

## CONSERVATION OF DOMESTIC POULTRY BREEDS IN GEORGIA

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Georgia is a country with an ancient tradition of land cultivation. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century it became an agro-industrial country, with 76% of the population engaged in this sector. Preservation of genetic diversity of domestic animals is the part of the general problem that is called human and nature. Nowadays, the significant attention is paid to the stoppage of nature's pollution; preservation of natural and animals world and the important attention should be paid to the preservation of poultry genetic fund. It has been known that the World's modern poultry has been based on small a genetic base that creates the similarity of poultry species. In future, this will cause the disappearing of valuable and needy alleles. It is a common opinion that further progress of poultry selection is impossible without use and implementation of genetic diversity. Process of poultry intensification in Georgia resulted in the wide spreading of imported hybrid poultry that caused the danger to the preservation of local poultry genetic stocks.

In Georgia, there are two popular ancient breeds, Local Megrula and Straw-coloured naked-neck, that represent the source of rare marker genes, *B* and *Na*. They are characterized by autosexing, adaptation to the hot climate, good meat and egg quality, less demand for care and food, and resistance to many diseases. Because of these positive features, the attention of Georgian scientists used to be paid to the revilement of genetic potential of local poultry. Preservation of local poultry genetic stock in Georgia assumes not only scientific, but as well great practical importance. The development of local poultry industry is impossible without selection of local poultry breeds. The multiple observations showed us that although imported high productive species are more productive in comparison with local species but low adaptation to our climate conditions has declined their resistance.