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Sustainable Future: Genetics and Breeding of Indigenous Breeds of Livestock

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Message from the Guest Editor

Despite extensive efforts that have been made to protect indigenous breeds of livestock species worldwide, the loss of indigenous livestock breeds around the world remains ongoing, as demonstrated by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization. For the sustainable use of these local livestock genetic resources, it is urgently needed to explore and identify their genetic characteristics using cutting-edge methods including high-throughput phenotyping and genotyping technologies.

Unsurprisingly, there are a few successful examples of the sustainable use of indigenous livestock breeds. One way out of such awkward situations is to use indigenous livestock breeds as one parent for developing composite new breeds. This is the case for Yunnan native cattle and goats, which were used to crossbreed with other commercial breeds, and final, new composite breeds were developed: Yunling cattle and Yunshang Black goats. Although further studies are needed to identify and quantify the advantageous combinations of mosaic genomes in such composite breeds, this method highlights one of the most important ways to protect and maintain indigenous livestock breeds.



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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