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والزراعة
للأمم
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Liaison Office for North America
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August 11, 2011

Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi
Office of the Chancellor
University of California
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Dr. Katehi,

I am pleased to write to follow up on discussions that I understand are underway between the University of California, Davis and Birchwood Conservancy. Because of the link between livestock biodiversity and food security, conserving animal genetic resources is a key concern of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. Genetically diverse livestock populations provide society with a greater range of options to meet future challenges. They are the capital for future developments and for adaptation to changing environments; if lost, the options for future generations will be severely curtailed.

Much of our work in this area deals with governments and national programs, but given the nature of the challenge, the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* calls for the engagement of the scientific community, civil society and livestock producers. We have been in touch for several years now with Birchwood Conservancy, seeing how we can work together to educate the public on the need for conserving animal genetic resources, and to understand better how private and public initiatives can come together around this common objective.

It was encouraging to learn of possible collaboration between Birchwood and UC Davis in the development of an educational outreach program along with scientific work on the conservation of livestock biodiversity. We look forward to learning more about your activities in this area and are certain that your engagement will make a major contribution towards this critical element of global food security.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Gustafson
Director

cc:

Vice Chancellor Harris Lewin
Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
University of California
Davis, CA 95616



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January 30, 2011

Chancellor Timothy P. White
Office of the Chancellor
University of California
4108 Hinderaker Hall
Riverside, CA 92521

Dear Dr. White,

I am pleased to write to follow up on discussions that I understand are underway between the University of California, Riverside and Birchwood Conservancy. Because of the link between livestock biodiversity and food security, conserving animal genetic resources is a key concern of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. Genetically diverse livestock populations provide society with a greater range of options to meet future challenges. They are the capital for future developments and for adaptation to changing environments; if lost, the options for future generations will be severely curtailed.

Much of our work in this area deals with governments and national programs, but given the nature of the challenge, the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* calls for the engagement of the scientific community, civil society and livestock producers. We have been in touch for several years now with Birchwood Conservancy, seeing how we can work together to educate the public on the need for conserving animal genetic resources, and to understand better how private and public initiatives can come together around this common objective.

We were pleased to learn of possible collaboration between Birchwood and UC Riverside in the development of an educational outreach program along with scientific work on the conservation of livestock biodiversity. We look forward to learning more about your activities in this area and are certain that your engagement will make a major contribution towards this critical element of global food security.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Gustafson
Director



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September 1, 2009

Reagen O'Leary
California Department of Transportation
Associate Environmental Planner/Natural Sciences
2015 E. Shields Avenue
Suite 100
Fresno, CA 93726

Dear Ms. O'Leary,

I am writing in support of the work of Birchwood Conservancy with regard to the critical area of preserving agricultural biodiversity. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN recognizes that conserving animal and plant genetic resources is vitally important to world agriculture and to ensuring a plentiful and healthy food supply. We are privileged to work with Birchwood Conservancy in this important area and in particular in the vital task of education and raising public awareness of the issues. In an increasingly and predominantly urbanized culture, getting this agricultural biodiversity conservation message across is a challenge and requires a lot of creativity. Birchwood Conservancy has a great deal of positive experience in this regard and we look forward to working with them in the future in an expanded program of public outreach.

I understand that Birchwood Conservancy plans to install a new conservation and education facility in California, which would greatly facilitate this mission. The United Nations has declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity and the timely opening of the new facility would be a big help in the work we plan to carry out together. This will demonstrate in a practical way the importance of conserving animal breeds and plant varieties in fighting hunger and maintaining a nutritious food supply for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Gustafson
Director

