

EDITORIAL

CAMELMILK PROJECT SUPPORT FROM EUROPEAN UNION AND FAO

The increase in demand for camel milk and products is not only translated into camel demography progress around the world, but also into multiplication of events as virtual scientific meeting (recently in Iraq, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Kenya, Sudan...), development projects and practical training in the dairy sector. Based on their experience in Saudi Arabia for processing camel milk into cheese, fermented milk and other milk beverages, Dr Bernard Faye (France) and Gaukhar Konuspayeva (Kazakhstan) have organized for the last 4-5 years several practical training on this topic, for example, in Mauritania and Chad with the support of FAO, at Laayoune in South-Morocco on the side-lines of the ISOCARD conference, at El-Oued in Algeria and Incirliova in Turkey in the frame of CAMELMILK project (supported by European Union), even in Canary Islands at Fuerteventura and at Montpellier in France (in CIRAD) where some farmers have switch their cattle to camel and aim to start milk and cheese production. The content of those training includes theoretical aspects and practical achievements where the trainees can make and taste their products. A guide for managing camel dairy farm was also edited, for the moment in Turkish and Arabic version. A Spanish and a French version will be available soon. Regular demands are coming from other countries such as Kazakhstan, Niger, or Oman. Camel milk project scientists and cameleers are optimistic about great demand of camel milk products in supermarket in next decade.

The April 2022 JCPR has manuscripts based on research on dromedary and Bactrian, both. The new issue has an interesting review paper by Dr U. Wernery on *Rickettsiales* and *Coxiella burnetii* infections in camelids. Rickettsial bacteria were detected in healthy camels indicating the presence of asymptomatic carrier states. Q fever is a zoonotic disease caused by *Coxiella burnetii* but so far no disease has been attributed to Q fever in camelids, but many serological prevalences are found between 2 and 80%. Mahmoud Kandeel and his group of scientists carried out investigation on the role of insulin receptor in glycemic control in camels. Dr Sabry and El Hassan carried out research on production of an in-house rabbit anti-camel immunoglobulin G (IgG) conjugated with horseradish peroxidase (HRP) for use in immunoblots. Another important manuscript was on modern advances on the diagnosis of bovine viral diarrhoea virus in camelids was authored by Abdullah I.A. Al-Mubarak and associates. Screening of *Theileria annulata* in Saudi Arabia, computed tomographic imaging of eye, bacteria and fungi in the prepuce, female reproductive tract, Selected heavy metals and their risk assessment, low fat ice milk made from milk and defatted chia seeds flour, gross and morphometrical studies on different cervical vertebrae were important research on dromedary camels. Morphometric study on the gobi red bull and physical parameters of *Tülü* (Bactrian x Dromedary F1) calves were important studies on Bactrian camels.

I am sure that as Covid 19 pandemic is minimised, more interaction of camel scientists will take place through organising many camel conferences, workshops and trainings. International seminar on Promotion of camel milk value chain: Technology transfer and public-private partnership (ppp)- Camilk2022 shall take place from June 1-3, 2022 at Zarzis, Tunisia (<https://camilk2022.com>). I presume that many more announcements about camel conferences and other activities will come up later this year.

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Editor