

CAMENET AND INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAMELIDS

The camel activities in the Middle East region and elsewhere were earlier monitored partly through ISOCARD and ICO but now CAMENET has also become active. CAMENET is a network of 9 camel rearing countries, including UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Iran and Yemen. It is dedicated to dromedary camel health and husbandry. It was officially launched during the WOAHA annual assembly meeting of the regional committee in Paris in May 2016. CAMENET started as an initiative of the Biological Standards Commission of the WOAHA, to exchange knowledge and assist member countries to better control camel diseases in the Middle East region and neighboring countries. The development of CAMENET represents a strategic step forward in the GF-TADs agenda addressing the specific challenges of the growing camel sector in the sub-region with potential global impact on the camel economy. CAMENET overall goal is to assist members to develop their camel sector, particularly through the prevention, early detection, and control of camel diseases. The activities of the network will be supervised and managed by a Steering Committee, supported by a Technical Committee composed of experts from several veterinary sub-specialties.

The United Nations declared 2024 the International Year of Camelids (IYC 2024). The Year will highlight how camelids are key to the livelihoods of millions of households in hostile environments across over 90 countries, particularly indigenous peoples and local communities. From alpacas to Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas, and vicuñas, camelids contribute to food security, nutrition and economic growth as well as holding a strong cultural and social significance for communities across the world. Camelids play a key role in the culture, economy, food security and livelihoods of communities in Andean highlands and in the arid and semi-arid lands in Africa and Asia, including Indigenous Peoples. Even in extreme climatic conditions they continue to produce fibre and nutritious food. Indeed, the International Year of Camelids presents a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the role of camelids in building resilience to climate change – particularly in mountains and arid and semi-arid lands.

The International Year of Camelids 2024 aims to build awareness of the untapped potential of camelids and to call for increased investment in the camelid sector, advocating for greater research, capacity development and the use of innovative practices and technologies.

The Journal of Camel Practice and Research would complete 3 decades with the release of December 2023 issue which is Volume 30 and Number 3. I am really thankful to all the members of the editorial board and contributors who laid a perfect trust and support to this exclusive journal of camelids which grew over the time and proved the biggest platform of camelids literature resource. Current issue contains two review papers, i.e. Camel cloning: achievements and consequences and camel milk and its applications in treatment of diabetes. It has an interesting article on a quarter individual milking machine –StimuLactor, being used in a camel farm in Switzerland. Another interesting manuscript is based upon genome wide association for milk nutrition traits in Gobi Red Bactrian camel. Molecular assessment of kappa casein gene by sequencing in Bikaneri dromedary camels, technological and probiotic properties of *Enterococcus faecium* strains isolated from Tunisian camel milk, Unique development of the heart, fermented camel milk beverage, mandibular fractures in camels using modified IDW (IDW and transfixation of pins with fibre cast) technique, dermatophilosis and mange and imaging studies of cadaver mandible are among other interesting manuscripts of this issue. I am sure that JCPR will bring more interesting research and news in the International Year of Camelids 2024.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024 to all those thinking for welfare of camelids.



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Editor