



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
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ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

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SUBJECT: DECLARING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER-CRYOBANK AS THE NATIONAL CRYOBANK OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES (NCAGR) TOWARDS CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Cryobank of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) was established at the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Philippines, in 2012. This supports the existing genetic improvement program for livestock and the response to the threats posed by climate change through the Department of Agriculture of the Philippines and the support of the Korean International Cooperation Agency.

WHEREAS, the PCC-Cryobank strategies consist of various components, including collecting of animal genetic resources, preservation, data banking, access to stored samples, and information and dissemination campaigns. Adherence to these strategies is closely monitored to attain the objectives set for this purpose.

WHEREAS, the PCC-Cryobank aims to preserve the diversity of animal genetic resources (AnGR) of indigenous species and introduced breeds that have economic importance and exhibit adaptable and resilient traits toward diseases and environmental elements in the country. To accomplish this, Cryobanking focuses explicitly on: (1) securing the biodiversity conservation of animal genetic resources, (2) establishing the phenotypic and genotypic characteristics of animals to be cryoconserved, (3) establishing and maintaining inventory and records of the genetic materials being cryoconserved, and (4) continuing the state-of-the-art cryopreservation techniques.

WHEREAS, the PCC-Cryobank facility is capable of long-term storage of frozen semen in storage tanks applied and maintained with liquid nitrogen. This is being done for future utilization in sustaining the supply of buffalo genetics to farmers, livestock breeders, and other interested clients. AnGR germplasms came from superior breeds of buffaloes managed with good nutrition and were identified with good physiological and reproductive qualities. As of January 2021, the collection of cryopreserved semen and oocytes are from various species, which are 91.31% buffaloes, 8.41% cattle, 0.28% caprine, and 0.01% swine. In addition, DNA samples and cryopreserved whole blood cells from various species are also preserved as genetic sources for molecular analysis in genetic diversity studies, species identification, and other research outputs.

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FURTHERMORE, the number of collected AnGR from species and breeds of animals is still meager to represent the animals' genetic diversity in the Philippines. As such, the PCC-Cryobank is moving forward to pursue advancements in documenting, promoting, and strengthening linkages and information relative to Philippine livestock breeds, including their cultural heritage and social importance. This is feasible through the initiatives on (1) duplication of the facility with AnGR stores in other sites in the country or international gene bank through international collaboration, (2) provide necessary training of more researchers and technicians with technical knowledge in cryopreservation and molecular techniques, (3) provision of online access to the AnGR Information System to AnGR providers and other stakeholders. and (4) strengthening legal policies, pertaining on Cryobanking activities.

WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, the Department of Agriculture Philippine Carabao Center-Cryobank is hereby declared as the "National Livestock Cryobank."

As such, it shall be the national repository of germplasm and biological samples from diverse livestock species in support of the conservation and management of animal genetic resources to sustain genetic diversity of livestock species in the Philippines.

Done on this 4th day of December 2021.



WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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