

IGA Newsletter

Keep Informed—Stay in Touch—Get Involved

- Fostering the use of goats to provide for the needs of humankind.
- Encouraging research with and development of goats to increase their productivity and usefulness throughout the world.
- Perpetuating the International Conferences on Goats.



Message from the President

Pierre Morand-Fehr, IGA President

Given the start of a new year, let me begin by wishing all IGA members and their families happiness and health. I also wish you successful professional activities and a satisfactory relationship with IGA. As President of IGA, let me express my wishes for IGA's development in 2002 and in the next few years. During the year 2001 several important actions were implemented and developed:

- Implementation of campaigns for the increase of individual membership.
- Definition of a policy for institutional memberships involved in the goat sector.
- Application of a participatory management to the Board decisions.
- Adaptation of a statute to meet current needs of IGA.
- Nominations of country representatives (CRs).
- Implementation of projects such as inventory of goat institutions and goat products.
- Implementation of IGA websites in English, French, and Spanish.
- Re-organization of the Newsletter and its electronic dissemination.
- Initiation of the support and assistance to a regional conference held between the two international conferences on goats.

I must express my thanks to all who have devoted to IGA their work and personal time, particularly Beth Miller, Chris Lu, David

Editorial

Christopher Lu, Newsletter Editor

As IGA celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, it is an organization in transformation and transition. IGA was formed during the 3rd International Conference (ICG) on Goats held in Tucson, Arizona, USA, 1982. As some of you may still remember, that first International Conference on Goats was actually held thirty-eight

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Sherman, Adel About Naga, Rosalee Sinn, Jean-Paul Dubeuf, Roberto Rubino, Sahr Lebbie, Peter Holst, Norman Casey, and other Board members and the CRs.

Indeed in 2002, all actions or projects must continue to progress and become even more dynamic. But in 2002, the most important event will be the celebration of the 20th anniversary in Cairo that is being prepared by Adel About Naga and Rosalee Sinn with the help of E. Galal. You are all invited to participate in this celebration. This anniversary is aimed at developing IGA reputation and to affirm IGA members their bond with IGA objectives.

As President, I would like also to declare 2002 to be the Year of Information for IGA. We will initiate projects dedicated to the provision of service to each of our members and more generally to the goat sector around the world. In 2002, IGA will have to be very active in the

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IGA Institutional Membership Launched

Beth Miller, IGA Secretary-Treasurer

IGA now has membership category for Institutions, such as universities, development agencies, private firms, and other organizations that can benefit from IGA's global communication network and support our world-wide activities to promote goats. Institutional Membership is an exciting new initiative to increase IGA's economic viability, and to recognize the increasing variety of participants active in the goat world.

There are three levels of Institutional Membership, with increasing benefits for each level of support. Services provided by IGA to institutional members include:

Silver level: \$500 per calendar year

- IGA membership granted free to one nominated member of the institution, including subscription to Small Ruminant Research journal.
- Institution recognized as an IGA member in the IGA website and Journal, Small Ruminant Research, SRS, (including address, tel., fax, e-mail, and website).
- Institution will receive regular information on IGA (Newsletter, Brochure, etc...).


Gold level: \$1500 per calendar year

- IGA membership granted free to three nominated members of the institution.
- Three free copies of each current issue of Small Ruminant Research.
- Institution recognized as an IGA member in the IGA website and SRR (including address, tel., fax, e-mail, and website).
- Institution will receive regular information on IGA (Newsletter, Brochure, etc...).
- A full page of the IGA website will be dedicated to the institution including a 250-words message (not an advertising copy).
- Automatic link to the IGA website.
- Reduced registration fee for one member of the institution to the IGA quadrennial International Conference on Goats (ICG).
- One advertising page in the ICG Proceeding at a reduced price.
- A 50% discount on a display space at the ICG.


Platinum level: \$3,000 and above

- IGA membership granted free to six nominated members of the institution.
- Six free copies of each current issue of SRR.
- Institution recognized as an IGA member in the IGA website and SRR (including address, tel., fax, e-mail, and website).
- The institution will receive regular information on IGA (Newsletter, Brochure, etc...).
- A full page of IGA website dedicated to the institution, including a 250-word message.

There are three levels of Institutional Membership, with increasing benefits for each level of support .



*Application for
Institutional Membership*



VII International Conference on Goats
3-9 July 2004
Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA
contact: icgsa@icon.co.za or www.icgsa.co.za
or visit IGA: www.iga-goatworld.org

- Automatic link to the IGA website.
- Reduced registration fee for two members of the institution to the IGA quadrennial International Conference on Goats (ICG).
- One free advertising page in the ICG Proceeding.
- Free display space at the ICG.
- Institution mentioned as IGA supporter in all IGA publications.

A new application brochure, in full color, is available for potential institutional members. One brochure was mailed to all members with their dues reminder this year. Please request additional copies from the Secretariat.

Message from the President

(Continued from page 1)

preparation of Pretoria Conference so as to meet the requirements of all goat sectors around the world: scientists, veterinarians, development leaders, agricultural policy decisions makers, leaders of projects, and teachers.

I wish also that, in the future, the goat sector will progress and become more structured at the national as well as international levels. IGA can assist, in accordance with its material means, with the research and development projects in the goat sector. Moreover, IGA can also help the networking of researchers through the logistic support.

This may be an overloaded program for the coming year. However, the main difficulty encountered by

IGA is to find Board members, CRs, and even members available for these important tasks. Without people willing to get involved, the whole program proposed for 2002 will not be achieved. The President, Vice President for Membership and Newsletter, and the Secretary-Treasurer are overloaded with IGA activities. Accordingly, my most important wish for 2002 is that several of you participate more in our association. This work is based on the devotion and the willingness to serve a beloved goat sector. You will discover that it can be attractive and fruitful. If you could lend a helping hand, please do not hesitate to contact Beth Miller (Beth.Miller@heifer.org), Christopher Lu (chrislu@hawaii.edu), or myself (duspiwa@inapg.inra.fr).

Goat Production in Argentina: A Changing Industry

Enrique Martin Nogues, National University at Catamaero and Silvia Saad de Schoos, IGA Country Representative of Argentina

In 2001, the number of goats in Argentina reached an estimated number of 4.8 million. They are concentrated in four districts: 1) Northwestern, with a total of 2 million goats, the majority of them in the Province of Santiago del Estero; 2) Eastern, with 300,000 goats, mostly in the Provinces of Chaco and North of Santa Fe; 3) Cuyo (including Provinces of Mendoza, San Juan, and San Luis) and Cordoba, with almost 1.5 million goats; and 4) Southern, mainly in the Province of Neuquen, with one million goats. It is worthy to mention that in Neuquen Province, there are a great number of goats reared for mohair production. In Argentina, the number of goats has not changed much during the last decade. According to official data obtained from slaughterhouses, the number of goats slaughtered for meat during 1997 was 126,000 animals. These animals were slaughtered in the Provinces of Cordoba (52%), Santiago del Estero, San Luis (4%), and Mendoza (2%).

During the past 30 years, the number of kid-goats for slaughtering in Cordoba has decreased. The

principal slaughterhouses in this Province remain in Dean Funes (Department of Ischilin). The stores for goat leather goods made of goat skin are centered in this township. In the last seven years, a significant change was witnessed in the traditional way of goat rearing, with the less extensive and marginal goat farming. The import of dairy breeds (mainly Saanen and Toggenburg), meat breeds (like Boer), and dual-purpose breeds (like Anglo Nubian) increased. Importation was in the form of live animals and frozen semen, all from Australia and New Zealand, for its known sanitary isolation. Importing from the USA or Europe is banned due to potential viral diseases such as scrapie, bluetongue, and caprine arthritis encephalitis.

In December of 1997, the Ovine and Caprine National Commission (CONOCAL) was founded. Additional information can be found from this the web site of this organization at "www.vet.unicen.edu.ar/users/conocal" or from the web site of the Department of Agriculture, Farming, and Fishing at SAGYP at the address "siiap.sagyp.mecon.ar".

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Notes from the Secretary-Treasurer

Beth Miller, IGA secretary-Treasurer

Best wishes for a joyful and successful Year 2002 to all of the wonderful people of the International Goat Association. Here are just a few reminders to keep our organization running smoothly.

- Please remit your 2002 Membership Dues if you have not already done so. Funds must be re-

ceived by 28 February to ensure uninterrupted delivery of your journals and other IGA materials. Remember, IGA is made possible by your membership dues! Dues are payable in US dollars, by check, credit card, money order, direct

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2001 International Conference on Boer Goats

Peng Bin and Pu Jiabi, Heifer International China Office

The 2001 International Conference on Boer Goats was held in Guizhou, China, between the 21st and 24th of October, 2001. The Conference was initiated by Guizhou Boer Goat Company, Ltd., and Guizhou Provincial Agriculture Department and strongly supported by the China Office of the Heifer International (HI), International Goat Association (IGA), Society of Sheep and Goat Research (SSGR), and the Chinese Association of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine (CAAV).

It was the strong support from IGA that made the conference successful. In March of this year, Prof. Pu Jiabi, Director of HI/China office and Regional Director of Northeast Asia for IGA, submitted the proposal of this conference to IGA Board Meeting in Little Rock. The proposal was approved during the same meeting. From then on, HI/China and Guizhou Boer Goat Company continued their preparation for the conference. Prof. Pu Jiabi, as a Board Member of IGA, had several meetings with Guizhou Boer Goat Company and SSGR, and among HI/China staff. The feelings of those involved was that this conference is a great opportunity for promoting communication of academic research, production experience, and marketing information all around the world as well as advancing meat (Boer) goat industry in China. During these meetings, we discussed in detail what we needed to prepare for the conference, and three major parts of preparation were divided according to the strength of each organization. HI/China took over the responsibility of sending out announcement and organizing the editing committee for the proceedings. Guizhou Boer Goat Company was responsible for all logistics, including transportation.

HI/China sent out the first and second announcements of the conference in April and July of 2001, respectively. Ms. Liu Hua and Mr. Peng Bin made a great effort in handling the paper work. The Editing and Translation Committee for the Proceedings of the conference received a total of 47 papers (nine of which were rejected). The translation, examination, revision, and editing of all papers were completed in two months prior to the conference. Dr. Pu Jiabi, Mr. Chen Taiyong, Mr. Zhang Qisan, Mr. Peng Bin, Mr. Zhang Yong, Mr. Kang Wei, Dr. Terry Wollen, Dr. Deng Zegao, and Prof. Ding Guojun sacrificed a lot of their personal time to complete the proceedings.

The opening ceremony of the Conference was at 9:30 p.m. on Oct. 21. It was chaired by Prof.



Huang Yonghong (Vice President of SSGR and President of Organizing Committee of the conference). More than a hundred participants from the USA, Korea, Australia, and China attended the conference. Prof. Christopher D. Lu (Vice President of IGA, President of Organizing Committee for 2001 International Conference on Boer Goats, and Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resource at the State University of New York at Morrisville) made a presentation during the opening ceremony. He spoke highly of the goat industry development in China, emphasizing the importance of locally-breed goat resources. Prof. Lu also discussed IGA and its mission. He acknowledged the quality of the Proceedings and all other preparations for the conference. The participants appreciated Prof. Lu's broad knowledge of goat development over the world, including China, as was obvious from his detailed analysis. Dr. Xiong Wenzhong (Vice Director of Guizhou Provincial Department of Agriculture), Mr. Chen Zhengmin, (Deputy Mayor of Guizhou City Government), and Dr. Robert K. Pelant (Director of Asia/South Pacific of Heifer International) also spoke at the opening ceremony.

There was a total of 19 speakers in the plenary sessions on Oct. 21 and 22. Prof. Huang Yonghong, Dr. Robert K. Pelant, Prof. Pu Jiabi, and Prof. Zheng Zhongchao each presided over one of the subsequent plenary sessions. The first speaker, Prof. Christopher Lu, made an excellent presentation on the progress and perspective of Boer goat production. He elaborated on the breeding performance of Boer goats and the role it is been playing in crossbreeding, all around the world. His excellent presentation and immaculate illustrations

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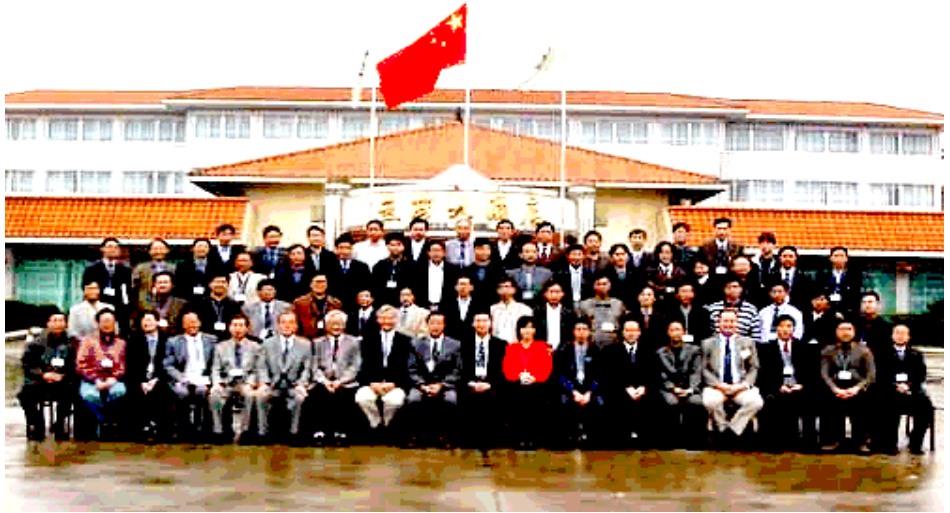
The first IGA sponsored regional conference was a great success.

2001 International Conference on Boer Goats

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were well received by the audience. Prof. Pu Jiabi, gave a presentation on the Improvement Effect of Crossbreeding Boer Goats and Sichuan Native Goats. He also introduced IGA and its membership system to the participants. He encouraged Chinese scholars and

experts to join IGA and to contribute to Small Ruminant Research. After the conference, ten participants joined the IGA family. In the plenary session, the exchange was mainly focused on the role that the Boer goat has been playing in meat goat development and related technologies as applied by the goat industry. After the plenary session, two sub-groups (focusing on basic theory and production application, respectively) discussed related issues. Contents included relationships between goats and environmental conservation, local breeds preservation, marketing management of Boer goats, importation of Boer goats, reproduction, and the extension of Boer goats among family farms. The following points emerged during the discussion: harmony between proper management of goats and environmental conservation; protecting the fine



native goat breeds; standardizing Boer goat marketing; the breakthrough in poverty alleviation and goat rearing; and the proper importation and reproduction of goats. In the afternoon of Oct. 23, all participants paid a field visit to Guizhou Boer Goat Co., Ltd.

During the closing ceremony (chaired by Prof. Christopher D. Lu), Prof. Zheng Zhongchao (Vice President of this conference) spoke highly of the value of this conference, especially at the beginning of the 21st century. In his final remarks, Prof. Lu announced the conclusion of this successful conference. Our hope is that this conference brought our participants, not only the beautiful scenery of Guizhou, but also the impetus for Boer goat development and exchange of ideas all around the world.

IGA's First Electronic Conference

Pierre Morand-Fehr, IGA President

IGA's First Electronic Conference was held between the 15th of November and the 7th of December 2001. It was the first time that the IGA Board organized an electronic conference (EC). Initially, only board members were asked to comment on major issues. Subsequently, country representatives were also asked to express their opinion on the main subjects of the conference's program. The President received a total of 98 electronic mails, some of these were forwarded to him only rather than the entire Board members. Twenty-one of the 24 Board members participated along with thirteen country representatives. The following are the main conclusions on the matters discussed during the conference:

IGA Organization

The IGA organization appear to satisfactory to those who participated in the electronic conference. With the increasing activities of CRs and the board, members of the Board are encouraged to take charge of well-defined aspects of IGA activities to alleviate the workload of certain officers. Board members and officers are also encouraged to address the concern of all regular members. IGA hopes to develop more activities without running into direct competition with existing activities of other organizations. These new activities will be considered when IGA members, Board members,

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A historical electronic conference drew wide participation.

IGA's First Electronic Conference

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CRs or others are willing to undertake the required responsibilities.

Membership

During the Budapest meeting, we passed the resolution to waive membership requirement for publishing articles in SRR. This waiver will be effective until the 8th ICG in Pretoria. At that time we will re-evaluate our position. We also decided in the Budapest Meeting that we will not accept the two tier membership system for developed and developing countries. We agreed that those who pay their membership due deserve membership privileges. In 2002, the membership of every CR in developing countries without SRR subscription will be encouraged to subscribe to SRR, so that the CRs can dispatch information through SRR to the interested parties in their countries. The concerned countries include Vietnam, Indonesia, China, Romania, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Egypt, Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda, and Pakistan.

Some new creative ideas regarding membership had been suggested during the electronic conference. These suggestions must now be explored. It has been suggested that many organizations may sponsor memberships of motivated individuals who may be willing to lead IGA activities. By the beginning of 2002, a large campaign will be initiated. This campaign aims at increasing institutional membership that may be of interest to the goat sector. Every Board member, CR, and IGA member will be involved in this campaign.

Country Representatives

Several Board members reached a consensus about the desired profile of a CR. A CR must be a senior person respected by his/her colleagues as well as authorities. Preferably, the individual must have some authority. He/she must have access to resources in his/her institution. He/she must also be able to undertake the tasks of sending and receiving e-mail messages, making phone calls, implementing a meeting, and mailing documents. He/she must be dynamic, involved in the work on small ruminants, and preferably be a researcher or leader in the development of the interface among various activities as well as be well known in the profession. A citizen of the country is preferred over an FAO person or any other member of an international organization. At last, it seems that the board renewal will be done among the CRs who will be successful in their IGA activities. During the electronic conference, two new CRs were nominated and approved: Sinai Landau of Israel and Jean-Marie Luginhuhl of the Eastern USA. Five other individu-

als were nominated pending the verification of credentials and references by the Vice President in charge of membership. They are Sandor Kukovics of Hungary, Najari of Tunisia, Kompan of Slovenia, Ahmed of Sudan, and Elaïch of Morocco.

IGA 20th Anniversary

The 20th Anniversary must not be a club meeting where old fellows are happy to remember their 20 year old memories. On the contrary, we got to present a modern and dynamic "image" of IGA so as the international or national organizations might become willing to co-operate with our association. For that, the SRR special issue must be of high quality and must be representative of the position of the IGA community. I request the round-table speakers to contact their IGA colleagues. For example, Pierre Morand-Fehr intends to ask the position of every board member, CR, and others for the topic on the strategy of developing goat farming in the 21st Century, so as to express a synthesis of IGA suggestions on this topic rather than the ideas of one specialist. The whole program proposed by Adel and Rosalee has been accepted with enthusiasm. We just have to add a one-day board meeting where the present CRs may be invited. George Haenlein and the others will be the invited editors for the SRR special issues.

Regional Conferences

IGA will implement a policy to develop and support regional conferences (RC) under the conditions defined in Little Rock. Moreover, we need few people to accept the responsibility of assisting in the organization of RC. IGA can support but not lead RC. In the future, we think that IGA must go further in supporting national and regional goat networks by linking them to existing networks. Indeed, the main factor limiting goat development in numerous countries is the lack of organization of the goat sector. IGA must interact with other organizations such as FAO, ILRI, ICARDA, and CIHEAM to reach out to these countries. IGA has decided to encourage and support RC between the two international conferences on goats. In 2001, IGA co-sponsored the Chinese Conference on Boer goats. One RC in Mexico (coordinator of this RC is Dr. Galina) has already been approved and will take place in September 2002. We are anticipating proposals for an RC to be held in 2003.

Information

IGA must develop original information that is useful and can be adopted by IGA members. During the electronic conference, Jean-Paul Dubeuf pre-

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Regional conferences will be sponsored by IGA to fill the gap between two international conferences on goats.

IGA's First Electronic Conference

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sented first ideas on implementing an IGA project on information in cooperation with CIRVAL. Comments from board members were positive, although there was emphasis on defining clear objectives. Consequently, we propose to prepare a complete program on this field that will be submitted for discussion during the next electronic conference. The international role of IGA must be confirmed by this information project. However, IGA

must not compete with other organizations working on information, particularly if they have commercial objectives.

Conclusion

The next electronic conference will take place at the end of April or the beginning of May, 2003. The three main topics will be IGA projects, the Pretoria Conference, and information development.

French Chapter Members Met in Niort

Gilbert Toussaint , IGA Country Representative of France

On the 22nd of November 2001, 14 out of 19 IGA French members met in Niort instead of Paris (Niort is the most important town in Poitou which is known as the most important region in the French goat sector). The objective of this first IGA France Meeting was to exchange information, contribute to IGA reputation, and reflect on the role of French members within the framework of IGA. We also opened the meeting to French goat sector VIPs who are not yet IGA members but would like to be informed of IGA objectives and activities. Gilbert Toussaint (French Country Representative) and Jean-Claude Sarrazin (Director of the Centre International Caprin) were responsible for the organization of the meeting.

At the start of the meeting, Dr. Pierre Morand-Fehr briefed the audience on the structure of IGA and the services provided to the membership. These include the Newsletter (now in electronic form), IGA website in three languages (English, French, Spanish), sponsorship of ICG every four years (the next one will be in Pretoria in 2004), co-sponsorship of the regional conferences (such as the Boer Goat Conference in China in 2001), special projects on inventory of goat farms and organi-

zations, and goat products around the world. He also provided information on HPI that has been supporting IGA for many years.

Gilbert Toussaint depicted the progress in IGA French membership. Starting from four members at the Tours Conference in 2004. The number of members reached 22 in November 2001. He hoped that France will win the distinct honor of being the top country in membership growth. He also suggested the publication of a French Chapter Newsletter in addition to the one published by IGA.

Then, all participants presented their international goat activities or their cooperations with foreign colleagues. There had been a lot of discussion about Centre International Caprin regarding its development projects abroad, with the help of research and development organizations and commercial firms in Poitou. The participants expressed their wishes to be active at the Pretoria Conference in 2004 (despite the long travel) as well as to cooperate with IGA for its projects and actions. Solidarity with all agents of the goat sector around the world was emphasized throughout the meeting.

Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Goats at Tours-Poitiers

The Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Goats at Tours-Poitiers held in 2000 are now available at a discounted rate. They include 32 invited papers and approximately 200 short papers on development policy, transgenesis, transfer of technology, relationships between North and South, nutrition, genetics, pathology, economics and social aspects, quality of milk and cheeses,

meats, fiber, and skin. Also, they include the papers presented in 12 sessions, 16 round-tables, and satellite symposia. The Proceedings are an important document showing the status of knowledge on the scientific, technical, and economical aspects of the goat sector in all parts of world. The discount price is 500 FF (76.22 Euros). To order, please contact Martine Duspiwa at duspiwa@inapg.inra.fr.

First chapter activity occurred in Niort, France, and France is positioned to win the top honor in membership growth.

The Proceedings of the 7th International Conference on Goats at Tours-Poitiers 2000 are available at a discount rate.

International Goat Association: Meet Your Officers and Board

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IGA Officers and Board Directors are to provide assistance and services to members.

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International Goat Association: Meet Your Officers and Board

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A symposium on
"Evolutions of sheep
and goat production
systems: future of
extensive systems and
changes in the
society" will be held in
Alghero .

FAO/CIHEAM Subnetwork on Sheep and Goat Production Systems

A symposium on "Evolutions of sheep and goat production systems: future of extensive systems and changes in the society" will be held in Alghero between the 3rd and 6th of April, 2002, followed by the ASFRE Symposium in Firenze (i.e., during the week of the 8th of April). The symposium is sponsored by FAO (REU, RNE), FEZ/EAAP, CI-

HEAM(IAMZ), Istituto Zootecnico Casenario per la Sardegna, INRA, Associazione Regionale Allevatori Sardegna, Agriculture Department (Regione Sardinia), ODARC (Corsican Region), ILOCC. Contact the Seminar Secretariat at CIRVAL, BP5, F-20250 Corte (Tel: 33 4 95 45 22 22, Fax: 33 4 95 45 22 20, and e-mail: cirval@cirval.asso.fr).

IGA Celebrating its 20th Anniversary in Cairo in September 2002

Adel Mahmoud Aboul Naga, IGA Past President

IGA was founded in the USA 20 years ago (in 1982). Board members agreed to celebrate this occasion through IGA's partnership with the EAAP meeting in Cairo to be held between the 1st and 4th of September, 2002. The celebration will be composed of a number of events, including the following:

- A joint reception with HPI where representatives of different international organizations cooperating with IGA and HPI will be invited to the reception.
- A joint reception with HPI where representatives of different international organizations cooperating with IGA and HPI will be invited. Also, institutions involved in IGA projects or activities will be invited together with representatives of the Egyptian organizers.
- A roundtable on the "Contribution of the goat to the human livelihood" (coordinators: Aboul-Naga and Gabina).
- A technical session with the following topics:
 - * Keynote address (Warren Foote).
 - * Goats in old civilizations (Hatziminaoglu and El Saed).
 - * Goats in the animal industry (Rubino and

Dubeuf).

- * Goats under household conditions (Lebbie).
- * Goat in harsh conditions (L. Inigues).
- * Networks for goats (Morand-Fehr and Lebbie).
- * Goat and human nutrition (Haenlein).
- * Strategy for the development of goat farming in the 21st century (Morand-Fehr and IGA members).
- The issuing of a "Strategy for the Development of Goat Farming in the 21st Century" to include articles from the roundtable and other invited papers on the topic.
- Special booths will be arranged by Beth Miller and Rosalee Sinn to recognize the occasion.

Every member of the IGA is invited to participate in this event. Please send your proposal to Adel M. Aboul-Naga. Let us all recognize two decades of success of our association and work actively for more successful decades to come.

Editorial

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years ago in London, the United Kingdom, followed by the 2nd ICG in the Paris, France. Since the 3rd conference, ICGs were held in Brasilia, Brazil; New Delhi, India; Beijing, China; and Tours, France. The 8th ICG is to be held in Pretoria, South Africa in 2004. Prior to the Beijing Conference, ICG was held every five years (thereafter, ICGs are being held every four years). One may say the seed for IGA was actually planted thirty-eight years ago. These international gatherings have become the focal point of IGA activities. Producers, teachers, researchers, businessman, veterinarians, social workers, and government employees all over the world come together and discuss issues of mutual concern and share the new information. However, IGA has been a relatively small organization with less than 100 regular members until Beijing Conference. It is a daunting task to maintain an international organization with such a small number of members.

The establishment of a diversified membership

structure and holding regional conferences between ICGs are recent and significant developments in moving IGA to become a truly global organization. Country representatives and regional directors have been appointed to facilitate regional interactions among members. This has contributed to some increase in membership activity from certain regions and countries. Most important of all, it provides an avenue in forming country and local chapters and promoting regional cooperation. IGA has the first chance to co-sponsor a regional conference in Anshun, China in October 2001. It was an important step for IGA to actively assist and support regional activities. This year, a regional conference will be held in Mexico. Again, IGA will be a co-sponsor of the conference. One of the major impacts of these regional conferences is to fill the gap between two ICGs, a long four years. In the future we should consider having ICG every two years. This is a timely response to an increase in research and business activities of the goat sector around the world.

Representatives of different international organizations cooperating with IGA and HPI will be invited to the reception.

IGA Co-sponsors an International Symposium on Goat Production to be Held in Mexico in September 2002

Miguel Angel Galina, Regional IGA Director for Central and South America

IGA sponsored conference will be held in September 2002 in Mexico.

A regional conference (co-sponsored by IGA and Facultad de Estudios Superiores Cuautitlán of National Autonomous University of Mexico) has been scheduled between the 30th of September and the 2nd of October, 2002, at Unión Regional Ganadera de Querétaro, Cerro del Cimatiario, Querétaro, Mexico. The topics will include Goat Production; Raw Milk Cheese Production; Boer Goat Production; Nutritional Management; Reproductive Management; Goat Diseases; and Recent advancement in Goat Research. International guest speakers include Pierre Morand-Fehr, Christopher Lu, George Haenlein, David Sherman, Roberto Rubino, Jean Claude Le Jaouen, Milagros Milera, and Arabel Elias. Mexican national speakers include Augusto Juárez Lozano, Miguel Angel Galina Hidalgo, Javier

Valencia Mendez, Hector Pelaez, Guillermo Rios, Carlos Peraza Castro, Ricardo Flores Castro, and Alfredo Cuellar. Contributing papers and posters are accepted. Papers for oral and poster presentations with a maximum of five pages should be received by August 15, 2002. The cost for attending the Conference in \$US100 for professionals, \$US50 for students, and \$US150 for goat farmers and the general public. For more information, please contact Dr. Miguel Galina (tel: 01 55 56231830, e-mail: miguelgalina@correo.unam.mx), Unión Regional Ganadera de Querétaro, Facultad de Estudios Superiores Cuautitlán UNAM, Carretera Cuautitlán Teoloyucan Rancho Almaraz San Sebastián Xhala Estado de México, CP 54720.

Notes from the Secretary-Treasurer

(Continued from page 3)

transfer, or UN Coupons. As of 2002, we can also accept checks in Euros.

- It is critical that you return your Constitution Voting Ballot as soon as possible. The deadline was extended until 31 March 2002 to receive all ballots, since some members received their ballots later than expected. We must have 51% of the paid members voting for the vote to be valid. There were 227 ballots mailed out, and each one counts! We need your support to have the new IGA Officers elected before the next ICG to ensure a smooth transition.

- There have been more delays than usual this year in the postal service. I apologize for the inconvenience. For those of you with email, please use electronic communication, whenever possible, to avoid further delays. Notify us when your email address changes so that we can maintain communication.

Please contact the Secretariat to request additional membership brochures, answer questions, resolve journal difficulties, and make suggestions. We are here to serve you.

IGA Board Met in Budapest, Hungary

Beth Miller, IGA Secretary-Treasurer

Pierre Morand-Fehr, Jean-Paul Dubeuf, Norman Casey, Juan Capote, Jean Boyazoglu, Ken Plaxton (Elsevier), Rafal Laski, E. Galal, Cesare Mosconi and Beth Miller attended the Board of Directors Meeting held in conjunction with EAAP Meeting on the 27th of August, 2001. Major actions taken include:

- The proposal on Institutional Membership was approved.
- The proposal on IGA's 20th Anniversary Celebration in Cairo, Egypt (in September 2002), was approved.
- The revised constitution was examined and a general vote is needed. The document was sent

by mail to all paid members in September 2001. A written ballot was mailed 90 days later. Fifty-one percent positive vote is required to make the new constitution legal and binding. The RDs and CRs are requested to encourage members to return their ballots.

- The Board considered the possibility of waiving the requirement for membership in the IGA as a pre-requisite to publishing in SRR (other strategies to generate revenue ought to be explored).
- An Electronic Conference was scheduled for November, 2001.
- The Board will meet next in Pretoria, South Africa, in July 2002.



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News and Events

The VII International Conference on Goats will be held in Pretoria, South Africa, between the 3rd and 9th of July, 2004. For more information, please visit the IGA's web site at www.iga-goatworld.org or the Conference's web site at www.icgsa.co.za. You may also send an e-mail to the following address: icgsa@icon.co.za.

Practical Goats: A Discussion Group for Producers (in English) can be accessed at the following url: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/practical-goats/message/1169>.

The upcoming newsletter will include the status of goat industry and news from Vietnam, Cyprus, Canada, and South Africa.

Spanish and French versions of the IGA website are now available at the following address: www.iga-goatworld.org.

To contribute to the articles and news and events of the IGA Newsletter, please contact:

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Editor.**