

Poster # 20

Innovative Ways of Regional Sustainable Use of Animal Genetic Resources in Domestic Chickens

RegioHuhn

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aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages



Background & Motivation



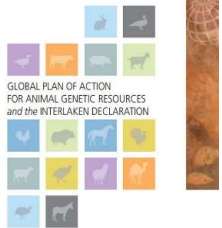
Local Breeds
Animal Genetic Resources

Organic farming
Appropriate Genotypes
Dual purpose use, robust animal health,
product diversity

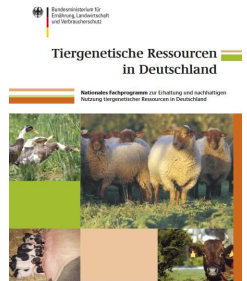


Conservation through agricultural use

“In situ conservation measures are best based on agro-ecosystem approaches and, ideally, should be established through economically profitable and socially beneficial sustainable use.”



International
FAO



Germany



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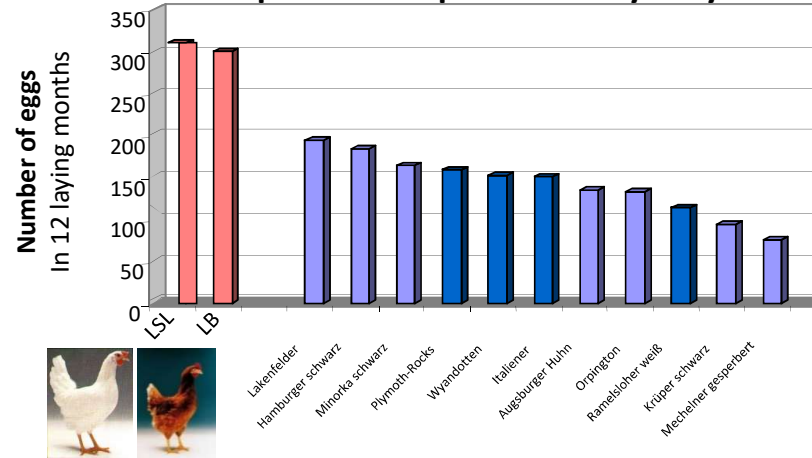


Conservation through agricultural use

One major barrier to use local chicken breeds in the current agricultural production

Low performance level

Laying performance of old German chicken breeds in comparison to specialized layer hybrids



Ramelsloher



Carcass weight
14 weeks of age = Ø 956g
18 weeks of age = Ø 1283g

Situation for decades

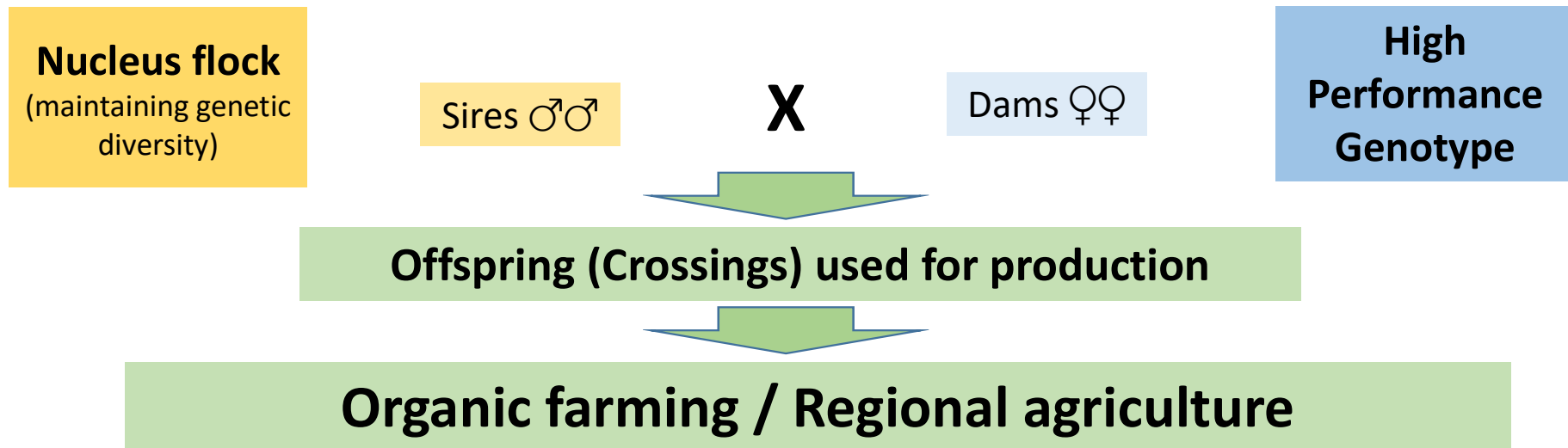
- No selection on performance
- No breeding flocks
- No performance testing



Project: RegioHuhn

➤ Concept

Crossing breeding of local breeds with high performance genotypes (layers and broilers) for use in today's agriculture.



Project: RegioHuhn

➤ Six local breeds

East Friesian Gulls (OFM)
North Germany *Ramelsloher (RAM)*

Bielefelder Kennhuhn (BIE)
West Germany *Malines (MEC)*

Altsteirer (ALT)
South Germany *Augsburger (AUG)*



Performance Tests – Meat yield & Laying performance



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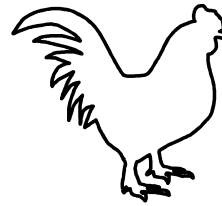
➤ 12 Crosses

Sires of Nucleus herds

North Germany
East Friesian Gulls (OFM)
Ramelsloher (RAM)

West Germany
Bielefelder Kennhuhn (BIE)
Malines (MEC)

South Germany
Altsteirer (ALT)
Augsburger (AUG)



X



Laying Parent Hens
 „Lohmann Brown“

Lohmann Breeders GmbH



LOHMANN
 BREEDERS

X



Broiler Parent Hens
 „Ranger“

Aviagen



Performance Tests – Meat yield & Laying performance



Gefördert durch



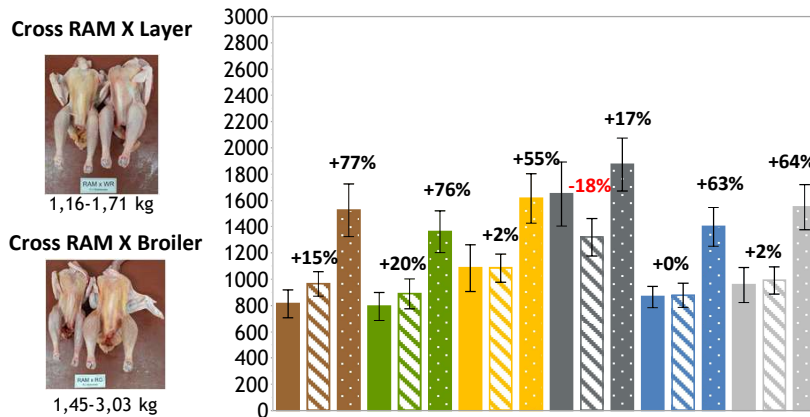
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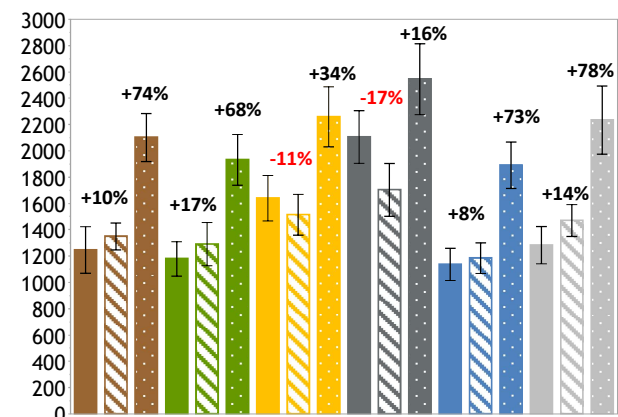
Results: Comparison of purebreds and crossings

Meat Yield

Carcass weight of males of six pure breeds and their crossings
14 wks of age



18 wks of age



Layer - Crossings:
Ø + 4 %



1,16-1,71 kg

Cross RAM X Broiler



1,45-3,03 kg

Broiler - Crossings:
Ø + 59 %

Layer - Crossings:
Ø + 3 %

Broiler - Crossings:
Ø + 57 %

Ø Carcass weight in g	14 wks of age							18 wks of age						
	WoA	ALT	AUG	BIE	MEC	OFM	RAM	WoA	ALT	AUG	BIE	MEC	OFM	RAM
Pure breed	14	813	792	1085	1649	865	956	18	1246	1179	1640	2105	1137	1283
Layer cross	14	938	950	1110	1348	866	979	18	1366	1380	1453	1741	1232	1464
Broiler cross	14	1439	1392	1682	1936	1406	1567	18	2167	1977	2192	2449	1962	2283



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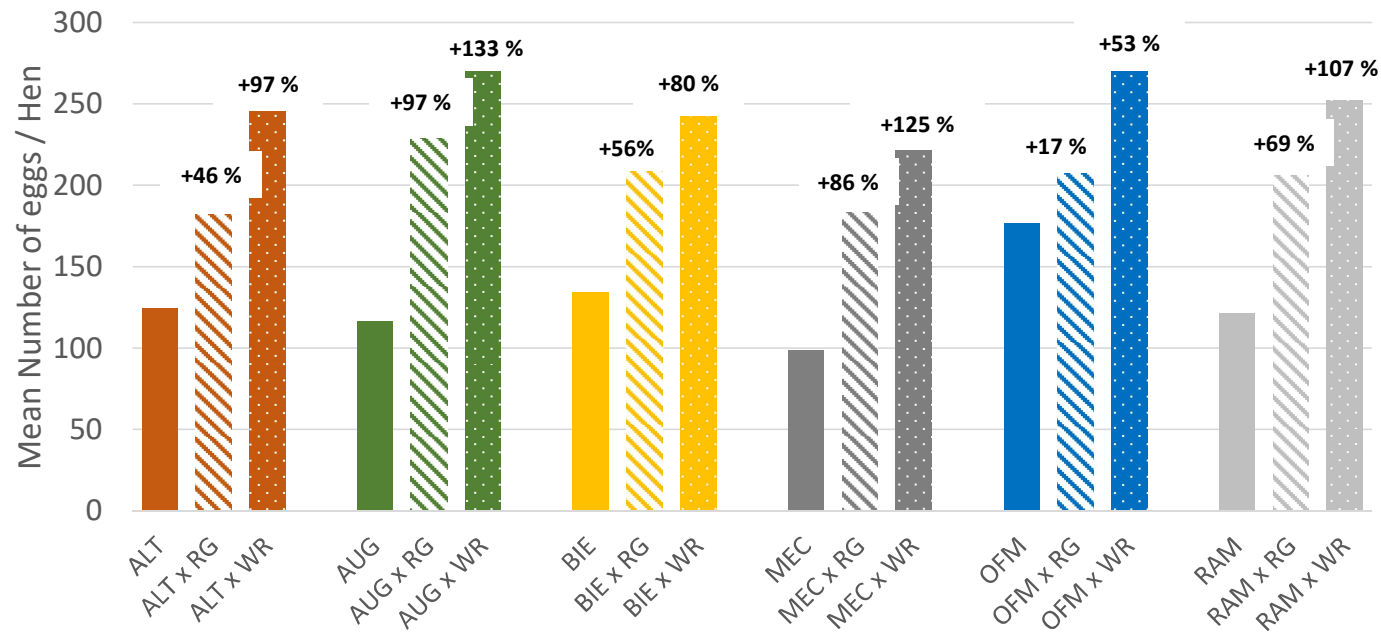
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Results: Comparison of purebreds and crossings

Laying performance (20 to 72 wks of age)

Laying performance of purebreds



Broiler - Crossings:

Ø + 62 %

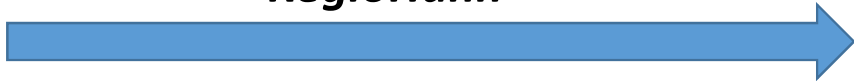
Layer - Crossings:

Ø + 99 %



Conclusions

RegioHuhn




- ❑ Crossing improves performance
 - Performance is crucial for the farmer

- ❑ Crossbreeding leads to diversity in the products
 - Meat- or laying-oriented use

Crossbreeding is a practicable way of preserving local breeds through use of crossings in organic agriculture



- ❑ Essential for practical implementation
 - Uniformity and performance level
 - Animal health and welfare
 - Multipliers and marketing

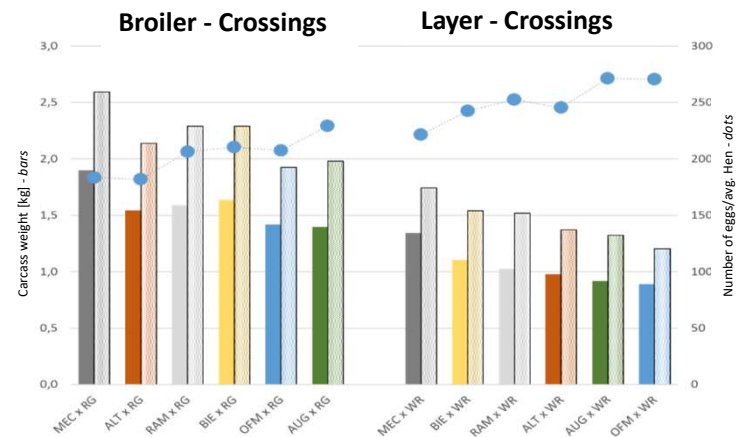
Growth /Slaughter & Laying performance | **FLI** | 

Animal Welfare & Behavior

First field tests

Nucleus & Multiplier Herds

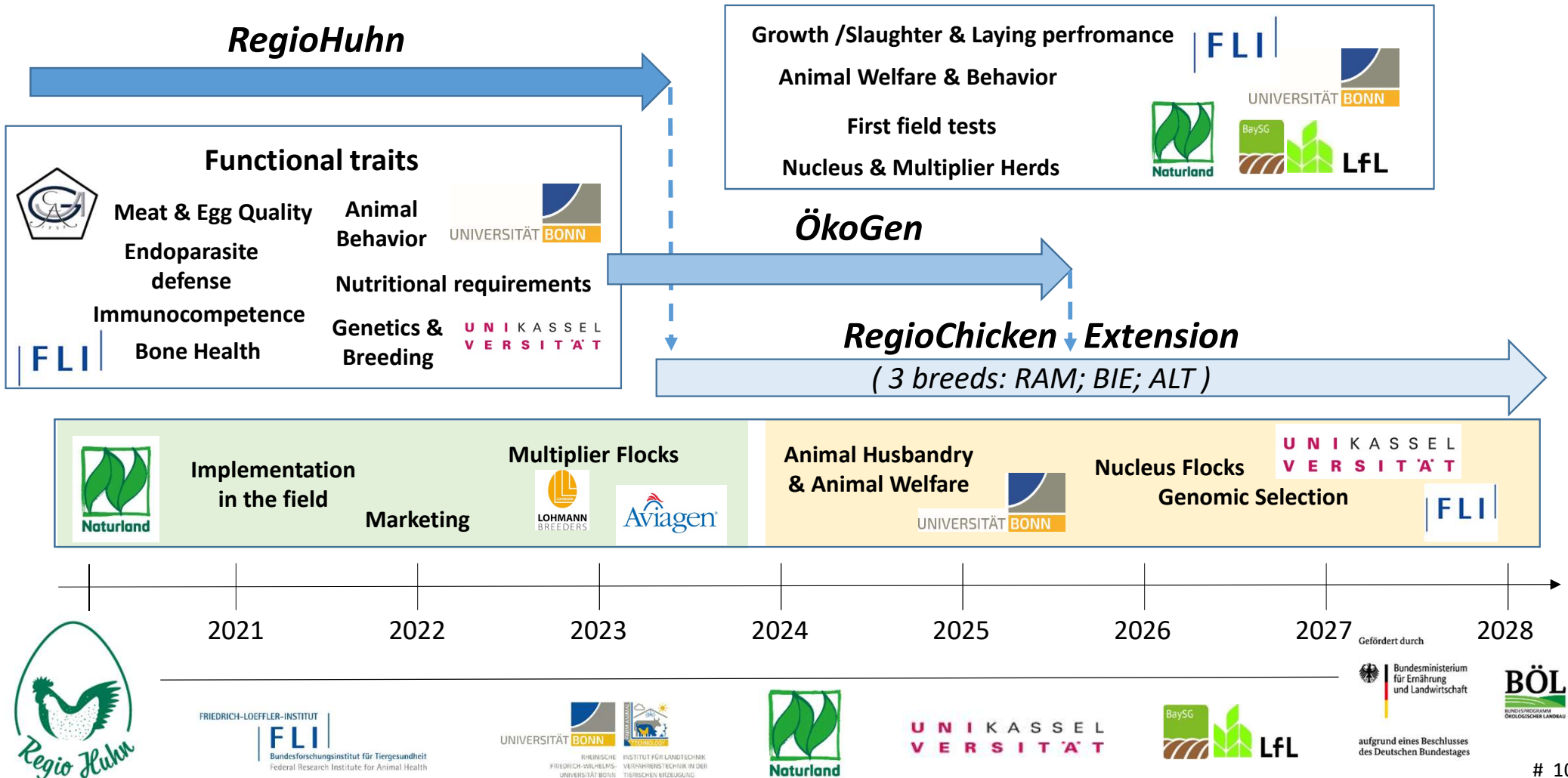
Carcass weights in the 14th (bar, full) and 18th week of life (bar hatched) and the laying performance per average hen (points) from the 20th to 72nd week of life



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Project: Will go on / combined with „ÖkoGen“





*Thank you
for
your attention*

