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Title: In vitro Conservation and Preliminary Molecular Characterization of Some Turkish Native Domestic Animal Genetic Resources-I (TURKHAYGEN-I)

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In vitro Conservation and Preliminary Molecular Characterization of Some Turkish Native Domestic Animal Genetic Resources-I (TURKHAYGEN-I)

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Abstract (maximum 200 words):

Dramatic changes of environmental conditions including global warming and environmental pollution have irreversibly affected the world's flora and fauna. As in other countries, several endemic domestic animals have been totally lost or under danger in Turkey. This matter has

been discussed on various platforms in Turkey and was declared as a priority and various action plans have been prepared. In order to solve this problem, the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (TKB) has taken precautions by application of conservation programs for some animal genetic resources. By the contribution of the TKB, Turkish National Science and Research Foundation (TUBITAK) and 10 universities, a consortium was founded to take other efficient measures. The main objective of TURKHAYGEN-I is the application of in vitro conservation programs by foundation of two cryo-banks in which duplicated samples will be preserved. The project covers endemic sheep (13), cattle (6), goat (5), horse (5) breeds and Anatolian water buffalo. A total of 1500 animals have being collected from different parts of Turkey and the herds are placed in research farms of the participating institutions where somatic cells, embryos, DNA, and semen samples are collected. All preserved animals are also characterized at DNA level using microsatellite and mtDNA markers.