



# International Goat Association News

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**August 2005**

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## **Greetings!**

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

## **• Small Ruminants Training and Research Center, Pakistan**

By Talat N. Pasha – IGA CR, Pakistan

The Faculty of Animal Production and Technology of University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore- Pakistan launched project Small Ruminants Training and Research Center at Bhunikey Campus. This project has been approved by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan for three years starting from July 2005 for total amount of 39 million Pak Rupees. The project will be established at Bhunikey campus of the University at 226 acres of canal irrigated land. The objectives of this project are to strengthen teaching, human resource development in sheep/goat sector and conduct problem oriented research in different disciplines of small ruminant production.

Pakistan ranks 3rd in the world after China and India for goat population and goat meat production (FAOSTAT, 2005). The population of goats in Pakistan during 2004-05 was 56.7 million, having annual growth rate of 3.70%.

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The increase in goat population is higher than other livestock species indicating their economic importance and adaptation in the different agro-ecological zones of the country (Economic Survey, 2005).

Goat production in the Pakistan is mainly a small- scale rural activity that forms an integral part of an age-old system of mixed farming. Goats have number of characteristics, such as high reproductive potential, short generation interval, ability to thrive on shrubs, bushes, and tree leaves, high digestive efficiency for cellulose and less susceptibility to infectious diseases that make them suitable as meat- producing livestock. It is the meat of choice and demand often exceeds supply.

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)



## Latest IGA News



### IGA begins a Blog

The IGA is currently creating a new feature for all members, a blog.

### • Tanzanian Woman Leads Dairy Goat Project to Success

By Erwin Kinsey, Africa Regional Development Officer, Heifer International

Thecla Makoke has always been among a minority of women in a field dominated by men. Having studied farm management in Tanzania and Holland in the mid- 1980s, she often felt the challenge: why was she encroaching into the male territory of agricultural development studies, but she persevered. “I know that my mother and aunts always did most of the farm work, so why should their advisors be men?” Now twenty years later she is an experienced and accomplished technician, well respected among her peers.

Thecla recently began overseeing a project which has helped over 100 rural

For those of you who do not know what a blog is, it is short for "weblog." A blog is a public, online journal that serves as an interactive electronic community of ideas and discussions.

### **Why is the IGA creating a blog?**

- An IGA blog can create an online community or meeting place for scientists, producers and other people who care about goats,
- Can serve as an excellent forum for sharing information, best practices, etc.,
- A blog can serve as a powerful global networking tool,
- Exposure from a blog can increase IGA's global recognition, build branding and potentially drive people to IGA website.

### **Who can post messages on the IGA blog?**

Anyone can post a message, question, article, relevant goat information, or other IGA business.

You can also comment on the posts and articles that have already been

families to obtain dairy goats through Heifer International, with support from European partners BOTHAR Ireland and Heifer Netherlands. Twenty five percent of these households are headed by women, and are spread among five villages near Kibaha in southeastern Tanzania. The milk and sale of goat offspring are providing needed assistance to raise the nutritional and income levels of participant families. On a recent visit to the project accompanied by Heifer International visitors Thecla shared frankly about her new work.

“Five women groups approached our district office requesting to obtain animals for producing milk for their children. They were surprised when we suggested dairy goats, as almost no one in the area had ever drunk milk from a goat. Through our encouragement, and a promise of assistance from Heifer International, 25 families in each village were encouraged to prepare goat sheds, plant fodder grasses and trees, and to attend training on husbandry.”

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends of the IGA,

I am happy to report that the International Goat Association has taken several steps to improve the services that we offer to members. There have been many new developments since the last IGA newsletter in May.

#### **New Director of Operations**

Our part-time Director of Operations, Jeff Dailey, has accepted a position with Heifer International as the Hope for the Future Campaign Coordinator. For the past several months Jeff had served IGA with distinction. He has made tremendous progress in updating membership data, preparing the electronic newsletter, and working with me on many special projects. I truly enjoyed working with Jeff and thank him for his outstanding service with IGA. He promised me that he will continue to support IGA activities.

**Thank you so much, Jeff!**

#### **IGA Blog**

We are proud to announce that IGA members and non-members alike can now enjoy a new feature, a blog. It is hoped that this new IGA web log or “blog” will become an active self-sustaining online community. What are we trying to accomplish by providing you with this forum?

We seek to:

- Further the mission of IGA

published on the blog by fellow members.

### **How do I post a comment or message?**

At the end of each article, there is a signature.  
(example: posted by  
Director of Operations ~  
IGA @ 10:29 AM 0  
comments)

Each signature contains a comment link that is highlighted in green on the blog. (See bolded item)

If you click on this comment link it will bring up a new page titled, Post a Comment On:  
International Goat Association

You can then choose to create an account with the Blogger service, choose Other and you can simply type in a name, or chose Anonymous. This will allow you to **comment** on the posting that you read.

If you have problems using this service please contact Christian De Vries, IGA Director of Operations at: [goats@heifer.org](mailto:goats@heifer.org)

In order to **post** a message not a comment, you must be listed as a team member for the IGA Blog. Contact Christian De Vries if you would like to be added to the team.

- Produce an multi-cultural, organic, free- structured blog that responds to the needs of both member and non-member,
- Create stronger ties with researchers, producers and institutions around the world, and to facilitate increased participation and connectedness among them. Members and non-members can respond to posts, ask questions, and network with each other,
- Establish an educational outlet in order to promote goat research and development around the world. Many of IGA's members are leading scientists, producers and institutions, each of which has unique resources and expertise. Through this sharing of ideas and knowledge an IGA blog will provide important information to people around the globe,
- Promote the exchange of information, by providing links to news stories about goats, journal articles on the internet and info on special events taking place around the world. Also, general news and updates from the IGA,
- Create a blog that is thought-provoking, creative, and inspirational; through member participation, sharing of knowledge, and access to current news. Those who participate in this blog will; be better informed, obtain a broader understanding of global and local goat research, and have the opportunity to ask questions or share how they are improving goat production where they live,
- Generate a "buzz worthy" blog. A blog that will put the IGA at the forefront of people's minds and will excite members and create deeper involvement with the organization, as well as bringing in new members.

### **Institutional Membership Update**

On June 30 the Board of Directors approved a final set of criteria for institutional members. Through these important partnerships, the IGA is uniting leaders around the world, building a strong network of institutions, scientists, academics, producers and other devoted individuals and organizations.

The IGA offers four types of Institutional Memberships:

- Ambassador
- Silver
- Gold
- Platinum

### **Board of Advisors**

During the Paris Board Meeting, the Board approved the establishment of a Board of Advisors for the purpose of providing opportunities for past board members, officers and other leaders to continue to contribute to IGA causes. The Board subsequently approved Warren Foote, George Haenlein, Adel

[VISIT OUR BLOG,  
CLICK HERE!](#)

## Goats in the News

- [Genetically Engineered Goats: Technology Faces Challenges on Many Fronts](#)
- [Goat Gathering Gets Good Grades](#)
- [Goat meat proves golden to exporters](#)
- [Markhor wild goats in severe decline](#)
- [To read more about the Markhor wild goats click here.](#)
- [Using goats to solve autoimmune diseases](#)
- [YaSheng Masters a Gene Cloning Process That Allows the Creation of Fortified Cells That Combats Foot and Mouth Disease](#)
- [UNICEF goats help to prevent under-nutrition in Niger](#)
- [How to raise healthy goats](#)
- [Goat's milk will substitute soda pop in school lunch program](#)
- [Sheep, goat educational conference Aug. 23 and 24 \(Raleigh, North Carolina, USA\)](#)
- [Meat goat pilot project, India](#)
- [Ethiopia: Goats bring food and development](#)

Abu Naga, Devendra, Rosalee Sinn, and Lisa Colledge as members of the Board of Advisors. On behalf of IGA, I welcome and thank these outstanding individuals for their continuous contribution and service to IGA.

### New Board Member

Dr. Miguel Galina, the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee for the 9th International Conference on Goats to be held in 2008 in Cancun, Mexico, has been elected to a member of the IGA Board of Directors. Upon resignation of Catherine Knott, the Board is to elect a replacement in according to the IGA Constitution. *Welcome on board, Miguel!*

[To comment on or read IGA President, Chris Lu's entire letter, click here.](#)

### **• International Symposium to discuss goat farming in Central and Eastern Europe**

By Pierre Morand-Fehr

In order to assess the current situation of goat farming and its possible future in Central and Eastern European countries after 15 years of various political and social events, the Romanian Goat Association, the Animal Sciences Department of Agriculture Ministry, the University Ovidius of Constantza, and the Research and Development Institute for Sheep and Goats have organized an International Symposium in Constantza, Romania, from the 27th through the 30th of June 2006. The topic will be: Goat Farming in Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC): Present and Future.

The organizers have proposed 5 sessions: Situation of goat farming, Goat breeds, Strategies of reproduction, Goat health and nutrition, Goat products and perspectives.

This Symposium will be supported by IGA as a Regional Conference. All IGA members are invited to this Symposium.

The next IGA board meeting will also take place during the Symposium. The contact person is Dr. Stela Zamfirescu, Board Member (E-mail: stela1948@xnet.ro).

The scientific program will be posted online on the IGA Website and published in a subsequent IGA newsletter.

[This article is also posted on the IGA Blog, click here.](#)

## Upcoming Events

- [American Dairy Goat Association's Annual Conference, October 2005](#)
- [Sheep and meat goat training program in Missouri, USA, Dec. 2005](#)
- [International Symposium to discuss goat farming in Central and Eastern European Countries, Constantza, Romania, June 27-30](#)

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## IGA's Global Partners

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

## • Goat Farming in Japan

By Dr. Yoshitaka Nakanishi – IGA CR, Japan

In the 1950s after World War II, a large number of goats (approximately 670,000 head) had been kept by Japanese people in order to improve human nutrition and to encourage rural development. However, the goat population has been decreased since the establishment of Agricultural Foundation Law in 1961, because people raised the goats for their private consumption and the Japanese government promoted a higher animal production, especially cattle, swine and poultry. As a result, the goat population is estimated to be only about 20,000 head of goats at present.

The first Japan Goat Summit was held in Yamanokuchi-cho, Miyazaki in 1998. Since then, more attention has been paid to goat feeding and goat itself. The Japan Goat Network (JGN) was established as an association of people interested in goats next year. The association has contributed to exchange information on not only goat production, processing and marketing but also their functions of vegetation management (weeding and bush control), juvenile education and companions among JGN members via the yearly summit and biannual periodicals (Japan Goat Journal). The JGN has about 400 members and is headquartered in Kagoshima. Although the number of goats has not been announced officially in the Agricultural and Forestry Statistics since 1998, it is indicated that the goat population and the number of goat keepers are being potentially elevated because of recent increased concern.

In Japan, Japanese Saanen, Japanese Native Goats (Shiba and Tokara) and their crossbreds are mainly raised. More recently Alpine, Nubian, Boer and Korean Black breeds have been introduced from overseas for milk or meat production. Japanese Saanen, Alpine and Nubian are intended for dairy, while Japanese Native Goats, the hybrids, Boer and Korean Black are for meat, vegetation management, juvenile education and/or companions. Though the utilization of goat meat is restricted to Okinawa, Amami Islands and some other areas, goat milk is increasingly popular among people all over the country because of its nutritional characteristics, i.e. anti-allergic to cow milk, rich in CLA and taurine.

The Korea-Japan International Goat Symposium, which is one of the 5th foundation anniversary events of the JGN, to be held in Namwon-city, Korea on November 6th, 2004. We hope to exchange mutual useful information on goat sector and have a great deal of friendship between the two countries through the symposium.

*Dr. Yoshitaka Nakanishi is a professor at Kagoshima University & Secretary-general of Japan Goat Network.*

[This article is also posted on the IGA Blog, click here.](#)

## IGA Information

- [Would you like to become a member or renew your IGA membership? Click here.](#)
- [IGA strategic plan: 2005 to 2010](#)
- [Would you like to submit an article to Small Ruminant Research?](#)

## • Zootechnic and genetic characterization of an animal population, Tunisia

By Najari Sghaier – IGA CR, Tunisia

The local goat population characterization as well as its genetic structure establishment allow to provide the appropriate parameters for the breeding development without erosion risks of natural resources in the arid regions. In this context, a trial has been applied in the majority of natural areas of the arid region. The data base includes information collected through the execution of 180 investigations and the direct numbering of visual characters at 6500 goats. Besides, a control of performances of 8 herds in the region provided more than 700 growth monographs, 350 weighed - adult goats and more than 300 lactation monographs. The typology of the rangeland breeding goat emphasizes the particular adaptation capacities of the sector to the socioeconomic changes. The pastoral and human resources regression represents the main future peril for the sector. The breeding is mainly centred on the control of risks and the favourable circumstance profit by the maximization of the herds' size and mobility.

The analysis of the local goat morphological profile and performances has shown the importance of the adaptation of this population as well as its wide variability. The local goat presents a similar morphology that characterizes races and populations of the warm regions. The sigmoid evolution of the kid weight is fitted by a Gompertz function. Born with a mean weight of about 2.4kg, the local kid weight evolves rapidly to reach 85% of the growth before the 4 month age. Since early summer; the weight stagnates around an asymptote appraised to 16.18kg without representing the adult mean weight which was 24kg. The weight of goats varies amply according to the resources and the physiological stages. The fast evolution of the kid weight and the "plasticity" of the adult reserves, show the adaptation of local population to the range conditions and justify the goat capacities to reproduce since the first year of age. Milk performances of the local goat were weak like those of races and nursing populations of the hard regions. However, it exists within the local population, goats of high production marked by their phenotypes and their related herds.

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)

## • Difference between 8th ICG CD and hard-copy edition explained

By Dr. Edward C. Webb, University of Pretoria

There are differences between the CD and the final hard-copy that was published by the South African Journal of Animal Science. The CD contains the initial papers that were accepted in principle for possible inclusion in the special edition (final hard copy version) of the SA Journal of Animal Science. The final judgment regarding the inclusion of these papers was made by the editor-in-chief of the SA Journal of Animal Science, who omitted a number of papers from the hard-copy that you may have received. The hard-copy version should thus be used for reference purposes.

[To read some of the peer reviewed papers that were published by the South African Journal for Animal Science \(Volume 34, issue 5\) for the 8th International Conference on Goats, click here.](#)

- **Goat farming in Kenya**

By Camillus Ahuya – IGA Country Representative, Kenya

Goats form an integral component of the livestock industry in Kenya with an estimated population of 10.7 million (Ministry of Livestock Annual report, 2002) and spread in all agro-ecological zones of Kenya.

There are two indigenous breeds, the East African and the Galla. Both breeds are kept mainly for meat production. However, the Galla is milked by the local people who keep them, and can produce up to two liters daily. There is a milking strain of the Galla, which is distinguished by fawn color around the neck and chest and a black strip from the head to the rump. There are two broad production systems under which the goats are kept in Kenya; the extensive system, mainly practiced by pastoralist communities in low potential areas and the intensive system in high potential areas. Intensive systems can further be classified as fully intensive (zero-grazing) or semi-intensive which could involve tethering. Given the increasing human population and its pressure on land, dairy goat farming is increasingly becoming popular in Kenya. Additionally, farm sizes in Kenya are increasingly becoming too small to support cattle.

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)

- **6th Sheep Veterinary Congress a success**

The 6th Sheep Veterinary Congress was hosted by the Hellenic Veterinary Medical Society in Crete, Greece, June 17-21, 2005.

George C. Fthenakis (IGA - CR, Greece) was the Chairperson of the Organizing Committee. Several other CRs such as Dr. Menzies (Canada) attended this Congress.

The proceedings will be published in a SRR special issue.

[For additional information click here.](#)



- **Goat Production in Denmark**

By Lene Stolberg – IGA CR, Denmark

The population of goats in Denmark is approximately 19,000. Approximately 10,500 are does. These goats are spread out in 2,400 herds, so the average number of goats in a herd is 4 does. That implies that the main reason for having goats in Denmark is on a hobby basis.

The majority of these goats are meat goats, Boer and Danish Nubian. Typical milking goats are, Danish Landbreed, Saanen, Toggenburg, and Anglo-Nubian. There are also hair goats like the Mohair goat.

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)



- **FROMAGORA, an event for farm scale cheese producers, France**

By Dr. Gilbert Toussaint – IGA CR, France

FROMAGORA, an event for farm scale cheese producers took place in Melle in the Poitou-Charentes region of West Central France, from the 20th to 22nd of May 2005. This fair is organized each year in a French goat region by the FNEC (French Association of Goat Farmers) to showcase farm made goat cheeses. This event is of interest for peoples seeking information on farm produced cheeses, on various aspects:

- The development of goat products within their region of origin,
- A program of technical and economical meetings. This year, a large part of the program was devoted to international meetings focused on goat development projects in which the region Poitou Charentes is involved at a worldwide level. Several IGA Board Members and CRs have participated in these discussions: Stela Zamfirescu, Roberto Rubino, Gilbert Toussaint, Pierre Morand-Fehr, and others,
- The National Competition (“Concours”) of farm made goat cheeses had entries from 140 cheese-makers from all the various French regions. 250 cheeses were considered by a jury constituting of highly qualified French and Foreign Referees. In the future, IGA France is planning an International “Concours” devoted to cheeses from other countries; Italy, Spain, Netherlands, United- Kingdom, Greece, etc.



# American Dairy Goat Association

[www.ADGA.org](http://www.ADGA.org)

- **ADGA’s Annual Conference, St. Louis, Missouri**

Young or old, veteran goat producer or just a beginner, all will want to attend the American Dairy Goat Association’s annual conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference will take place at the Hilton Kansas City Airport hotel, from October 15-22.

Highlights of the conference include:

- A program by the American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP), October 15 and 16. This series of continuing education courses for veterinarians and other interested goat owners will consist of topics such as: “Floppy Kid Syndrome & other Related Neonatal Diseases,” “Parasite Treatment Strategies including FAMANCHA,” “Milk Microbiology for Small Ruminant Practitioners,” and many more. For a complete schedule go to the following link.  
<http://adga.org/05convention/aasrp.html>
- The ADGA Youth Program, October 15-17, will incorporate presentations, workshops, clinics, and contests.
- Soap-making Workshop, October 17.
- Artificial Insemination Clinics, Lecture and Hands-On, October 18 and 19, respectively.
- Cheese-making Workshops, October 19.
- ADGA Cheese Competition, October 18-19.
- “Get Your Goat” Art Contest and auction.

In order to obtain registration forms or for more information about any of the activities, visit the ADGA website at [www.adga.org](http://www.adga.org). To request information not available on their website e-mail: [info@adga.org](mailto:info@adga.org)

- **News from the FAO-CIHEAM network on sheep and goats**

By Pierre Morand-Fehr

### **1. Organization of the network:**

The FAO-CIHEAM network on sheep and goats has been founded in 1981 with the objectives of reinforcing exchanges between scientists and Development Officers in the sheep and goat sector in Europe and Mediterranean Basin. This network is also aimed at setting up actions in the domain of applied research so as to strengthen application of more basal results of research on the field, and also at diffusing its works to the potential end-users.

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)

- **PROCABRA, an NGO devoted to goat breeders, Peru**

By Cristina Matossian De Pardo – IGA CR, Peru

Procabra is a non-governmental, non-profit organization which I represent, and that was created by a group of professionals in 1990 to improve the goat breeder's standard of living. Since that time, we have been working with different groups of goat breeders, but mainly with those situated in the valleys near Lima.

This institution has been working with them through various projects which involved the improvement in management, nutrition, health and genetics of their herds, as well as training them in the elaboration of their cheeses. Goat breeding in Peru is still very underdeveloped because most goat breeders are still nomads, moving from one place to the next looking for pastures for their animals. These people elaborate their dairy products in very precarious conditions. Where they live there is neither running water nor electricity. For goat breeders in Peru, the commercialization of sub-products produced in a more hygienic way is the most difficult part, because the intermediary buyers prefer the more rustic cheeses rather than pay extra for those elaborated carefully, i.e. with pasteurized milk. Sadly, in Peru there is still a lot of brucellosis, therefore, the risk of contracting Malta Fever after consuming dairy products elaborated with non-pasteurized milk is very high.

Seeing this, Procabra decided to help the goat breeders not only by giving them advice on the elaboration of their products in better conditions but also by helping them open the market for goat dairy products in order to obtain better prices.

[To read the rest of this article click here.](#)