

# 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.



### Editorial

by P. Morand-Fehr, President of IGA

The year 2004 is coming soon, a year very important for IGA due to the 8th International Conference on Goats (8 ICG SA) in Pretoria and to the election of a new Board with new ideas and new objectives.

In 2003, the Board's work has been focused on the follow up of projects undertaken since 2000 so as to reinforce IGA's structures and to demonstrate IGA's dynamism for acting efficiently for the development of goat farming.

During the current year, several issues have arisen that we are pursuing: the devotion shown by IGA members, IGA's meetings, which have more and more participants, in some countries, peoples involved in the goat sector are more aware of the interest of IGA's actions (ex : in France, the membership has increased from 4 to 36 between 2000 and 2003), the improvement of the Website, projects such as Goat Products, the good rank of SRR, etc....

membership has increased from 4 to 36 between 2000 and 2003), the improvement of the Website, projects such as Goat Products, the good rank of SRR, etc...

For several other actions, there is still quite a bit of heavy work to accomplish (membership, starting projects such as Goat Information, Goat on line...) to allow the presentation of a positive balance for 2000-2004 in Pretoria. IGA relies on all Board members, Country Representatives and the IGA members to strengthen their efforts during the 7 coming months before Pretoria Conference. At Pretoria, we shall be able to assess the efficiency of all these actions undertaken so as to start from South Africa with new perspectives.

Please be prepared because IGA will need and request your help.

Pierre Morand-Fehr

President of IGA

(e-mail : morand@inapg.inra.fr)

### From the Secretariat:

As we enter into 2004, it is vital that each IGA member realize the importance of their participation in increasing IGA membership and participating in other IGA activities. Please encourage your friends, colleagues, and institutions to support IGA. Only with your help and support, IGA will achieve its important goals.

Please contact your Country Representative, Regional Director, or our office at [goats@heifer.org](mailto:goats@heifer.org) with any questions or ideas you might have to increase membership. Through teamwork, we will succeed.

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## News From IGA: Conclusions from August Board Meeting, Rome Italy

**The Website:** For further details, please visit the website at [www.icgsa.co.za](http://www.icgsa.co.za) or the secretary, Ms Carina Visser at [icgsa@postino.up.ac.za](mailto:icgsa@postino.up.ac.za) (Telephone : + 27 12 420 6029)

An on-line registration facility is available on the website. We draw your attention that the registration fees will be more expensive after the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2004.

**Goat webpage:** We would also encourage you to visit the goat webpage set up by Amelia Breytenbach of the Library at the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University of Pretoria:

[www.up.ac.za/asservices/ais/vet/goatweb.html](http://www.up.ac.za/asservices/ais/vet/goatweb.html)

**Small Ruminant Network:** Prof Ned Donkin coordinates the South Africa Small Ruminant Network (SA-SRNET). Find out how to be part of this Network, by visiting the goat web page, or contact him at : [ndonkin@op.up.ac.za](mailto:ndonkin@op.up.ac.za)

The IGA Board met in Rome on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003 in the conjunction with the annual meeting of the European Association of Animal Production. After the Electronic conference of IGA Board held in February-March 2003, it was the last meeting of the Board before the next International Conference on Goats (Pretoria, 4-9 July 2004). Fifteen participants (9 Board officers, 6 country representatives) attended this meeting.

Among numerous subjects discussed, two have been highlighted. First, the last adjustments have been brought on the organisation of this Conference further to the explained by Norman Casey. There was also significant time devoted to discussion of the election of the members of the ingoing Board in 2004 which will be appointed in Pretoria. Please find hereafter the latest information and the main conclusions on these two subjects.

The other points discussed during this Board meeting (SRR, Goat Projects on line, Website, 9<sup>th</sup> ICG, Projects, Regional Conference) and particularly the decisions taken concerning each of these subjects are summarized in the following short notes.

### ***Information on the 8 ICG***

African Development Community (SADC) countries.

- In recent years we have become more aware of South Africa's unique place in the world as the number-one producer of mohair from Angora goats.
- In addition South Africa now has a brisk trade with many countries that are keen to buy our Boergoats, which are acknowledged to be the best meat goats in the world. Boergoats are exported as live animals, as semen or as embryos.
- Milk goats are a small but growing sector in South Africa, supplying goat milk for people who are allergic to cow milk, and providing an array of delicious cheeses.
- Goats also have a major role to play in developing communities in Africa, as a significant source of protein, as well as being important for traditional ceremonies. The South Africa indigenous goats (Nguni, Pedi, etc...) are renowned for their hardiness and disease resistance.
- The potential for production of high quality leather from goats is only now being developed in South Africa, as a by-product and a means of adding value to the income from the millions of goats slaughtered each year. There is great potential to us goat leather products in the expanding tourist industry.

The **objectives** of the Eighth International Conference on Goats are: to review scientific achievements that promote improved goat production and utilization; to disseminate scientific information; to develop human capacity; to initiate new trains of thought.

**Short papers** for inclusion in the Conference must be submitted before the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2004, so that they can go through the review process. We need as many peoples as possible to participate in this event, as it will be a highly significant channel of communication to tell the world what we are doing.

## News From IGA Continued..Election of Board

Consequently, the Board has taken the following decisions :

The Board asks Cindy Walla to organise this voting during the first term 2004. The counting of the votes will have to take place between March 15 and April 15 with the attendance of 2 Board members non secretary of the Board.

All the members having paid their 2003 or 2004 membership fees at the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004 are entitled to vote.

As it is necessary to keep possibilities to nominate one or two directors during the 4 years following the Pretoria Conference, it has been decided to elect 16 Board members (the Past President being already nominated, plus 6 officers and 10 directors).

### Election of the incoming Board

According to the IGA statutes, every four years, IGA elects its governing body (7 officers and a maximum of 12 directors). The new board elected can also nominate Emeritus Board members from among the members of the outgoing board who can be responsible for specific tasks or projects.

The outgoing Board has the responsibility of finding very motivated and efficient officers and directors. Moreover a voting of the organisation members will facilitate the transfer of responsibilities from the outgoing to the ingoing Board. It is obvious that every IGA member who commits himself to be member of the next Board will have a precise task to achieve and will have to present it to the Board. The different tasks to be achieved by the Board members have already been listed.

The IGA statutes indicate that the vote regarding the nomination of the directors must be organized by the Secretary-Treasurer on the proposal of the outgoing Board of directors. It must take place within the last year before the upcoming ICG and be finalised 3 months before the Conference.

### News from SRR

#### Report on Small Ruminant Research

#### **Publication schedule 2003-2004**

2003: volumes 47-50 (4 volumes, 12 issues) were announced, and these will all be published on schedule. Volume 50 has a gold cover with black lettering, and the third issue of this volume will contain the Cumulative Author and Keyword indexes for volumes 26-50.

2004: volumes 51-55 announced (5 volumes, 15 issues) have been announced: this represents a 1 volume expansion over 2003. This expansion is based on the high manuscript inflow which already exists. The first issue of 2004 will contain an Editorial from George Haenlein, describing the history of the journal.

#### **Submitted manuscripts**

309 manuscripts were submitted to the Editorial Office in 2002, and we estimate that we will have received about the same amount by the end of 2003.

## News from IGA Continued...Report from SRR

The majority of manuscripts submitted are concerned with sheep and goats (95% in 2002), but the occasional manuscript on alpaca, llama, reindeer and vicuna is submitted.

Most submitted manuscripts are in the areas of nutrition (30% in 2002) and physiology (26%). The other areas of health (17%), genetics (13%) and production (15%) also, however, attract many submissions.

The majority of papers were submitted from Africa (21%), North America (17%), Middle East (17%), Western Europe (16%), and Asia (12%).

About 70% of papers submitted to the journal are accepted for publication.

### Impact Factor

In the 2002 Journal Citation Report for the Agriculture, Dairy and Animal Science category, *Small Ruminant Research* was listed in 21<sup>st</sup> position with an impact factor of 0.566.

This is a huge improvement over the placing at 28<sup>th</sup> with an impact factor of 0.396 in the 2001 listing, and at 30<sup>th</sup> with an impact factor of 0.369 in the 2000 listing.

### Editorial Board

The Editorial Board was reviewed earlier this year, and now has 39 members. 16 new Board Members have joined the Editorial Board, and 6 individuals retired. 22 Board Members have extended their term until the end of 2004.

### Special Issues

Special Issues that have recently been published are:

**Ashley Robinson and David Sherman** – Sheep and Goat Diseases and Productivity: Selected papers from the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Sheep and Goat Diseases and Productivity; volume 45, issue 2, 2002

**Pierre Morand-Fehr, Hichem Ben Salem and Timothy T. Treacher**, Advanced research on the nutrition of sheep and goats, with special reference to

pasture and rangeland use; volume 49, issue 3, 2003

### Special Issues in the pipeline are:

**George Haenlein and David Sherman** – IGA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Issue; in production, will be issue 51/2

**Tilahun Sahlun and Arthur Goetsch** – Nutritional Requirements of Goats

Please send any suggestions for special issues, and or review topics, to Lisa Colledge l.colledge@elsevier.com.

### Usage

Over 70 members of the IGA currently subscribe to *Small Ruminant Research* at the special member rate available.

Over 20,000 full-text articles were downloaded from Elsevier's electronic database ScienceDirect in 2002, and in 2003 we anticipate that the figure will exceed 40,000.

### Electronic developments

Elsevier hopes to be able to offer electronic submission to *Small Ruminant Research* authors early in 2004.

Authors can now submit supplementary material to support the main body of their paper, if they wish. This supplementary material, known as 'multi-media components', will be included with the electronic version of their article, but not in the paper journal. This material includes, for example, supplementary datasets, interactive movies, audio fragments, and software. Details on how to submit these data are available by visiting the journal's home page at [www.elsevier.com/locate/smallrumres](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/smallrumres), and clicking on the left-hand side link to the Author Gateway.

Any colour figures will now be reproduced in colour, free-of-charge, in the electronic version of a paper. This is regardless of whether these figures are reproduced in colour or black and white in the paper journal: there remains a charge for colour printing in the paper journal.

## News from IGA Continued...Report from SRR

Every paper published in Small Ruminant Research, since volume 1 issue 1, will be available in the [BackFiles](#) package towards the end of 2003.

Lisa Colledge L.Colledge@elsevier.com Publishing Editor of SRR

### Special Issue of Small Ruminant research

**(Vo. 43, N° 3, September 2003)**

Issue on the last advanced researches on sheep and goats Nutrition, particularly the utilization of pastures and rangelands.

This issue concretises an FAO-CIHEAM researches on sheep and goats network and includes an information on applied researches difficult to find elsewhere on the taste and preferences for goat's feed, on the digestive utilization and on the effects of the tannins, on the utilization of feed blocks, on the effects on sub-nutrition, and on the energetic requirements of goats, especially in pasture.

This interesting document may be purchased at 25 € (including post cost) by sending a check to : Toussaint Gilbert Cpte Assoc IGA and sending your order to our secretariat : Mrs Duspiwa, UMR 791, INRA/INAPG, INAPG, 16, Rue Claude Bernard, 75005 Paris, France.

Pierre Morand-Fehr e-mail: morand@inapg.inra.fr  
President of IGA

### **Goat Producers On-Line**

A new IGA project is being implemented. Further to numerous contacts, it has been decided a project aimed at meeting the needs of information of officers responsible to the development in goat sector, and particularly leaders of projects of development. The objective is to publish reviews on important subjects of interest for the development such as milking machine, improvement of the milk safety, selection in arid environment, organization of farmers, techniques of reproduction, etc... This information must reach the end-users and be of good quality.

This magazine will be accessible only on line on the IGA Website and supported by two institutions : IGA and CIRVAL. An Editorial Committee will be constituted. The papers will be published in English. The papers will be 15 pages length maximum. The first year (2004), the limit will be of 10 papers maximum published. The name of the magazine is Goat Production on line (GPL).

The Board approves this project which is considered by numerous IGA members as essential and meeting a true need for development of goat sector.

### **IGA Website**

Since August 2003, the IGA website has been updated and really improved. This is in part due to the implementation of a new process.:

Noel Mace is in charge of all information and texts published on the website. Accordingly all IGA Board Members and IGA Members must send to him the texts to put on line. This is Noel Mace who decides and who sends to Jean-Paul Dubeuf the contents to include in the different pages of the website. Noel can request advice from Cindy Walla and Pierre Morand-Fehr if he needs their point of view.

The website will be updated each two months. Veronique Lepidi from Cirval will handle with this work.

### **IGA Project on goat products:**

We remind the readers of the objective of this project : to pool the information on various goat products produced and processed all around the world so as to improve the knowledge and the awareness of their diversity.

Roberto Rubino is the Board Member in charge of this project and has appointed Lucia Sepe as manager of this project.

Each product is described on a form : name, description and characteristics with photos, area of production with a map, techniques of process,

## News from IGA Continued...Goat Products

networks of commercialisation, ways of consumption, annual production...

The aim of the leaders of the project is to publish a first issue of the inventory of goat products all around the world for the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Goats at Pretoria (4-9 July 2004).

The project is well progressing. Roberto and Lucia have already received 80 forms concerning one goat product each. They expect to be in a position to publish 150 forms for the first issue.

Some countries are well represented and their products will benefit of their display in this Inventory supported by IGA. On the contrary, some other countries do present none products. This is regrettable for them and for IGA.

There is still time to contact Lucia if you wish products from your country to be presented in this inventory. The filling in of the form, even if it is an accurate work, does not take to much time. Send an e-mail to Lucia ([segreteria.bella@isz.it](mailto:segreteria.bella@isz.it)) so as to propose to fill in forms on goat products that you know.

### 9<sup>th</sup> ICG

The 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Goats will take place in 2008. The discussion and the decision on the place where it will be held will be taken by the ingoing Board during its first meeting in Pretoria.

Five candidatures have been proposed and presented at the Board during the Rome meeting but they have not yet been discussed in Roma :

- Romania (Costenta) presented by Stela Zamfirescu
- Argentina (for South America) presented by Juan Capote
- Italy (Region of Basilicata) presented by Roberto Rubino
- Mexico, information at Rome from M. A. Galina
- Australia, information sent to P. Morand-Fehr by Peter Holst

The candidates must prepare a full file in accordance with IGA's recommendations to be elaborated for Pretoria presentation.

## Goat News From Other Institutions

### From FAO concerning Middle-East :

Through a Technical Cooperation Program, FAO is assisting Kuwait to establish a Sheep and Goat Training Center. FAO contracted Dr. Salah Galal, an IGA member and IGA Regional Representative for the Middle East and Dr. Farouk Eldessouky as consultants to the project. Through this project an extensive training packet has been produced aimed at producers. The pack has a manual in a hard copy, supported by CD, video and poster as training aids is in six modules : animal health, breeding, feeding and nutrition, husbandry, reproduction and artificial insemination. Each of the six modules can be stand alone or integrated into one complete course. Accompanying the manual is a pamphlet to aid the trainer. The training pack is written in Arabic. Salah Galal ([sgalal@tedata.net.eg](mailto:sgalal@tedata.net.eg))  
R.D. for Middle East

### From FAO and ELSEVIER :

I am very pleased to inform the IGA members that Elsevier has recently signed an agreement with the United

Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), that will allow students, researchers and academics in developing countries to access a wealth of agriculture, food and environment research literature. Elsevier has offered 185 journals, including Small Ruminant Research, to the Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) project, a groundbreaking initiative that will give developing countries free and discounted online access to these journals. The project is an initiative of the Food and Agricultural Organisation, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation, Cornell's Mann Agriculture Library, the Rockefeller Foundation, an major scientific publishers including Elsevier. A central portal will provide access to the publishers' Internet platforms. AGORA follows on from TEEAL – The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library – in which we also participate.

For further details please see the attached press release.  
<http://www.elsevier.com/homepage/newhpgnews/production/agora/links/link1.htm>

Lisa Colledge e-mail : [L.Colledge@elsevier.nl](mailto:L.Colledge@elsevier.nl)  
*Publishing editor of SRR*

## Other Institutions Continued...Heifer Nepal

### Heifer International Nepal

A goat in developing countries like Nepal is often the preferred livestock for poor people. A small animal, easily cared for by women and children, goats provide milk, meat, draft power, fertilizer and fiber. In Nepal the goat is a source of a better life for people in need. Goats in Nepal are prized mostly for meat and have turned meager resources into life giving enterprises.

Goats are cheaper to buy than cattle, and occupy less rearing space than cattle or even smaller livestock like poultry. Goats can utilize a wide variety of forages and do not need specially formulated feed. They also can eat kitchen leftovers to fulfill their dietary requirements.

In addition, their relatively short reproduction cycle make goats attractive to small scale farmers. Goats five to seven months of age are ready for first mating. Kids are born every eight months and twins and triplets are common. Provided all kids born are female and all survive, one female goat will multiply to give fifteen goats in two years. Male goats are sold at the age of about eighteen months, when they yield at least twenty kilograms of meat. Male goats are also sold just after weaning (at the age of four months) with the price of 800- 1000 NPR (about \$136 USD).

Considered a delicacy, goat meat fetches a very good price in Nepal. As compared to NPR 80 (1 USD) per kg of buffalo meat, NPR130 per kg of chicken and NPR 140 per kg of pork, goat meat is the most expensive, priced at NPR 250 per kg. The market demand for male goats soars during the Hindu festival Dashain, when their sacrifice to goddess Kali forms an important part of the worship. Beside Dashain festival, Hindus sacrifice goats at other times with the belief that this practice will fulfill their wishes. 38,584 metric tons of goat meat is produced annually in the country, second to 127,495 metric tons of beef. It is followed by the production of 35,000 metric tons of fish, 15,594 metric tons of pork and 14,399 metric tons of poultry.

Heifer works in areas where people express genuine need, and assists them with their requested form

of livestock, along with required training. That goats are easy to raise and occupy an important part of the meat market makes them preferable to other forms of livestock. This is reflected in the fact that eighteen of the twenty three projects carried out in Nepal involve goats. It is also important that most of the members of these groups are women. Since December 2002, the 3857 goats given through Heifer have helped 2114 Nepali families.

Goat projects have been highly successful and stories from the field are very encouraging.

There is a long story of struggle, determination and perseverance behind Ganga's Devi Khanal's amazing success. Despite being dissuaded by her husband and family, she never gave up. Ganga's husband, who originally was against his wife's efforts had even dragged her away from group meetings.

She had very little knowledge of animal management and agriculture. Neither could she read and write nor speak in front of others. Ganga, a very young mother didn't even know how to nurse her babies well. She had hardly heard about nutritious food and well-being. Meat and eggs in a meal were only an occasional luxury. Sanitation was very poor; there was no toilet in their home. Their mud thatched hut and the animal sheds were very unclean and ill-kept. She had to live with insufficiency, agony and anguish. It was very frustrating but she continuously looked for ways to come out of this painful life.

In 2000, when she met the women group members of Heifer Nepal project in Gitanagar and learned about their development activities, she was inspired to form a group. Women Coordination Committee (WGCC), a local NGO working with HPI Nepal, helped her to establish a group named "Nari Uthan Women Group" consisting of 20 Tharu and Brahmin women in August 2000. She became the president of the group and worked for it. They started group saving initially with NPR 20 per month and later increased to NPR 50. With the fear of rejection from the family she kept quiet and did not let her family member know about the group activities for initial two months.

In 2001 Ganga Devi Khanal received two goats along

## Other Institutions Continued...Heifer Nepal

with training on Heifer cornerstones, group management and livestock and fodder management in 2001. A new hope for a prosperous life was kindled, which gave her strength to work harder.

She earned NPR 35,000.00 (About 400 USD) from the goats. Part of this income was used to improve her family's living conditions, to provide enough nutritious food and to pay for her children's education. With NPR 14000.00, Ganga bought a buffalo, which gives 6 liters of milk a day. She earns NPR 14 per liter from the sale of excess milk. Use of manure compost has increased the fertility of her fields and increased the yield of crops and vegetables.

At present, Ganga has a buffalo, a cow and five goats. She has also been able to construct a concrete house, a toilet and an improved shed for animals.

Ganga first passed on two goats. Later, the dignity of being a donor encouraged her to pass one more. Ganga Devi Khanal was proudly sharing her success stories with Heifer Nepal team. Suddenly her eyes filled with tears and her voice choked, when she saw her husband serving tea to the guests. Wiping her tears with one hand she remarked "It is so satisfying to see him helping out and supporting me in everything I do." With beaming eyes, Ganga remarks, "All the pride, wealth and respect I have earned today are Heifer's contribution. I vow to do my part by helping as many people as I can."

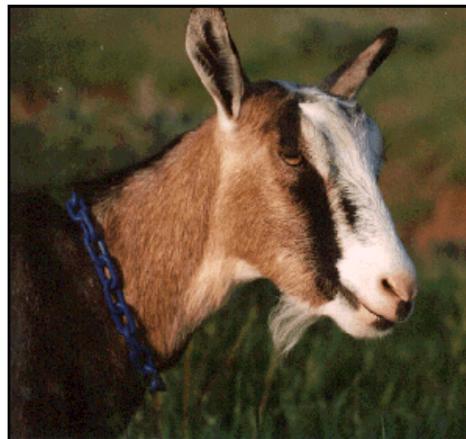
Mukhani Chaudary, faced with the responsibility of feeding seven children and looking after a sick husband, also received a gift of two goats in 1999. Her hard work thereafter has helped her overcome their poverty. After passing on two goats and selling off three, she has nine goats in her pen and a milking buffalo. Manure from her buffalo and goats have increased the crop yield from her small piece of land substantially.

At present she enjoys sending all of her seven children to school. She is able to provide her husband good health care. Her annual income is now NPR 25000 (330 USD), while the per capita income of an average Nepali is 210 USD.

Bir Maya Tamang of Sunkhani VDC, Nuwakot presently enjoys her life with 8 goats, 40 flocks of chickens and income from ginger farming. Her dream of sending her children to school has come true. Ms. Tamang recalls her days of hardship and thanks Heifer Nepal for assisting her with the timely gift of two goats. She is now the president of her women's group 'Jagriti Satkanya Mahila Samuha' (The Awareness Group) and continues inspiring other women in need to join the chain of sharing and ever growing love. Twenty women participate in this group. "The goats have transformed my life", Ms. Tamang says

Having started its first project by providing 25 resource poor women of Gitanagar with 25 does, along with twin kids and a breeding buck, Heifer Nepal continues to use goats to reach out to people in need. Through goats, Heifer Nepal has been successful in improving the lives of countless families.

These small goats are doing wonders for women and their families in Nepal. They have regained their self-esteem and share more openly with their husbands. Their families are stronger, their children can go to school, and the entire community benefits.



## Goat Activities in Different Countries

### News from Brazil :



The Universidad Federal Rural de Pernambuco organizes in April 2004 an International Symposium on genetic resources conservation of local breeds in semi-arid zones. The IGA Board has decided to bring its support by adopting this Symposium as a Regional Conference for IGA. The preliminary scientific programme is the following :

#### Tuesday:

Evening: Opening: Presentation of "CYTED XII-H Network and Actions in Latin America" CYTED Network Juan Vicente Delgado Bermejo (Espanha)

#### Wednesday:

Morning: Panel I - Genetic Resources Conservation in Semiarid Regions

Presentations:

- 1) Goat and Sheep resources and their potential  
Arthur da Silva Mariante- Cenargen (Brazil)
  - 2) Improvement and Conservation of Sheep and Goat Genotypes in the Semiarid Region  
Maria Esperanza Camacho Valejo (Espanha)
- Genetic Diversity Maintenance in Improvement Programs  
Luiz Telo da Gama (Portugal)

Afternoon: Panel II – Production Systems Panel  
Production Systems of Sheep and Goat in the semiarid region

Clóvis Guimarães (Brazil)

- 2) Social Impact of local breeds in family production system based on the experience of Chiapas-Mexico.

Raul Peresgrovas (México)

#### Thursday:

Morning: Panel III –Food and Nutrition of Genetic Resources

Presentations:

- 1) Goat and Sheep Nutritional Aspects in the Semiarid Region Ângela Maria Vieira Batista (Brazil)
- 2) Goat and Sheep Feeding Strategies in the Semiarid Region Adriana Guim (Brazil)

Afternoon: Poster Session

#### Friday:

Morning: Panel IV – Reproductive Performance of Local Genetic Resources

Presentation:

- 1) Sheep and Goat Reproductive Aspects in the Semiarid Region
- 2) Sheep and Goat Reproduction Management Strategies in the semiarid region

Afternoon: panel V – Products Quality (meat, milk and skin)

Meat: Roberto Germano Costa

Milk:

Skin:

Evening: Closing ceremony with participating officials and confraternization dinner (to be signed in)

**For more information, please contact Mrs Maria Norma Ribeiro, Country Representative for Brazil  
e-mail :mn.ribeiro@uol.com.br**



## Goat Activities Continued....Romania/Oman

*From Romania : ANCC  
Caprirom-Romania*



### Latest activities by National Association of Romanian Goats Breeders-CAPRIROM during July-October 2003

After the National Conference held in late May, the board of the Association organized many important activities which were aimed at increasing the number of members in Caprirom and IGA, formation for a better understanding of the preferences of consumers towards using many types of goat products and improving the goat breed in some areas of the country.

As a result, after the Conference, the number of Caprirom members increased from 91 to 150 and the number of IGA members increased from 5 to 7, with hopes that by the end of the year it will come up to 10.

Another very important activity was organizing a public tasting of different goat milk cheese on 1-3 august 2003. The event was carried on in a partnership with Heifer France, Heifer Project Romania and Sepcada

International Commercial Society of Constanta. The tasting took place in the central market and in two supermarkets in Constanta and was visited by over 250 consumers. This test highlighted that French unsalted cheese and natural cheese with little salt (feta cheese) are preferred.

Caprirom Association displayed materials, vision and objectives of activity of National Goat Association and International Goat Association in a series of community events like "The Autumn Fair" in Constanta, on October 4, 2003 and the International Symposium "Prospects for the Agriculture of the 3-rd Millenium" which was held in Cluj on October 9-10, 2003.

Members of Caprirom Association have asked Caprirom specialists to artificial inseminate their goats with frozen or refrigerated semen from Saanen and local bucks. During this season, Caprirom specialists artificial inseminated over 400 goats. The main objective of future activities is continuous developing of goat branch in Romania.

Prof.dr.Stela Zamfirescu e-mail : stela1948@xnet.ro  
President of CAPRIROM  
Country Representative for Romania

**From Sultanate of Oman :**



### Research and development

A research project is investigating the effects of Vitamin B and Cobalt deficiency in goats in Oman. The department of Animal & Veterinary Sciences, College of Agricultural & Marine Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University, is in charge of this research project.

### Thesis:

Abduljalail Said Juma Al-Zadjali (2001)

"Serum Vitamin B12 levels in Omani goats"

MSc thesis, Department of Animal & Veterinary Sciences, College of Agricultural & Marine Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University.

Abdulmajeed Homoud Habib Al-Rawahi (2003)

"The application of a blocking-ELISA for a serological study of contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCCP) in three regions of Oman".

MSc thesis, Department of Animal & Veterinary Sciences, College of Agricultural & Marine Sciences, Sultan Qaboos University.

The ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Oman had a scheme of goat units. The ministry gave farmers 10 females and one male goat, built a modern pen for them besides providing a modern irrigation system to grow Rhodesgrass as fodder. The project included 719 units in the early nineties and came to a halt in 1996. The remains of the units are still found all over the country and farmers are using them for rearing goats in modern way.

## Goat Activities Continued...Oman/China

Sultan Qaboos University is the first and most important university in the country. In the Department of Animal & Veterinary Sciences, College of Agricultural & Marine Sciences, many courses are taught on

production and health of goats including:

- a. Sheep and Goat Production (HUSB 4007)
- B. Animal Health (AMED3001)

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Country Representative for Sultanate of Oman

*From China :*



### Successful Closing of China National Academic Exchange Conference on Goat/Sheep in 2003

This conference was held from September 7 to 9 in Laixi county of Qingdao, Eastern China. Sponsored by the So-



ciety of Sheep and Goat Research of China and supported by Qingdao Boer Prosperous Meat-Packing Co. Ltd, the conference gathered over 600 participants from agriculture universities, research institutes, farms, business corporations, etc all over China.

During the meeting, except for academic exchanges, the main topic of this conference, goat/sheep expo, breed Boer goat auction, field exposure are included. The items of exchange include orientation of production, hybrid vigor prediction, goat/sheep meat production, selection and breeding of Boer goat, reproduction (Embryo Transfer) and genetics, disease prevention, importation and local genetic preservation, development model, etc. Dorper, crossbreed between Dorper and Small Tail Han Sheep,

Boer and Merino are showed in the expo. Three fine breed Boer bucks were in the auction. In the field visit, all participants paid visits to Qingdao Boer Prosperous Meat-Packing Co. Ltd, a Boer donor farm and a recipients farm (local Laoshan Milk goat).

At the conference, the notice that China Goat/Sheep Forum will be held in Beijing, Capital of China, from October 24 to 26 was announced.

Prof. Pu Jiabi, Board Director China

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## Goat Activities Continued...Italy/France

### From Italy : Breeds and cheese quality



The Nicastrese goat from Calabria region, in the far South of Italy has been officially included in the herd registry for local caprine populations.

In the North of Italy the Regional Breeders Association of Lombardy has promoted a label to distinguish goat cheese manufactured by small farms. This the first example of quality labels for goat cheese in Italy. Goat farmers seem more interested in promoting small scale quality than adopting biological methods of animal farming in spite of an increasing popularity of biological products including milk and cheese.

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Country Representative for Italy



### From France : Membership



The IGA Membership in France moved from 4 members in 2000 to 36 members at the end of 2003. Probably, this improvement in France is due to the active coordination of IGA French group of members by Gilbert Toussaint. He organizes each year a meeting of IGA French members aimed at discussing of current concern subjects in the goat sector. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2003 at 17:00 at INAPG (Paris) and will be followed by a friendly dinner.

### A document on Role of the Goats inside the French society during 20<sup>th</sup> century

*Societe d'Ethnozootechnie 2003, 156 pp.*

You probably know that a one day workshop on this topic was held on December 12th 2002 at Mignaloux (district of Vienne) by the Societe d'Ethnozootechnie and the Chambre Regionale d'Agriculture of the region Poitou-Charentes. The report pooling the full texts of communications presented during this workshop has just been published. It includes 11 papers and the round-table dedicated to : Which conclusions may we draw from the ethnozootechnical history of the goat to discuss current concern problems of this farming ?

This document can be purchased at :  
Technipel  
Maison Nationale de l'Elevage  
149, rue de Bercy  
75595 Paris cedex 12  
e-mail : [technipel@inst-elevage.asso.fr](mailto:technipel@inst-elevage.asso.fr)

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Country Representative for France

## Situation of the Goat Sector in Different Countries

### Goat Farming in Bolivia :



#### Present situation

The estimated goat population in Bolivia is 1.5 million of which almost all animals are Criollos. The Criollo breed is known for its hardiness and adaptation to seasonal feed and water shortage. Its products in order of importance to the smallholder farmers are manure, milk, meat, offal and hides. Other uses of goats are important, too, as for example a form of insurance, banking reserve and means of paying social obligations. Most of the goats are kept in the interandean valleys in mixed flocks with sheep. The majority of goat holders are subsistence oriented and less than half of the milk and meat produced enters the market.

#### Problems

Especially in regions where the keeping of cows is limited, goats are the main producers of milk for the smallholder family. As malnutrition is still widespread in

Bolivia's rural population and especially in children, an increase in production is essential. Goats can play a major role in enhancing food security in the poorest section of the population which are precisely those who keep goats. However, higher production by means of increasing goat numbers is not feasible because of ecological risks. It is therefore necessary to increase productivity of goats considering the conditions of the farming systems.

The Criollo goats in Bolivia exhibit high variation in



phenotype and production traits. Selection would probably be a feasible way of improving productivity but there is very little information available on actual performance levels. Before deciding on breeding plans it is necessary to document the existing types of Criollo goats in the different regions of the country and to understand the constraints and opportunities of the production systems.

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Country representative for Bolivia

## Goat Sector Continued...Tunisia

### *Goat production in southern Tunisia :*



### History and herd roles

As everywhere in difficult regions of the earth, the goat had justified its presence and utility in the arid area of Tunisia. Since centuries, pastoral goat breeding allowed the valorization of the pastures resources under the harsh conditions of an arid Mediterranean climate. Under these natural severe conditions, rather than producing, animals must be rustic and adapted to tolerate the climatic stresses as well as the forage and water resources scarcity. Such particular role can be only played by the goat which assures a compromise between rusticity, animal products diversity, low breeding cost as well as the management facility. That's why, for a long time ago, the traditionally breeding goat represented, for the human society of this area, the main economic activity which provide the majority of its demands for livestock products, such as milk, meat, hair, skins, .... This pastoral goat breeding allowed the installation and the continuity of a human life in the arid areas in absence of other practicable economic activities.

Based on the perpetual mobility of the men and the herds, the pastoral goat breeding provides and adaptation to the irregular climatic conditions allowing the sustainable valorization of the rare and sparse forage resources. Furthermore, the long practice of this extensive breeding was only possible thanks to the local know-how; such traditional herd management technique was developed by local pastor's generations under arid conditions and it was been slowly adapted to the thin resources and the animal population characteristics. This traditional technique package holds account of the degradation risks of a fragile environment threatened

by desertification. In spite of its appearance, this breeding mode was never static and its evolution was mainly marked by the arid conditions, the management type, the animal performances, the increase in livestock products demand, the evolution of the nutritional resources and also, the impulse of the socioeconomic transformations affecting deeply the region.

### Goats number in the south of Tunisia

The national goat herd of Tunisia is estimated approximately at 1.5 million heads in reproduction of which more than half are kept in the south of the country (figure1). The concentration of the goats in the southern region is mainly due to the adaptation character of this species to the harsh conditions of extensive production. Indeed, goat breeding remains one of the rare activities able to valorize the wide

Figure 1. Geographical distribution of goat (in %) in Tunisia.

communal rangelands. The last drought reduced considerably the number of the various livestock species of the pastoral area; but the decrease was felt for goat with respect to sheep number decreasing.

### Goat meat production in the Tunisian arid area

The main product of the goat pastoral breeding remains the young aged kid's meat. Rather than meat, goat's milk and other animal products contribute to satisfy the society specific demands. The kid's production contributes to meet the meat requirements in the southern Tunisian cities. Kids are weaned only at their separation from herds in summer. These kids are

## Goat Sector Continued...Tunisia

consumed, without fattening period in intensive out rangelands, and their meat is more preferred as compared to that of lamb during the hot season. In the arid region, the goat contribution to the meat production is considerable and exceeds that of the other species. For example, in the district of Tataouine, approximately the  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the consumed meat is produced by the local goat herd.

### Goat breeding systems in the Tunisian arid region

The decline of the nomadism, as an impact of the technical, economic and social evolution, led to a diversification of management modes according to the production system of each zone. The derivation of the nomadism, with respect to the resources and the conditions of each herd, justify the appearance of various new breeding systems. Currently, we find several modes of goat breeding which go from the intensive, in the oases irrigated areas, until the extensive one observed on the arid rangelands of Dhahar and El Ouara. Between these "extremes", various degrees of management intensification, in coherence with the natural, financial, technical and human resources of each herd, can be met.

The main goat breeding systems in the southern Tunisia are:

- Pastoral system: this extensive breeding mode is practiced on the large rangeland of the Dhahar, El Ouara and the desert valley of Kebili. The herds, with big sizes, are transhumant in the communal rangelands areas. The low productive costs, the mobility and the great herd size may lead to a positive cash flow when natural conditions are favorable.
- Sedentary system: around villages and cities of the south, goat herds browse and valorize the vacant areas uncultivated by cereals and especially olive groves. Indeed, the privatization of the communal lands was massively followed by the expansion of olives plantation and the rain barley crop. These practices occupied important areas but they contribute considerably to the livestock feeding. This production mode can be considered opportunist and it modifies the herd composition and management according to the annual conditions and the resources of the two other breeding systems. In this system, the herd kept by the family vacant members, contributes to their

income by the sale of the kids.

- Oasian system: for a long time, southern Tunisia is well known by its oases zones where the crops are centered on the irrigation of reduced areas. In this system, the goat breeding is semi intensive. In this management mode, rather than kids, small herds have to product milk to meet the family needs. The herds are reduced to some heads mainly fed on the crops residues. In spite of its secondary role, this goat production mode reveals an importance at the level of the family economy.

### Type of goat management

All the current goat management modes practiced in the south, can be considered as a derivation of the old pastoral one with technical changes and simplifications imposed by the decrease of the rangelands areas, the herds sedentarization and the disappearance of qualified herd keepers. These changes lead to a progressive animal's complementation by concentrate and with olive by-products. Concerning pastoral management, witch remains the technical base of the sector; it is centered on the massive use of the communal lands and the perpetual mobility of herds to provide animal needs under arid and irregular natural conditions. The herd's mobility is reduced only in summer when the majority of the livestock concentrates around watering points. During this season, the risks of degradation become more considerable.

The herds are composed of sheep and goat with an abundance of the latter in the more difficult areas such the desert rangelands. In this management mode, the realization of a cash flow and the minimization of the land degradation risks, need a particular technical quality of the shepherds.

### Current problems of the goat breeding in the southern Tunisia.

The sedentarization of the population added to the installation of new cultural and economic tendencies had radically modified the goat breeding modes. The direct repercussions are mainly expressed by the decrease of rangelands, human resources both in quality and quantity and also, the regression of the .

## Goat Sector Continued...Tunisia

herd role with respect to new concurrent economic activities. The livestock does not represent any more one destiny of the population imposed by the natural conditions but rather, a choice which is justified only by its contribution to the family income and the resources valorization.

The main goat production problems can be summarized as follows:

- Regression of the herd role: surely, the goat breeding does not play any more the same old role, as the main activity of the family, only in very low cases. Other administrative and economic activities become more practiced in the region. The concurrence of these new activities on lands, manpower and resources, represents currently a serious problem for the herds pastoral management.
- Reduction of rangelands: the privatization of the communal rangelands, which represented the principal area for herds, limits seriously the range resources. Besides, the privatized lands were mainly planted with olive trees and stop the transhumance by the obstruction of the corridors between the rangelands distinct parts.
- Disappearance of the qualified shepherds: the current generation of the pastors illustrates an ageing not rewarded by new herders recruitment. The life conditions of the shepherds, their degraded social status as well as the absence of the appropriate technical reference limit the orientation of young people towards this practice. The disappearance of the qualified pastors prevents also the optimization of herd's management to realize an animal production while preserving the environment.
- Herd's sedentarization: with less rangelands and qualified shepherders, the transhumance practice becomes allowed only of a few numbers of herds.

Although the transformations known by the society, led to regress the role of the traditional pastoral breeding, the presence of the goat in the livestock production remains remarkable. This activity continues to attract investments, because it remains the main biological practice able to valorize the large rangeland area. In addition, the specialization of the goat, as the animal of choice in grazing the arid

regions, was confirmed and consolidated by the hard last dry period.

With respect to this current situation, the valorization of the goat capacities and the improvement of its profitability would help to regain the importance of this breeding and the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector. In the objective to characterize local goat population and to improve its rentability, the "Institut des Régions Arides de Médenine" is actually executing two scientific projects. The first one aims at improving goat milk production in oases by crossing local goat with exotic breeds. The second project acts



to establish the morphologic and productive characteristics of the local goat under natural range conditions of breeding.

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Country Representative for Tunisia

## Goat Sector Continued...Oman

Goat farming in the Sultanate of Oman :



### Different types of goats :

There are three main goat breeds in the country, Batina, Dhofari and Jebel Akhdar. There are some less important subtypes including the Desert goat.

### Evolution of goat farming :

Goat keeping is very traditional in Oman and it goes to long back history as documented on rock drawings and archaeology findings. Generally there are 5 goat production mostly traditional, systems including:

#### -Nomadic

Goats are owned by Bedouins who roam the desert looking for pasture. They transport water for their flocks in trucks. This is mainly found in the central, west and south of Oman. They have mixed flocks with few sheep and some camels.

#### -Transhumant

The owners move along specific routes to certain sites according to a seasonal pattern. They have large flocks (up to few hundreds) and have specific tribal territories.

#### -Village flocks

Many villagers in most of Oman own goats which they keep in pens by the houses for home meat and milk production. They let the flocks to go for grazing within a short to medium distance from the village and bring them back at midday. At home they feed them some supplementary feeds including dates, alfalfa, house leftovers, dried sardines, etc...

#### -Hill rearing

This system is mainly found in two areas, Jebel Akhdar (green mountains) in the interior and the mountains of Dhofar (in the south of the country). Flocks here of larger sizes and owners are professional full time goat keepers.

#### -Small farms

Few farms irrigated with well or Falajs (stream of channelled underground water) are used to grow fodder to feed goats as a side

### Heads :

According to the last animal census in 1993, there were about 850,000 goats in Oman. The latest estimation in 2002 indicated that there are 1,018,200 goats as well as 319,800 cattle, 117,800 camels and 361,200 sheep.

### Goat products :

Goats are mainly kept for meat in Oman where their meat is highly valued over other animal species meat. It is not unusual for a fully-grown buck to fetch a price of R.O. 150,000 (USD 400) during high demand season, i.e., at religious festival times. Goat milk is consumed by many locals especially the Bedouins and in the southern part of the country.

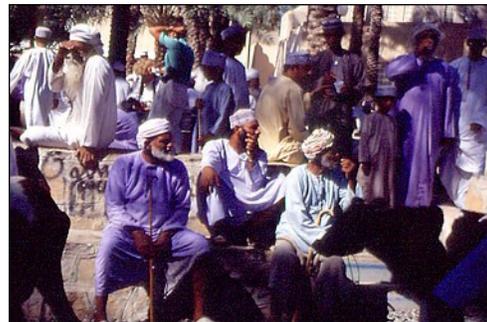
### Goat market :

Goats are marketed according to a specialized local system called "Munadah" which is basically some sort of auction. There are well known markets for livestock marketing in Nizwa, Sinaw, Muscat, etc. Goats are transported to these markets in open trucks. A specialized person will be leading goats around a circle and calling the bidding. A clerk will be taking all detail in a logbook.

Osman Mahgoub Gaafar

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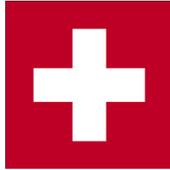
Country Representative for Sultanate of Oman



NIZWA GOAT MARKET

## Goat Sector Continued...Switzerland

### *Goat breeding in Switzerland :*



Goat keeping plays role in Swiss agriculture. Since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the total goat livestock has decreased continuously. Today, there are approx. 7,000 goat keepers in Switzerland with a total livestock of 63,000 animals, mainly kept in the mountain area. Only very few farmers earn their living with goat keeping as main activity. In the past few years, goat keeping has gained significance in Swiss agriculture, especially in the mountain regions. It plays an important role as niche production. Goat breeding is very interesting for farmers with small herd sizes and cow milk contingents because there is no contingent on goat milk. From May to September or October, traditionally, a part of the goat livestock is kept on mountain pastures. A herdsman takes care of the animals. In the evening he drives them into the stable for milking and processes the milk into cheese.

As the market for goat milk is quite good at present and goat cheese is getting more and more popular, goat livestock increased significantly and goat cheese production is ten times as high as it was ten years ago. A lot of farmers produce their own goat cheese and sell it on their farm or on the market. Goat meat production plays a minor role. Approx. 40,000 animals are slaughtered every year. Only in the Italian part of Switzerland, during Easter time, there is a high demand for goat meat from six to eight week old animals. However, as the price is attractive only during one week, breeding is exclusively focused on Easter time.



In Switzerland, there are 10 different goat breeds, which are specified in the herdbook. The herdbook contains approx. 26,000 animals. The majority of them are Saanen Goats, Chamoisée Goats and Toggenburger Goats. The Appenzeller Goat, the Grison Striped Goat, the Peacock Goat, the Nera Verzasca Goat, the Valais Black Neck Goat and the Booted Goat are protected and supported within the scope of a project for endangered breeds. Since 2002, the Boer Goat is also in the herdbook as the only not original Swiss goat breed. According to breed variety, production site and keeping conditions, there is a specific breeding objective for each of them. In milk production, breeding should not focus on top values, but reach a reasonable production level. In Switzerland, we do not feed a lot of

concentrates. Nevertheless, Swiss goats have an excellent milk productivity. The highest milk productivity is recorded for Saanen Goat, followed by the Chamoisée and the Toggenburger Goat.

Every year, approx. 300 to 400 animals are exported. There is a great demand for Swiss goats because of the high sanitary standard, especially thanks to the eradication of CAE (caprine arthritis encephalitis)-disease. The eradication of this disease began in 1984

with the setting up of a workgroup. At the beginning, the eradication was voluntary. In 1991, the Swiss Goat Health Service was founded and organized CAE-eradication on a national level in cooperation with the Swiss Confederation and the cantons. Since 1998, the participation in the eradication program is compulsory for all goat keepers. In the eighties, about 80 percents of the Swiss goat livestock was CAE-positive. Today, the incidence is 0.3 percent.

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IGA Swiss Member

## Goat Sector Continued...Slovenia

### Goat sector in Slovenia :



Slovenia is a distinctively Central European country, located at an important crossing between the Alps and the Balkan region, and between the Danubian basin and the Mediterranean Sea.

Slovenia covers a total of 20,273 km<sup>2</sup>. According to official statistical data, forest and woodlands cover as much as 57 % of the surface, and agricultural lands only 38 % (utilized agricultural area is 25.5 %).

Slovenian territory is at the hub of four major European landscape units: the Alps, the Pannonian plain, the Dinaric Alps, and the Mediterranean Sea. In this small area one can experience various types of landscape and climate. Within a distance of 50 km, there are the sea, the limestone regions of karst and the alpine highlands. Slovenia lies at the meeting point of the Mediterranean and continental climate of Central Europe.



**Slovenian Slaane**



**Slovenian Boer**



**Slovenian Alpine**

## Goat Sector Continued...Slovenia

Goats can be found on some 5 % of farms, and are almost predominantly characterized by low input production systems

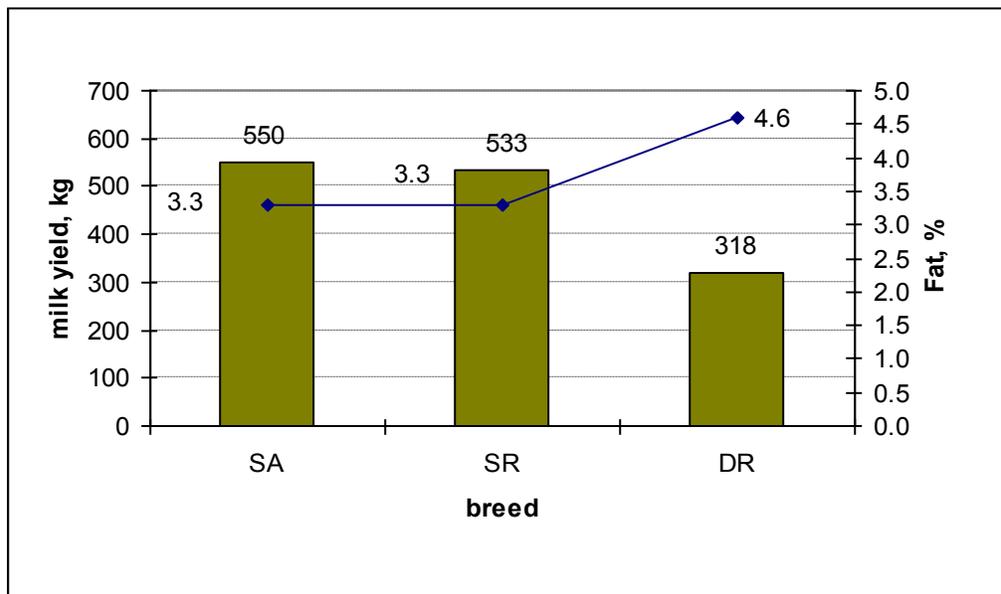
Professional activities related to goat production were in progress until the 50s of the last century. They then stopped until 1990. In the last 10 years this branch has been developing much more rapidly than other animal husbandry branches. Production remains sustainable to an even greater degree than before. Goat production is also increasingly gaining importance as the "shapers" of the cultivated landscape

in areas with unfavourable farming conditions (together with sheep production). This is production on meadows and pastures and on lands that are overgrown with shrubs or forest. A system of controlled grazing is employed on such lands. There are also a few examples of transhumance (seasonal migration of flocks to highland pastures). Maintenance of highland pastures is

being promoted by governmental assistance, such as construction of fences, cheese dairies, sheds, tracks etc. In 1981, there were 5,000 head of goat, and in 2002 there were 25,000.

Future growth will involve the number of flocks as well as the number of animals per flock. Market opportunities still exist, since the Slovenian market has not yet become saturated with goat milk and meat. Extension services, together with breeders, will in the future promote activities towards a higher quality of slaughter animals. New testing and evaluating methods will also be introduced. Milk is processed primarily at home and is sold directly to visitors (rural tourism) and small specialized shops. Quality standards will also be improved here so that products can get a better price.

The number of animals can grow to 100,000. This is currently the area overgrown by shrubs and trees. The recording and selection program of goat in Slovenia is almost entirely funded by the Government. Production of breeding stock is promoted by direct payments for each pure-bred breeding animal, by subsidizing acquisition of tested and other breeding goat, and by subsidizing imports which are vital for refreshing the bloodline of some breeds and also for experiments in cross-breeding. Breeders are increasingly joining breeders' organizations, which are taking care of progress and promotion of these activities. This will



**milk yield and milk composition on year 2002**

facilitate presentation and marketing of products, which is not yet well organized due to the non-existence of an organized market.

The Slovene Saanen dairy goat (SA) and Slovene alpine dairy (SR) goat are used for milk production. The dreznica-bovec goat (DR) is native endangered breed in small number of animals (280). Since 1998 is in use the boer goat for meat production for economic crossing of goat meat production. It is about 800 does and 30 bucks. In milk and other recording scheme is included about 15 % of animal.

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Country representative for Slovenia

## Goat Sector Continued...Portugal

### Goat situation and research projects in Portugal



#### Portugal Goat Information

In 2000 the goat population of Portugal was 623 000 heads, 162 000 less than in 1997 (785 000 heads) 188 000 less than 1995, confirming a downward trend since 1992 (862 000 heads). The dominant region is the Alentejo (South) followed by Beira (Centre East) and Trás-os-Montes (North East) regions.

There are 5 goat breeds: Algarvia in Algarve Region, Serpentina in Alentejo Region, Charnequeira Centre and Alentejo, Serrana in the North and Centre and Bravia in the North. The most important local breed is the Serrana and is the only goat breed not endangered. All breeds have a National Breed Association with their own herd -book. In spite of the small quantity of animals recorded on Goat Herd Books, only 7,8 % of the total population, we suppose that are a greatest number of goat farmers not registered in the breed associations.

The average flock size is smaller in the North Center than in the South of Portugal. Family farms are predominant in the North. Most of the flocks are very heterogeneous and it is very common find different genotypes in the same flock, animals from crosses between local and some animals from exotic breeds as well Murciana Granadina, Sannen and Alpina. A large proportion of goat flocks are kept on transhumance and extensive systems with natural meadows, forest meadows and stubble fields. Goats are one of the most domestic animals well adapted to the nature and harsh climate of the interior of Portugal. This is one of the reasons why kid meat and goat cheese could be known as nature products.

All breeds are milk and meat producers with the exception of Bravia that is only breeding to produce meat. In Portugal there are: one Protected Designation of Origin (Cabrito Transmontano) for meat goat and 3 Protected Geographical Indication (Cabrito das Terras Altas do Minho, Cabrito do Barroso, Cabrito da Beira) and one (PDO) for goat cheese (Queijo de cabra Transmontano). The young kids, 4 to 8 weeks old, from milk-goat herds are the preferred by consumers. The kids are cooked according to a classical cuisine in which the traditional method is grill or roast the whole carcass, with no more than 7-10 kg. The traditional consumption peaks are Easter and Christmas. Consumption tends to be mainly of light carcasses, fresh, rose colour, tender and without fat. Some goats are milked and the cheese produced was sold on small markets as regional products.



## Goat Sector Continued...Portugal

During 2001 the program AGRO from Agriculture Ministry of Portugal approved the following research projects on goats:

- Improvement in milking conditions of sheep and goat farms in Trás-os-Montes. Scientific Coordinator: Alfredo Teixeira. Institution responsible: Escola Superior Agrária do Instituto Politécnico de Bragança;
- Characterization of the products with denomination of protected origin: "Cabrito transmontano" and "Borrego Terrincho". Scientific Coordinator: Alfredo Teixeira. Institution responsible: Escola Superior Agrária do Instituto Politécnico de Bragança;
- Study of the authenticity of the sheep cheese "Terrincho" and of goat cheese "Transmontano". Scientific Coordinator: António Peres. Institution responsible: Escola Superior Agrária do Instituto Politécnico de Bragança;
- Study and monitoring of browsing places used by sheep and goats established in Q. pyrenaica, Q. suber and Q. ilex forests. Scientific Coordinator: Alfredo Teixeira. Institution responsible: Escola Superior Agrária do Instituto Politécnico de Bragança;
- Genetics preservation of portuguese sheep breeds (Merina Preta and Campaniça) and the goat breed Serpentina. Scientific Coordinator: Claudino Matos. Institution responsible: Direcção Regional de Agricultura do Alentejo.
- Milk production selection of goat breed Serpentina on basis of molecular marker. Scientific Coordinator: Carlos Bettencourt. Institution responsible: Direcção Regional de Agricultura do Alentejo.
- Sensory characterization of cheeses made by sheep and goat milk from Centre region; application to "Queijo da Serra Velho". Scientific Coordinator: João de Noronha. Institution responsible: Escola Superior Agrária de Coimbra.
- Sheep and goat milk production in Minho - characterization of production and processing network and new technology demonstration. Scientific Coordinator: José Teixeira. Institution responsible: Universidade do Minho.
- Development and demonstration of artificial insemination in Portuguese local goat breeds. Scientific Coordinator: Ramiro Mascarenhas. Institution responsible: Estação Zootécnica Nacional.
- Achieving and valuation of cured goat cheese in Algarve. Scientific Coordinator: João Dias. Direcção Regional de Agricultura do Algarve.
- Cheese from Transmontana goat - characterization of milk from goat Serrana, ecotype transmontano and its cheese with denomination of protected origin. Scientific Coordinator: Maria Barbosa. . Institution responsible: Instituto Nacional de Engenharia e Tecnologia Industrial

Supported by Sapiens Program from Ministry of Science and Technology of Portugal:

The use of ultrasounds to assess sheep and goats carcass and body composition. Scientific Coordinator: Alfredo Teixeira. Institution responsible: Escola Superior Agrária do Instituto Politécnico de Bragança.

Alfredo Teixeira  
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Country Representative for Portugal



## Call to Membership

Dear Members,

It is vital to IGA that you choose to renew your membership for 2004. As the 8th International Conference on Goats is fast approaching, a robust membership for IGA is very important. It is also important that you encourage your institutions to enroll as members of IGA.

Through an increase in membership IGA will better be able to realize its potential and goals. If each member renews for 2004 and enlists two colleagues, our membership goal will be more than met. Without your help, we cannot go forward.

If you know of individuals or institutions willing to join, please speak with them, refer them your country representative, area director, [www.iga-goatworld.org](http://www.iga-goatworld.org) or [goats@heifer.org](mailto:goats@heifer.org). You may also make copies of the following membership renewal form and distribute them to interested parties.

As a united front, we can ensure that IGA grows into the organization of our visions.

Thank you,

Cindy Walla  
IGA Secretary-Treasurer  
[goats@heifer.org](mailto:goats@heifer.org)

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