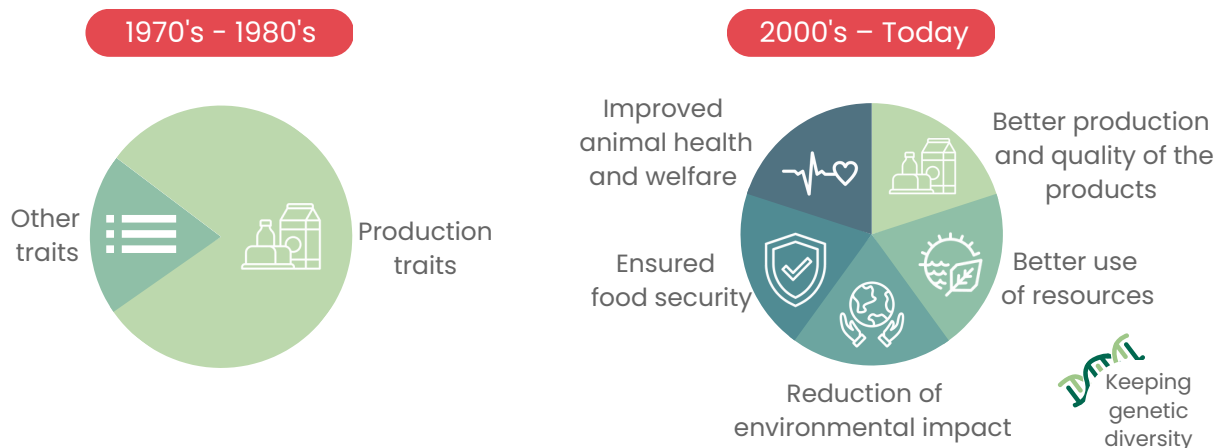


WHAT IS ANIMAL BREEDING AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR SUSTAINABLE FARMING?

Fact sheet

WHAT IS MODERN ANIMAL BREEDING?

Modern animal breeding programs aim to provide the next generations of farm animals **with robust and healthy animals**, whilst **mitigating environmental impact**, reducing the use of natural resources, maintaining genetic diversity and **improving animal welfare**. Animal breeding plays an important role in progressing animal farming systems, from conventional to organics. By continually selecting for and improving numerous measurable traits at the breeding level of individual animals, breeding companies are able to positively impact future generations of animal populations, creating benefits for animals, farmers, consumers, and the environment.



BALANCED BREEDING & CODE EFABAR

Balanced breeding translates into finding an equilibrium between the health and welfare of animals, their environmental impact, and the quality and quantity of production (milk, meat and eggs). As a commitment to responsible and balanced breeding, breeding companies and associations adopt **Code EFABAR**, the code of good practices for animal breeding.

Some examples of Code EFABAR include: traits to improve robustness and longevity, focus on bone strength and mobility of animals, and reducing the incidence of behaviours that can negatively impact animal health and welfare.

To address food security, climate change, and biodiversity loss, we need to review our production and consumption methods. Breeding companies with balanced breeding programs can help farmers to become more sustainable. By selecting animals that are more robust and efficient, farmers will be able to produce better with fewer natural resources.

Additional efforts are made to limit inbreeding, by following FAO recommendations, and to preserve unique and heritage breeds so, that biodiversity losses are mitigated.

WHY IS ANIMAL BREEDING IMPORTANT?

40 % OF TRAITS IN BREEDING PROGRAMS IN POULTRY ARE DEDICATED TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF BIRDS

