

Research project IZS VE 18/11

Genetic traceability as a tool to improve traditional products technology from native cattle breed

Project coordinator: Rosaria Lucchini

In recent years, food traceability has become a matter of great importance in relation to safety, quality and typicalness issues, and even more significant for fresh and typical products. Local breeds can be considered cultural assets because of their role in local tradition and because they have often played a central part in the social life of rural populations. Local breeds can also be linked to local culture because they contribute to the preservation of ancient local traditions and food products.

Main objectives of the project are:

- to study and use molecular methodologies for the assessment of a genetic traceability system able to discriminate among individuals and breeds in bovine animal products;
- to guarantee the cattle breed farmers as well as consumers about the authenticity of the typical product throughout the production chain by means of systems of traceability;
- to enhance the knowledge on typical products, including types and level of contaminants eventually present and detailed information on productive technologies;
- to evaluate the level of microbiological contamination, particularly for pathogen agents, in the final product and during different steps of the production process, in order to reduce the presence of pathogen agents (*Salmonella spp*, *Listeria monocytogenes*) at an acceptable level according to existing legislation and/or other scientific evidences maintaining the traditional feature, thus promoting traditional products on the market.