

JOURNAL OF CAMEL PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

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DAIRY DROMEDARY CAMELS AND AMMONIA EMISSION IN NETHERLANDS

The emission of ammonia is an important environmental drawback of animal husbandry in most European countries. It is regulated by National Emission Ceiling Directive. The environmental permit to keep camels commercially was not possible in Netherlands until now because emission factor for ammonia from commercial camel keeping was unknown. A team of Smits and Monteny (see first paper of this issue) estimated ammonia emission of a barn for adult camels (5-6 kg/head/year), corresponding with about 50% of ammonia emission of dairy cow barns. This became the basis to start first commercial camel husbandry for keeping dairy camels in Netherlands, Europe. JCPR brings this new environmental related issue vis-a-vis camels to the notice of readers. Scientists deserve much kudos for their positive efforts.

The announcement of International Camel Symposium at Garissa, Kenya from 7-10 June 2010 is a welcome step to bring together for the first time the camel pastoralists, researchers and development actors. Kenya Agricultural Research Institute and Kenya Camel Association are working with a close partnership for this symposium. Camel Association of Pakistan has also announced a country conference on camels in 2010.

The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London is planning an International Camel Conference on 25-26 May 2011 with an objective of creating World Camel Association and to study the camel culture worldwide. JCPR conveys appreciations for selecting a new theme "camel culture" for this conference. Ed Emery (SOAS), conference organiser can be contacted for further details (See-News).

Current issue of JCPR has two sections, i.e. dromedary (17 papers) and bactrian (9 papers). Dromedary section opens up with a paper on Ammonia emission from camel dairy, which is a new upcoming issue for readers. However, other papers in this section are also landmark pieces of research and are based on pharmacology, reproduction, production, physiology, biochemistry, diseases, pathology, parasitology and reproductive anatomy. A diverse spectrum of these subjects makes this issue of JCPR interesting.

The bactrian section of this issue points to the increased focus on research on anatomy of two humped camels. Additionally, papers on natural trypanosomiasis and camel milk hint towards new areas of research in bactrian camels.

I wish all readers a happy new year and hope that the year 2010 will prove as a landmark for research and other related activities of camelids.



(Dr. T.K. Gahlot)
Editor

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