

## BACTRIAN CAMEL RESEARCH MARCHING AHEAD IN CHINA

Bactrian camel research of China has not remained in main focus hitherto due to many reasons. A recently organised international conference "The Belt and Road: Camel Science, Industry and Culture" on 22-26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Alxa League, Inner Mongolia, China was an eye opener to scientists of other countries who were amazed to see many facets of production and research of Bactrian camels in China.

A very interesting aspect of controlling a decline in camel population in Inner Mongolia region by the Government was worth taking a note by those countries where camel population is on sharp decline, e.g. India. The measures taken by the government included formation of cooperative societies of camel herders by providing them a good platform of keeping productive camels at one place and augmenting the facilities of machine milking and reproduction (see camel city in the News section). A very nice marketing of camel products, such as milk, meat, wool or hairs with export quality finish proved Bactrian camel as a supermarket or industry, thus became a profit yielding animal to its herders. A wide range of cosmetics including soap, body lotions and creams were available for sale in the market. I noticed first time the wine produced from camel milk apart from other products including flavoured milk, sour milk, cheese etc. Establishment of Inner Mongolia Camel Research Institute was another big platform for research on Bactrian camels to the researchers and students. An exclusive museum on Bactrian camels elaborated a spectrum of these camels from history, culture and science. This conference was an important step for exchanging and sharing the camel research and production of various countries. The brain storming sessions brought lot of inputs of ongoing and future camel research. There is a greater need of translation of camelid research from Chinese to English and vice versa to benefit the researchers.

The December issue of JCPR is rich in manuscripts based on latest camel research across the globe. The topics covered are related to peste des petits ruminants virus (PPR), physocephalosis, Middle east respiratory syndrome coronavirus, genetic characterisation of camel using microsatellite markers, coccidiosis and haemonchosis, milk production, passive immunisation against *Brucella melitensis*, pharmacokinetics of cefquinome, protective effects of camel milk on inflammatory and antioxidant biomarkers, pathological disorders of the ovaries and uterine tubes, uterus, cervix and vagina, mastitis, antioxidant enriched flavoured camel milk, multidrug resistance pattern of *Escherichia coli* isolates, influence of bokhi on kidney-yang-deficiency syndrome in rats, amputation of fore limb and seroprevalence of bluetongue in dromedaries.

I am happy to note that JCPR has increased the output of publishing manuscripts because it has become triannual from 2017.

Wishing you all a happy new year 2018.



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