)
- 3. Design** of the breeding goal (Gunia, et al 2013a)
- 4. Optimization** of the scheme and estimation of genetic progress (Gunia, et al 2013b)

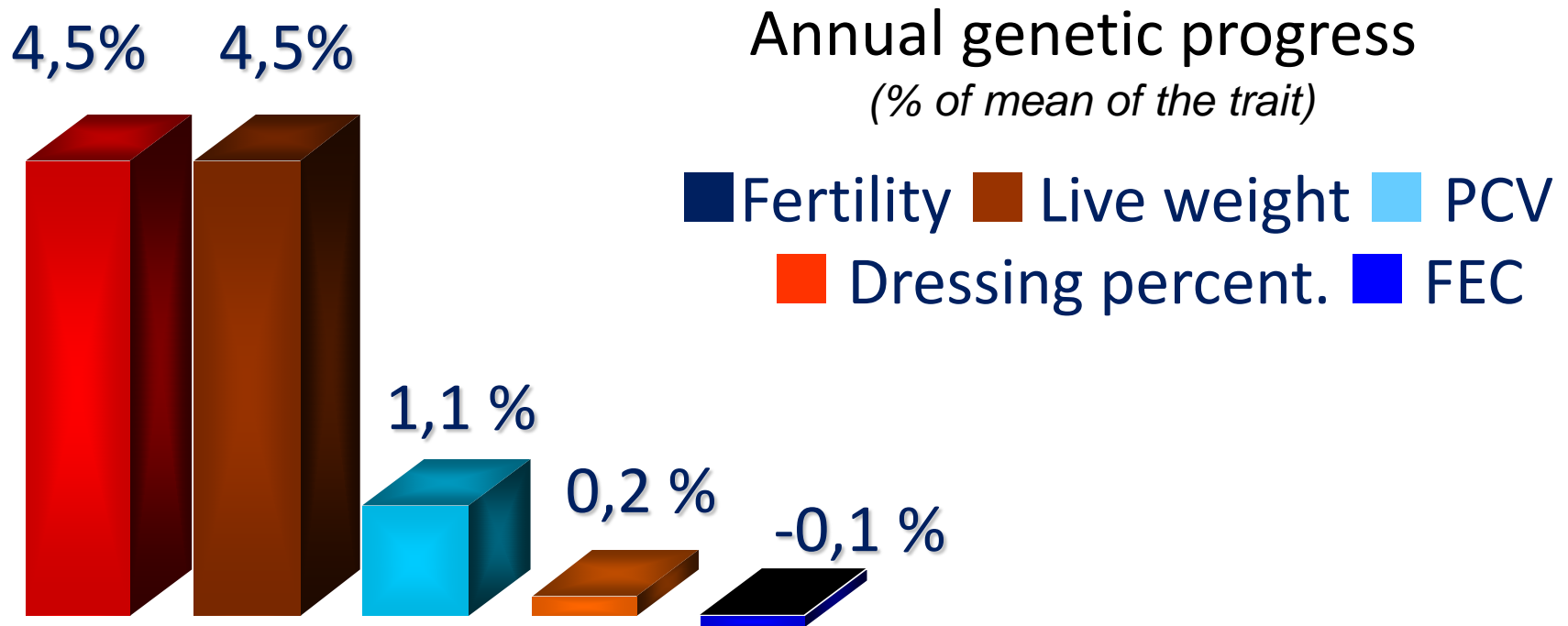
Specific evaluation tools were developed (Standard grid, standardised evaluation design for growth, resistance and resilience traits)



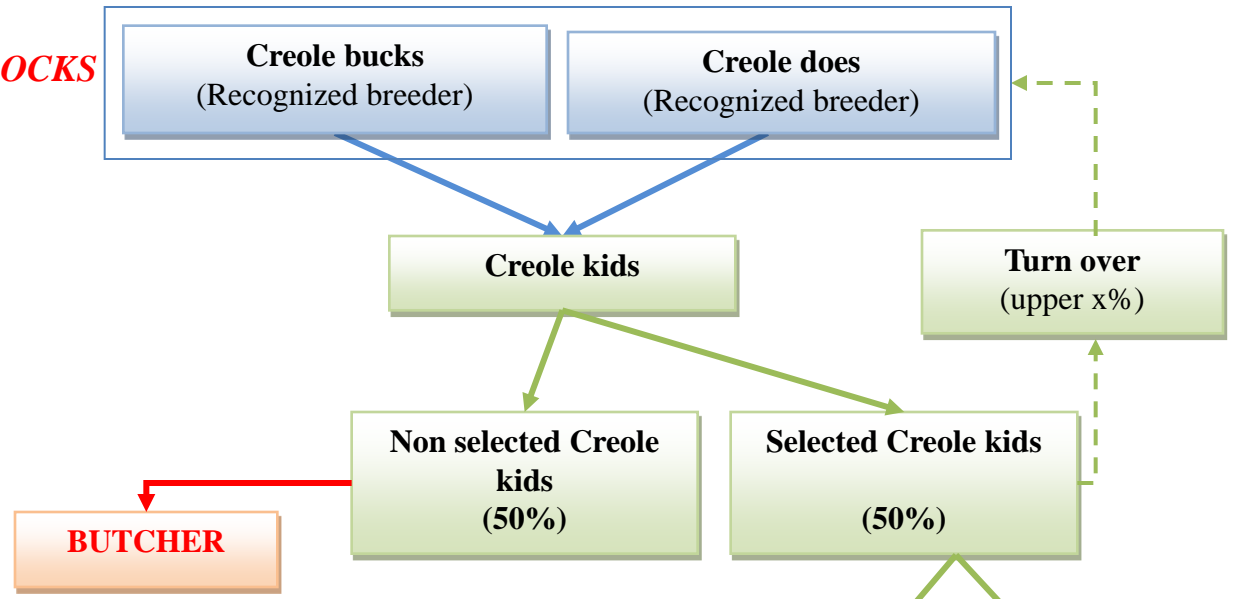


# A balanced animal for diverse breeding systems

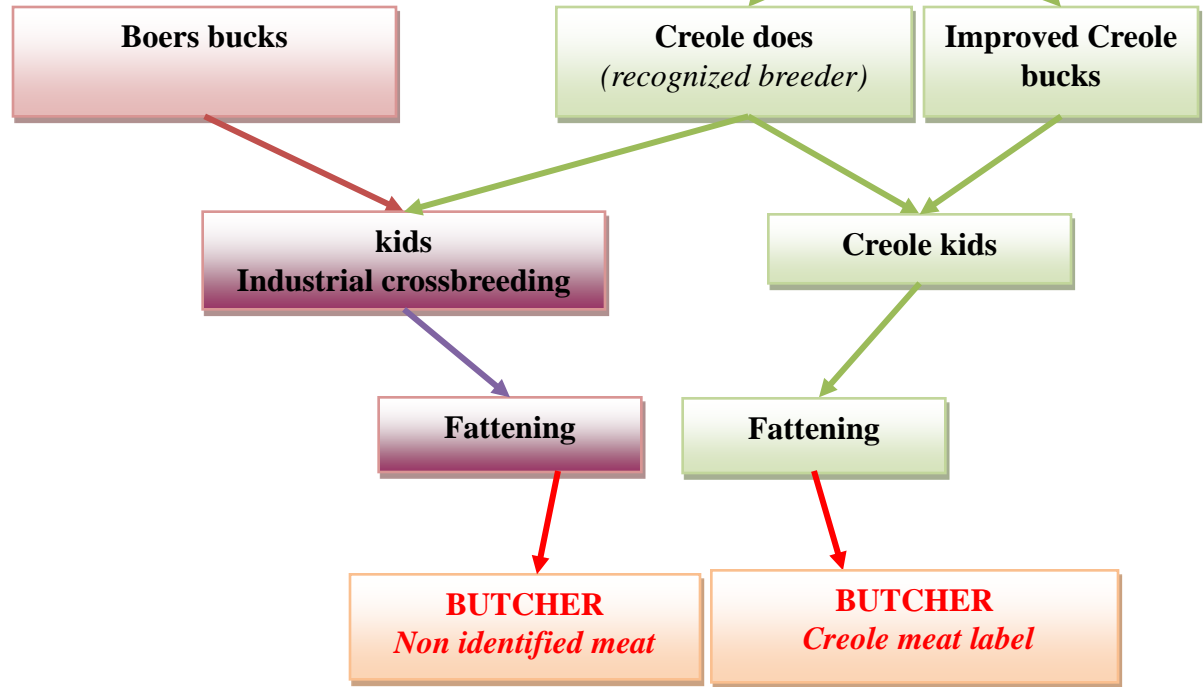
## An original production/adaptation breeding goal



**NUCLEUS SELECTION FLOCKS**



**USER FLOCKS**



# In the future: prospects of genomic tools

- **GT will help characterisation of local genetic resources** (selection signature, adaptation markers or genes and adaptation mechanisms)
  - but *need global international projects* to a comprehensive evaluation of available genetic resources
- **GT may favour genetic improvement** (identification of QTL, genomic selection for diverse traits, less dependant on pedigree structure)
  - but *depends on availability of informative data* on local populations and cheaper tools
- **At the moment, GT are unaffordable for most tropical countries** (lack of technical and financial resources)
  - and may *represent an additional threat*, by increasing commercial aggressiveness of exotic breeds



# Conclusions

- Participative actions
- Supported by an holistic research approach (genetics, systemic, socio-economy, vet. scie...)
  - > to really match genetic resources and breeding objectives with the constraints,
  - > and increase livestock productivity and multifunctionality in tropical farming systems

Ayalew et al (2003), Berthouly et al (2012)...





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**Thank you for your attention!**

