

CAMEL POPULATION/ CONFERENCES/ AWARD/ RESEARCH TRENDS IN 2020

A synthetic analysis of the world camel demographic changes was done critically by Dr B.Faye in his recent Springer open access publication* which drew attention of many of us. Accordingly, it is particularly important to accurately estimate the place of camel production in the world economy. In many countries, camel data are insufficiently recorded. Between 1961 and 2018, the world camel population multiplied by 2.75 which was higher than many other species, possibly due to renewed interest in the camel within this new global climatic context. The present large camelid population in the world is probably more than 40 million and could reach 60 million after 25 years from now if the current demographic trend is maintained.

*(Faye, B. How many large camelids in the world? A synthetic analysis of the world camel demographic changes. *Pastoralism* 10, 25 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13570-020-00176-z>)

Many kudos to Doug Baum for organising “Southwest Camel Conference 2020” at Texas, USA on 28 October 2020 with three sessions, free, via zoom. The speakers were Dr TK Gahlot, India, Abdul Raziq Kakar, Al-Ain, UAE, Ahmed Eisa El Hag, Sudan, Gil Reigler, Oasis Camel Dairy, USA, Surong Hasi, Inner Mongolia, China, Ivan French, Oklahoma Mini Mill. Although it was aimed for limited participants but was highly interactive and educative because of live practical sessions at farm sites.

The triannual JCPR brought newer trends of research this year. Noteworthy is a thorough study of camels in Somaliland, Eritrea and Ethiopia by R.Trevor Wilson. He has also given a critical review of the literature and bibliography of dromedary camels. Research on Bactrian camels is coming up substantially. Scientists from China studied CYP2E1 gene, proteome profile of hump, effect of camel milk on the liver injuries, transcriptome analysis of adipose tissue and whole genome sequencing. Scientists from UAE performed excellent work in the diagnosis of infectious and parasitic diseases. Identification of *Schistosoma indicum*, Actinomycosis or lumpy jaw, trichomonosis, MERS and *Trypanosoma evansi* abortion was done. Scientists from Saudi Arabia studied vitamin B1, B2, B6 and B12 levels in serum and CSF of camels with diverse neurological disorders. Studies on gliotoxin intoxication was done by the scientists of Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Pharmacological studies on dUMP, UTP, UMP metabolising enzymes in camels and *Trypanosoma evansi* was done by the Saudi scientists. A series of studies on biomarkers for bone metabolism, cardiac troponin I, infection and inflammation was done by Saudi Scientist Dr M. Tharwat. Scanning microscopy of *Wohlfahrtia magnifica* was done by Chinese scientists. SEM of oesophagus and anatomy of tongue was studied by the Indian Scientists. Detailed lung lesions were studied by the Sudanese scientists. Additionally, scientists carried out research on microsatellite markers, immune-histochemical studies of poll gland, lactobacillus in skimmed milk, ultrastructure of ulbourethral (Cowper's) gland, insulin contents of milk, ultrasonography of digestive tract, castration, endotoxins of camel milk, altitude effect on camel milk properties, expression level of the MERS-CoV receptor and dipeptidase 4, total mix ration with roughages feeding, *Hyalomma dromedarii*, sarcoptic mange, characteristics of Shami camels, dermatophytosis, *in vitro* capacitation of spermatozoa, endocardial fibroelastosis (Llama), *Klebsiella oxytoca* isolation from nostrils and lameness.

In this Covid 19 pandemic year 2020 when everything was stand still, laboratories and institutions were closed, we were quite apprehensive about receiving manuscripts for various issues of JCPR. Astonishingly, there was an overwhelming response from the camel scientists who contributed excellent manuscripts for JCPR. As a reciprocating gratitude gesture Camel Publishing House will issue an award certificate bearing a title, “ACTIVE CAMEL RESEARCH SCIENTIST AWARD 2020” to all the authors of volume 27 of JCPR. This award is dedicated to those camel research scientists who continued to work in the year 2020 during Covid 19 pandemic despite of several constraints and preferred to get their work published in the Journal of Camel Practice and Research. All authors will receive a PDF of this award by email in the first week of January 2021. Congratulations to all. Hope to receive your continued support in the year 2021 also.

Wishing a Happy New Year to all authors and editors!



(Dr. T.K. Gahlot)
Editor