

International Goat Association News

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June 2006

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Greetings! Welcome to the IGA Newsletter. We are proud to provide you our readers with news, updates, special offers and information about the IGA.



12th AAAP Animal Science Congress, Korea

The Asian-Australasian Association of Animal Production Societies will host the 12th AAAP Animal Science Congress in Busan, South Korea from September 18-22, 2006. Dr. Sun Ho Choi (IGA member – Korea) is coordinating this program.

The program includes a session on small ruminants with 6 speakers, 29 orals and 42 posters out of a total 77 presentations. Three IGA members are scheduled to speak at this forum on the following topics:

Small Ruminant Production: Sheep, Goat, Deer & others

Theme: Role of small ruminant industry in the 21st century

- “Challenges And Opportunities For Research And Development of Small Ruminants In Asia” – C. Devendra, Malaysia
- “Recent trends in the application of new technologies to improve goat production” – B. Norton, Australia
- “Current status and development of small ruminant and rabbit production in China” – Jiabi Pu, China

Following this meeting there will be an interactive forum with farmers at Daegu University that covers the following topic:

“Listening to farmers: participatory approaches for improving expanded goat production” – C. Devendra, Malaysia

Early registration for this conference ends on May 31, 2006

Special thanks to Dr. C. Devendra for bringing this Congress to IGA's attention.

For more information about the 12th AAAP visit their website at:
www.aaap2006.com

Latest IGA News



Member Feature Recommendations

We would like to open a new section in our newsletter that features IGA members, but we need your help. We want to know more about our members, so please send us your recommendations for who we should feature in this new series. Send us an e-mail with the name of the person you are recommending, what their goat related qualifications or experience is, and why you think this person should be featured.

We will then contact the person you recommend and ask them for some additional information, including a recent photo.

Remember, you cannot recommend yourself.

Romania Conference

The “International Symposium on Goat Farming in Central and Eastern European Countries” is just a month away. We hope that you are planning to join us in Romania.

· December 2006 Symposium & Workshop, Bolivia

The city of Cochabamba, Bolivia will be the host of the 7th Iberoamerican Symposium on Conservation and Utilization of Animal Genetic Resources, and the 1st Hispano-Bolivian Workshop on Sustainable Use of Local Breeds of Goats in Marginal Areas.

The symposium will take place from December 5-7, and the workshop will follow immediately after on December 8-9.

The organizers for these meetings are: the University Mayor de San Simon, Cochabamba: Iberoamerican Program of Science and Technology for Development (CYTED) Network XII-H, and the University of Cordoba, Spain.

Scheduled sessions include:

- Conservation programs of animal genetic resources in situ and ex situ,
- Zootechnical and zoometrical characterization,
- Genetic characterization,
- Breeding programs for local breeds,
- Impact of animal genetic resources on sustainable rural development,
- Processed products from local breeds.

Please note that the languages of the conferences will be Spanish and Portuguese only!

The Organizing Committee is:

Dr. Angelika Stemmer (Bolivia); e-mail: viisimposiocochabamba@yahoo.es

Dr. Juan Vicente Delgado Bermejo – Red CYTED XII-H (Spain); e-mail: jd1debej@uco.es

Please direct your communications to: viisimposiocochabamba@yahoo.es

Special thanks to Angelika Stemmer – IGA Country Representative, Bolivia for bringing this symposium to our attention.

[For more information, visit the Network CYTED XII-H website, or click here.](#)

· Goat Workshop Report, Cairo, Egypt

By Hassan M. El-Shaer – IGA CR, Egypt

On April 10-13, 2006 a workshop on “Recent Advances in Goat Production under Arid Conditions” was organized by FAO, the Desert Research Center (DRC), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Egypt.

To see a list of the planned programs, sessions and speaker, go to:

<http://www.capirom.ro/en/iga2006.php>

Country Reps Send Goat Production Updates

IGA would like to thank the CRs who have responded to our request for reports on goat production in the countries that they represent.

If you haven't had a chance to send your update or you didn't know exactly what to report, we hope the country reports in this newsletter will help inspire you.

[Remember to visit the IGA's Blog, click here.](#)

Goats in the News

- **[Fighting "Mad Cow" with Goats - USA](#)**
- **[Goat Plague Kills 60 in One Month - India](#)**
- **[World Vision Ventures Into Boer Goat Breeding - Swaziland](#)**
- **[EU Insists No Risk From Suspected BSE in Sheep - Cyprus](#)**
- **[Where Goats are Beating Cows in Milk Production - Kenya](#)**
- **[Widows Receive Training on HIV/Aids - Rwanda](#)**
- **[Sharing Food With Starving Livestock - Kenya](#)**

Main objective:

The aim of the Workshop was to exchange knowledge on recent advances achieved by different international and national institutions and organizations in order to:

1. Improve the productivity of goats raised in arid and semi-arid regions.
2. Share experiences, exchange ideas and highlight recent technical and economic approaches to enhance goat production.
3. Increase the cooperation among national, regional and international organizations.

Workshop program:

The Workshop lasted for four successive days (April 10-13, 2006) during which the following activities took place:

1. Distinguished scientists presented their country's report from fourteen countries; Egypt, Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen.
2. Six scientific and applied keynote lectures were presented by invited internationally renowned experts from (USA, Spain, Romania, Ethiopia, Canada and Turkey).
3. Scientists presented papers on their recent research work (thirty two short papers) on goats under the following themes:
 - a) Nutrition and feeding
 - b) Breeding and production systems
 - c) Physiology and reproduction
 - d) Small scale industries (milk, leather and fibers)

The workshop had 10 sessions covering the following themes:

- Three sessions for country reports.
- Two sessions for nutrition and feeding.
- Two sessions for physiology and reproduction.
- One session for breeding and production systems.
- Two sessions for small scale industries (milk, leather and fibers).

A comprehensive round table discussion on "**Goat production in relation to food security in the region**" was held to enhance opportunities for collaborative projects.

A field trip to Mariout Research Station (South of Alexandria, 180 Km North West of Cairo) was organized on the fourth day (13th April, 2006).

Participating Organizations:

- The FAO / RNE.
- The Desert Research Center (DRC).

Workshop Venue:

The Workshop was held in the Baron Hotel, Heliopolis, Cairo.

- [Maine Cheese Makers Carve Out Their Niche, USA](#)
- [Goat Processing Plant, Belize](#)
- [First Goat Kids With Human Genes, Belarus](#)
- [Prime Minister Urges More People To Rear Goats, Malaysia](#)
- [Census of Goat & Sheep Nears Completion, Jamaica](#)
- [Farmers Benefit From Goat Exchange Program, Nepal](#)
- [Goats Prefer Gourmet Over Garbage \(SRR related\)](#)
- [Commercialization of Goats Re-emphasized, Swaziland](#)
- [Human Stem Cells Go Into Goat Embryo, China](#)
- [EU Backs Medicine from GM Goat Milk](#)
- [GE Cotton Kills Sheep and Goats, India](#)
- [Training Program for Sheep and Goat Farmers, Jamaica](#)
- [Revolutionary Potential of Goat Herding, Nepal](#)

Upcoming Events

- [International Symposium, June 27-30, Constanta, Romania](#)
- [Sheep and Goat Workshops, July 26 & 27, TX, USA](#)

General recommendations and suggestions

As a result of the countries' reports and the papers presented, several suggestions and recommendations were proposed. The main points that were raised, and appeared to be of common interest to most participants, and the recommendations and suggestions to improve and enhance goat production in the region can be divided into 3 sections as follows:

I. Planning, communication, extension:

This could be achieved by:

1. Establishing a steering committee to communicate with participating countries and interested people and also to search for the means to achieve the recommendations and suggestions of the workshop.
2. Establish a regional network for goat producers, research centers and breeders associations.
3. Promoting extension activities to cover all aspects of goat production (breeding, husbandry practices, health care, range management and milk processing) in several languages.
4. Creation of a regional website on the internet or through active participation with the international goat association.
5. Encouraging governments of the participating countries and also other countries in the regions to participate and support projects in order to preserve local genetic resources of goat breeds and also improve their production.

II. Exchanges of ideas and expertise:

1. Developing the biotechnology of AI and embryo transfer.
2. Enhancing the capability of participating countries to produce and exchange the improved genes of bucks and does.
3. Planning and implementing regional joint projects on goats, covering the fields of advanced biotechnology, (DNA and AI and embryo transfer), breeding programs and health care.

III. On the national or sub-regional level:

1. Enhance the productive capacity of local or imported breeds by improving technologies for nutrition, husbandry practices and health care.
2. Identification of the local breeds with DNA technology in order to preserve their genetic diversity. This can be achieved via the establishment of a gene bank, (conservation of breeds, semen or embryos).
3. Determine the performance characteristics of the local breeds for milk, meat, hair and adaptability to local environment.
4. Developing human resources and in many cases the role of women in different production systems.
5. Identification of the causes of high mortality rates (up to 60%) in adults and particularly in kids (up to 5 months of age).
6. Enhance the systems for processing, classification and marketing of goat products (milk, meat, fiber and hides).
7. Carry out campaigns to combat *Brucella* and tuberculosis and other major diseases that threaten or negatively affect the production and

- [12th AAAP Animal Science Congress, Sept. 18-22, Korea](#)
- [Goat Production Congress, Oct. 19-21, Portugal](#)
- [Symposium & Workshop, Dec. 5-9, Cochabamba, Bolivia](#)

IGA's Global Partners

- [Heifer International](#)
- [University of Hawaii](#)
- [Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique \(INRA\)](#)
- [Central Institute for Research on Goats](#)
- [Vereniging Kwaliteitszorg Geitenhouderij Nederland \(VKGN\)](#)
- [Central Sheep & Wool Research Institute \(website not working\)](#)
- [FARM Africa](#)

IGA Information

- [Become a member or renew your IGA membership? Click here.](#)
- [IGA strategic plan: 2005 to 2010](#)
- [June 2006 Intl. Symposium Information, Romania](#)
- [Would you like to submit an article to Small Ruminant Research?](#)

promotion of goat products.

7. Propose the establishment of regional centers in selected regional areas that will specialize in goat production and participate actively in achieving the above objectives and recommendations.

[To comment on this article, click here.](#)

NEW! - Goatkeepers' Animal Health Care Manual

By Professor E.F. Donkin – IGA Board Member and Regional Director, South Africa

The Agricultural Research Council, specifically the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, in collaboration with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs, has published a comprehensive workbook: "The Goatkeepers' Animal Health Care Manual" (2006).

The Manual was funded by the Animal Health Programme of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) Project R8151, the Sustainable Rural Livelihoods Programme of the Agricultural Research Council, and the DFID Higher Education Link Project, managed by the British Council.

This Manual is intended for use by resource-poor goatkeepers living in South Africa. It is designed for on-farm use by farmers as a guide to maintain herd health, to detect early signs of ill-health, for immediate reference when the more common diseases or conditions occur in their stock, and also as a useful tool for extension workers as they interact and meet with farmers.

The text is clear, direct and practical, and there are many pictures illustrating each aspect. This Manual will be informative and helpful to anyone working with goats. It is an excellent publication, and will have application for many years to come. At this stage, there are only a limited number of copies available in English. It is planned also to publish the Manual in Zulu and Xhosa as well, but funds are limited.

Contents:

Section 1: Basic requirements and routine procedures

- How do I house my goat?
- How do I water and feed my goat?
- How do I transport my goat?
- How do I handle and restrain my goat?
- How old is my goat?
- How do I check the condition of my goat?
- How do I look after the feet of my goat?
- Why and how do I castrate a goat?
- What should be in the equipment box for goats?

Section 2: Is my goat healthy?

- Is my goat healthy?
- Why and when should I wear gloves?

Top 10 Article from February Newsletter

- [June 2006 International Symposium Information, Romania](#)
- [Recent Advances in Goat Production Under Arid Conditions Workshop, April 10-13, 2006, Egypt](#)
- [Elegant Jamunapari Goat Cross, India](#)
- [Goat Milk Revolution, United Kingdom](#)
- [Goat Handbook Announcement](#)
- [Meat Goats Grow in Popularity, USA](#)
- [Goats Thrive Despite Drought in New South Wales, Australia](#)
- [Goat Farming Project, South Africa](#)
- [News from the FAO-CIHEAM Network on Sheep and Goats](#)
- [Goat Farming Project with FARM Africa, Kenya](#)

- How do I take the temperature of a goat?
- *Post mortem* examination.

Section 3: Using medicines correctly

- How do I use medicines correctly?
- How do I treat a wound?
- How do I drench a goat?
- How do I treat for ticks?
- How do I give my goat injections?

Section 4: Common diseases and conditions

- Abortion
- Abscesses
- Foot abscesses
- Orf
- Mastitis
- Pneumonia
- Pulpy kidney
- Tetanus
- Bluetongue
- Heartwater
- Coccidiosis
- Roundworms
- Tapeworms
- Liver fluke
- Vaccination

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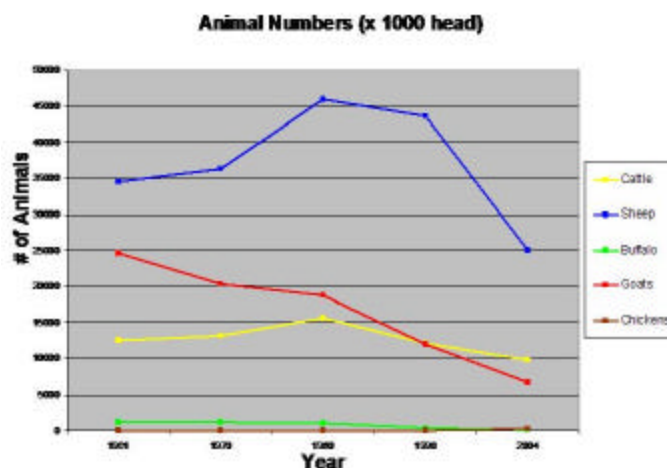
Goat Production in Turkey

By Dr. Nazan Darcan – IGA CR, Turkey

According to statistical data from FAO (2005), the number of goats in Turkey has decreased by almost 50%. Reasons for this decrease can be found in both socio-economical and political factors.

One effective obstacle to goat production was the banning of goat rearing in forested areas by the Turkish Agriculture and Rural Affairs. However, although it was prohibited many goat farmers continued to use these forests.

Migration of people from rural to urban areas also has had a negative effect on goat production. Goat farming is the most important animal production activity in mountainous areas of the Mediterranean region. People living in this area are very poor and have very few alternatives for their subsistence.



Animal Numbers (x 1000 head)	1961	1970	1980	1990	2004
Cattle	12435	13189	15567	12173	9800
Sheep	34463	36351	46026	43647	25000
Buffalo	1140	1178	1040	429	136
Goats	24632	20267	18775	11942	6700
Chickens	27	32	53	64	250

Milk and meat products derived from goats are very important for the people living in these marginal areas. Goats provide important supplies for home use and family self-sufficiency.

In the Aegean and Mediterranean regions of Turkey dairy goat production has soared during the last five years.

The number of dairy goats in Turkey is estimated at about 100,000 head, and dairy goat improvement is based primarily on Saanen goats. Some improved crossbred types have been produced by public farms and universities, and they have been distributed and are being used throughout Turkey. However, goat production has not been strongly supported by the government and this has caused economical and financial problems.

It is reported that pure and crossbred Saanens are well-adapted to the Aegean and Mediterranean parts of Turkey. In the Eastern Mediterranean region crossbreds of German Fawn that have been improved by Cukurova University have been distributed and raised by farmers in the high-plains.

[To comment on this article, click here.](#)

New IAEA Project Includes Small Ruminants

The International Atomic Energy Agency has just launched a project for 2005 through 2008 titled “Gene-based Technologies in Livestock Breeding: Characterization of Small Ruminant Genetic Resources in Asia” (D3.10.25) involving the participation of 8 countries in Asia.

According to an IAEA document, Information Concerning the Agency’s Co-ordinated Research Activities, “Small ruminants (sheep and goats) constitute an important livestock resource in most developing countries and are essential for the livelihood of millions of small farmers. Many studies have now shown that considerable genetic biodiversity exists in indigenous small ruminants in developing countries, much of which controls advantageous traits influencing adaptability to harsh environments, productivity or disease resistance. This Co-ordinated Research Project (CRP) aims to build capacity in developing countries in Asia to use modern molecular methods and bioinformatics to characterize and use the available genetic advantages in indigenous

livestock, enabling optimum management of this natural resource. It will develop methodologies, generate information and formulate decision support systems for defining phenotypic and molecular genetic diversity, using micro-satellite and related technologies, and enable the development and implementation of national and regional strategies for optimum use and conservation of small ruminants in Asia. A subsequent CRP will focus more specifically on genetic resistance of small ruminants to helminth parasites (gastro-intestinal worms). This trait, which is known to exist in many indigenous breeds, is likely to be an important resource for ensuring future sustainability of many production systems. Molecular genetic methods involving nuclear and related techniques have a clear application in this field.”

Special thanks to Dr. C. Devendra for bringing this project to IGA's attention.

[To read the full IAEA document, click here.](#)

· Goat Production, Cuba

By Dr. Norge Fonseca Fuentes, IGA CR – Cuba

Current goat production in Cuba has annual sustained growth higher than 15%.

600,000 heads from different races form the controlled goat herds, with approximately as many Creole as imported. Their main destination is for milk production that has increased by 15.6% with relationship to the previous five-year period. However, meat production levels are also significant with annual growth of 23.6%. In this species private breeders possess 86.9% of the total goat population, and the fundamental productive demands are directed to internal markets.

The program for goat development in Cuba is guided by the improvement and conservation of genetic resources, increasing the productive potential of the current herds, and having a breeding population level that meets the conditions required for export. At the moment several national programs are developing branches and territories that promote the formulation of projects for the development of goat livestock in the country. These programs are executing the following:

- Conservation and improvement of Creole goats,
- Production of milk goats with low inputs,
- Genetic improvement of goats for biotechnological methods.

[To comment on this article, click here.](#)

· Report from the 1st International Goat Conference in Leipzig, Germany

By Diedrich Steffens – Association of German Goat Breeders

The Federal Association of German Goat Breeders in cooperation with the Goat and Sheep Association of Saxony organized two conferences at the Biotechnology Centre in Leipzig, Germany from November 17 to 19, 2005.

The first international conference held on Thursday, November 17, 2005 was entitled “Challenges of German Goat Breeding – national and international.” Keynote lectures were presented by:

- Dr. Christian Gall (IGA Advisory Board Member), Hohenheim University on “Biodiversity – Use of Genetic Resources for Goat Breeding.”

- Professor Kurt Peters, Humboldt University on “The Role of Goats in Agriculture and Nutrition.”
- Dr. Regina Walter, Leipzig and Dr. Lutz Breuers, Justus Liebig University Giessen reported on “Landscape Conservation with Goats” presenting data from an international project of grassland management in Mongolia.
- Mwangi Warui, Kenya, showed results of upgrading local dairy goats with Colored German Improved goats.
- Peter Fischer, Germany, and Stefan Burckhardt, Switzerland, reported on projects with dairy goats in North-Korea.
- Dr. Hermann Schulte-Coerne from the German government reported on goat breeding in the European Union and Germany in particular.
- Professor Steffens, member of the committee of the Association of German Goat Breeders, concluded that Germany had an important genetic biodiversity of dairy and meat goats for improving local goat breeding.

The second conference, “Generating Agricultural Income with Goats” was organized by the Goat and Sheep Breeders’ Association of Saxony from November 18 to 19, 2005 and was chaired by Ulrike Hoefken, president and Dr. Stefan Voell, executive manager of the Association of German Goat Breeders. More than 15 papers from Poland, Latvia, Switzerland and Germany were presented, covering aspects such as goat breeding programs, goat health care and milk quality.

On Saturday, conference participants had the opportunity to visit dairy goat farms in Saxony. 100 people attended these first international goat meetings in Leipzig.

[To comment on this article, click here.](#)

• Goat Production Congress, Portugal

Dear colleagues,

The IGA country representative for Portugal in association with National Serrana Goat Breeders Association and Agrarian School of Instituto Politécnico de Bragança are organizing the Portuguese Goat Production Congress. The congress will take place in Bragança, Portugal from 19 to 21 October 2006.

The main subject areas to be covered include:

- Meat production,
- Milk production,
- Animal Breeding and Genetics,
- Nutrition,
- Biology of Goat Production Systems,
- Behavior,
- Welfare,
- Health.

Round tables, paper session presentations/discussions and technical visits to goat farmers will all provide exciting opportunities for breeders, students, professors and researchers to share information, meet colleagues and spend time in a friendly way, and benefit the future of Portuguese Goat Production.

We welcome you to Bragança, Portugal, October 2006.

Best wishes,

Alfredo Teixeira

For more information go to, <http://www.ipb.pt/~capra/>

Or contact: Alfredo Costa Teixeira, teixeira@ipb.pt

Or go to: <http://www.ipb.pt/~teixeira>

· **Goat Production, Slovenia**

By Dr. Drago Kompan – IGA CR, Slovenia

Professional activities related to small ruminants were in progress until the 1950s. Then they stopped until 1980, however in the last 10 years this field of work has been developing much more rapidly than other animal husbandry.

In Slovenia, the total number of goats in 2005 was 24,000. Production is mainly based in four breeds: Slovenian Saanen goat (2500), Slovenian Alpine goat (4500), Dreznica goat (600), Boer goat (2500). These numbers are showing just the number of pure breed animals per individual breed included in the herd book in year 2005.

According to the statistical data total production of goat milk in Slovenia is 2.111 tons. Unfortunately, there is no organised collection of milk and most of the milk is processed by breeders on the farm.

Approximately 90% of the milk is processed into hard, soft cheese and cream cheese. The majority of products are sold at home and therefore market opportunities still exist, as the Slovenian market has not yet become saturated with milk and meat of small ruminants. Professional services along with the breeders will in the future promote activities towards higher quality products so the products may gain better price. New testing and examining methods will also be introduced.

The recording and selection program of small ruminants in Slovenia is almost entirely funded by the government. Production of breeding stock is promoted by direct payments for each pure-bred breeding animal, and by subsidizing imports which are vital for refreshment of blood of some breeds and also for the experiments in cross-breeding. Breeders are increasingly joining breeders' organizations and those taking care of the progress and promotion of these activities. This will facilitate presentation and marketing of products which is not yet well organized due to the non-existence of an organized market.

[To comment on this article, click here.](#)

· **Goat Marketing Survey, Zimbabwe**

By Joseph Sikosana – IGA CR, Zimbabwe

The basic product from the goats marketed in Zimbabwe is meat. Farmers raise goats for meat, milk (for home consumption) and cash income.

The major constraint to goat production is the lack of an organized marketing system. The currently marketing system is mainly informal. Such a situation has resulted in gross profiteering on the parts of certain individuals, to the detriment of producers and consumers. In light of this a detailed market analysis needs to be carried out to create a better understanding of the present existing market systems.

A team of government agencies and NGOs, including; the Department of Agricultural Research and Extension (DAREX), Livestock Production and Development (DLPD), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Desert Margins Program (DMP) and Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) are undertaking a major survey jointly. The survey will cover major areas where smallholder farmers (women and men) raise goats for their livelihoods. It will also cover farmer households, traders, processors, retailers and consumers. A detailed report is scheduled for publication by August 2006 on one of the team's websites.

[To comment on this article, click here.](#)