

JOURNAL OF CAMEL PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

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CAMEL MILK- A WHITE GOLD

The first half of the year 2006 has been auspicious for camels as there had been two international conferences, one at Al-Ain (UAE) and other at Gassim (Saudi Arabia). The conference at UAE formed International Society of Camelids Research and Development (ISOCARD). Much credit goes to Drs. Ghaleb Alhadrami and B.Faye for doing a good homework on this aspect. ISOCARD envisages to host atleast one conference under its banner in three years. The conference organised at Saudi Arabia was attended by a larger group of scientists. Exhibitions and posters were on a large scale. The unique architecture of modern building of Qassim University fascinated every one. The announcement for a new International Centre for Camel Research by the Crown Prince was a welcome step to give a new dimension to the camel research. A significant fall in number of camels in India has slipped it from number 3 to 5 in world camel population. This is alarming situation and in order to have a scientific deliberation on this aspect yet another International Camel Conference is planned on a theme, "Recent trends in Camelid Research and Future Strategies for Saving Camels" on 31 December 2006 and 1 January 2007 (2 days) at College of Veterinary and Animal Science, Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner, India. Organisers are aware that the dates of this conference are too early to seek any support from ISOCARD but urgent issues like fast depletion of camel population in India and need to adopt strict measures to save the camels, are the compelling reasons to host this conference. Dates were prefixed to the famous "Camel Festival" so that participants can enjoy this event as well.

The camel milk as a WHITE GOLD is the most befitting slogan to save the camel through promoting its sale and popularising its human consumption. Camel milk has been a hot topic these days among veterinarians and local public because its numerous health merits are being talked about through popular articles and research papers. The important medicinal properties of camel milk has made it popular to treat diabetes mellitus, tuberculosis and skin infections. Gulf countries have carried out the research that it helps curing cancer, alzimers, hepatitis-C and AIDS in addition to the diabetes (see News section). The scientific validation of such claims is essential. The byproducts of camel milk are becoming delicacies or important recipes, i.e. cheese, flavoured milk, yogurt etc. On the invitation of United Nations the multinational companies have shown their interest in the marketing of camel milk and its byproducts in the market of Europe as superfood. On a rough estimate a business to the tune of 4.5 Billion rupees can be done. United Nations have considered camel milk as more beneficial than cow milk. Camel milk is being marketed in Mauritania by Ms Nancy since last 15 years. United Nations want that people from Mauritania to Khazakhstan should get linked with camel milk. A pilot camel milking project using bucket milking machines began at CVRL in 2001. A modern camel dairy farm with the intention of milking several hundred dromedaries

will be opened in autumn 2006 in Dubai under the name “Dubai Camel Dairy Farm” (DCDF). A sudden crackdown on research on camel milk is evidenced in available literature. Journal of Camel Practice and Research is publishing few papers on camel milk every year on not only dromedary but bactrian milk also and this issue includes three papers on this topic. In this changing scenario the Camel Husbandry is coming up as a viable resource to camel keepers and it may strengthen the camel-man bond through mutual benefit. This may help saving the camels but need urgent attention of Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies to promote the camel breeding and dairying. In India, the appreciative efforts of National Research Centre on Camels, Bikaner and League for Pastoral People Society, Sadri (project leader-Dr. Ilse Kohler Rollefson), in Israel by Dr. R. Yagil and in Dubai (UAE) by Dr. U. Wernery and his team to popularise the camel milk and its byproducts are gratefully acknowledged.

The papers in this issue covers a good spectrum of subjects of camel practice and research. The elaborative paper on camel milk by Dr. Wernery is like a chapter. Other two papers are on fatty acids and vitamins of milk of dromedary and bactrian camels. Parasitology has occupied important position in this issue as it contains first paper of a review series on parasitic diseases of camels. Other papers are on *Onchocerca fasciata* infection in Iran and CATT and CIATT for detection of trypanosomosis in Sudan. Cryopreservation of camel semen, kinetic study of eprinomectin and C-Terminal parathyroid hormone levels are the theme of papers on reproduction, pharmacology and physiology, respectively. Infectious diseases section include papers on brucellosis in Iran and *Trichophyton verrucosum* related dermatophytosis in Indian dromedary. Morphology of bactrian camel, barymetric measurements of body and surgical removal of foreign bodies are important papers of this issue. Book review, news and glimpses of two recently concluded camel conferences also find a suitable place in the June issue of JCPR.

Best wishes



(Dr.T.K. Gahlot)
Editor

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