

International Goat Association News

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July 2008

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

From the President

President's Report 2004-2008

Dear Members of International Goat Association:

It is my distinct honor to serve as your president for the past four years. With your support and devotion, International Goat Association (IGA) has made tremendous progress since 2004. IGA is now a more mature organization in terms of service, membership, structure, activities and financial sustainability. It is my pleasure to report to you the progress we have made collectively for the past four years.



Mission

International Goat Association was founded in 1982 by a group of global partners. In 1990, IGA was incorporated in Arkansas as a non-profit registered 501 (c) (5) organization. The mission of International Goat Association is to promote goat research and development for the benefit of humankind, to alleviate poverty, to promote prosperity and to improve the quality of life.

Services

In the heart of IGA core activities and values, service is the most important and most challenging goal. It is important because we believe that IGA should do its best to provide value to its members. It is challenging because of the limited financial resources derived from the membership dues. Income from membership contributes only a fraction of the entire IGA operating budget. With financial diversification, IGA has been able to provide service that is beyond the cost. Together we have made the following strides:

- Every member has electronic access to Small Ruminants Research since 2005,
- Scholarships has been awarded to three young scientists to attend the 9th International Conference on Goats in 2008,
- Lower membership fee for members from less developed countries
- Electronic newsletters, four or five per year, are sent directly to all members,
- A part-time Director of Operation to provide timely assistance to members has been in place since 2005,
- Financial support was provided to certain regional conferences on a as needed basis,

IGA News

Invitation for Proposal: 10th International Conference on Goats 2012

The International Goat Association is accepting proposals for the 10th International Conference on Goats to be held in 2012.

Past conferences have been held successfully in London (UK), Tours (France), Tucson (USA), Brasilia (Brazil), New Delhi (India), Beijing (China), Tours (France), and Pretoria (South Africa). The 9th International

Conference will be held in Queretaro, Mexico, August 31 to September 4, 2008. These conferences attracted scientists, scholars, field practitioners, government agents, extension workers, and producers from all over the world.

Interested hosts are encouraged to submit proposals and send them to Mr. Christian Devries, Director of Operations (address, e-mail, telephone). All proposals must be received by August 15, 2008 to be placed on the Agenda of the IGA Board to be discussed. Individuals responsible for the host country shall send a representative to the 9th International Conference on Goats in Queretaro, Mexico and be available for a presentation to the IGA Board.

[To prepare for the proposal, please refer to the IGA Board approved guidelines below or click here.](#)

Once the host country is chosen, a contract will be signed between the President of IGA and the host country representative. A 7.5% of registration income must be delivered to IGA by the end of the conference.

Thank you for your interest in continuing the tradition of the International Goat Association.

- A discounted registration fee for members who participate international conferences.

Membership

Last year, for the first time, IGA received a royalty payment from Elsevier. These royalty payments are based on the number of journal articles that IGA members submitted to Elsevier. With the contribution of royalties to our income, maintaining a high level of membership is even more important.

To increase IGA's financial sustainability we must maintain solid numbers not just for one year but for years to come.

One of the most important additions to IGA membership has been the introduction of online access to Small Ruminant Research. This benefit has allowed us to maintain higher membership levels than in previous years.

At the end of 2007 the IGA set a new record high for the number of basic memberships. Over the past four years (2004-2007) IGA has been able to keep an average of 178 basic, 81 subscribers and an average of 7 institutional members for a total of 266 members. During the previous four years (2000-2003) IGA only maintained an average of 221 members. Most importantly perhaps is that the IGA has added many new Institutional members to our list of supporters.

It should also be noted that although basic membership has been increasing each year, print subscriptions have been declining. The ease of accessing SRR online coupled with the challenges and delays associated with editing, printing, and delivering a subscription has made basic IGA membership the best all around choice. On the surface this might seem negative however the IGA earns roughly the same amount of money from basic memberships as from print subscriptions. Our progress regarding membership can be summarized as:

- Membership increased by 20% from 2004 to 2007 (average of 266) as compared to 2000 to 2003 (average of 221),
- Institutional membership was introduced in 2005 and now IGA has 13 institutional members,
- The database for membership has been revised and overhauled,
- We have an up-to-date mailing list for membership and membership renewal notices have been sent out periodically,
- For example, during the month of March membership increased from 102 in 2005 to 142 in 2006 to 145 in 2007 and to 217 in 2008. This steady growth is most likely a result of yearly membership renewal campaigns, regular IGA newsletters, and a more attractive website.

Newsletter

A professional newsletter is an important feature for any organization. Our newsletter helps to keep current and former IGA members up-to-date on the latest news concerning IGA membership, conference information, and upcoming events, as well as providing informative reports from our country representatives around the world and post-conference summaries.

Upcoming Events

[8th European IFSA Symposium, July 6-10, 2008, France](#)

[9th International Conference on Goats, August 31 - September 5, 2008, Mexico](#)

Top 5 Links from July 2007 Newsletter

[9th International Conference on Goats](#)

[8th European IFSA Symposium, July 6-10, 2008, France](#)

[How to Raise Healthy Goats, USA](#)

[9th ICG, Session Program \(pdf\)](#)

[Goat Milk Cheese the Andaluz Way](#)

IGA Information

[Visit IGA's website](#)

[Visit IGA's Blog](#)

[General IGA Membership Information](#)

[2007 membership application](#)

[Learn your country's UN-Human Development Index rating](#)

Unfortunately between 2001 and 2003, IGA only published six newsletters, and none in 2004.

- Since switching to an online newsletter service (Constant Contact) in 2005 the IGA has been able to publish 15 newsletters. Newsletter circulation has gone from a low of 240 in 2000 to a high of 659 by July of 2007.
- Constant Contact also allows us to monitor the number of people who open and read the newsletter and what stories they are most interested in. An average of 236 people read each issue of IGA newsletter.
- Each newsletter contains dozens of links to full stories, news from other websites, photos, etc. Thanks to Constant Contact we know that an average of 39.4% of all our readers click on at least one of the links that we have provided. This indicates that our readers find the stories, reports, and links provided in each newsletter to be valuable and informative.

IGA Website

For several years IGA struggled to regularly update its website. Problems communicating with the website's host made it difficult to change the layout, text and important documents such as membership applications.

By 2006 a consensus had been reached that the IGA website was out of date and needed to be revamped to make it more appealing. Work on the site began in earnest around February 2007 when IGA's Director of Operations gained access to the website's technical aspects. The website has since been redone multiple times and in multiple layouts.

We now have completed the redesign and streamlined the management of the website. The Director of Operations has been able to add many new pages and update the website immediately. Additions to the website include:

- A new homepage with flags from all 93 countries where IGA has a current or former member,
- Multiple language websites including: Kiswahili and Turkish,
- Numerous conference pages,
- Board Member, Country Representative, and Officers pages,
- An Institutional Member page,
- A Mission and Vision page,
- Member Zone,
- IGA Newsletters,
- Blogs have been established and available for members to engage in discussion.

Regional Conferences Linking Researchers and Producers

Because of the four-year interval between international conferences, IGA struggles in keeping its members engaged and maintaining its global impact. More importantly IGA needs to connect its researchers with producers in order to have a real impact on goat sectors. Among the solutions, sponsoring regional conference in between two international conferences is the most viable

[Download a 9th ICG sponsorship donation form](#)

[Would you like to submit an article to Small Ruminant Research?](#)

Global Partners

[Heifer International](#)

[American Institute for Goat Research](#)

[American Dairy Goat Association](#)

[University of Hawaii](#)

[MNA de México](#)

[Croatian Livestock Center](#)

[Vereniging Kwaliteitszorg Geitenhouderij Nederland \(VKGN\)](#)

[Association of Goat Breeders - Republic of Macedonia](#)

[Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute](#)

[FARM Africa](#)

[University of Trinidad and Tobago](#)

Other Friends

[Elsevier](#)

[Learn more about Institutional Membership](#)

solution. For the past four years:

- A record number of thirteen IGA regional conferences were held in Mexico (3), Brazil, Spain, Kenya, Portugal, France, Romania, Italy, Oman, India, China since 2004.
- Conference information and certain proceedings were made available online.

9th International Conference on Goats

In 2004, eight countries competed to host the 9th International Conference on Goats. The Board of Directors, through a secret ballot, elected Mexico to host the Conference. While the preparation of the Conference is well underway, we have the following to report:

- Record number of papers submitted (more than 450) from all over the world.
- Both the Federal Government of Mexico and Provincial Government of Queretaro are providing financial support for the Conference.
- Twelve Mexican Universities including UNAM, University of Nuevo Leon, University of Yucatan and University of Queretaro participate in the organizing of the Conference.
- The Conference addresses urgent and relevant issues such as sustainable goat production; food safety, production and product quality assurance; future of organic goat products; recent advancement in biotechnology in goats; branding and marketing of goat products; goat production and environment conservation; and social development and contribution of women to goat production.
- Proceedings will be available for participants at the Conference.
- A special issue to include all plenary and sectional invited paper will be published through Small Ruminant Research.

Financial Sustainability

Since its inception, International Goat Association was considered by many as financially nonviable entity because of low membership number and low membership fee. Because of our effort in diversifying our sources of income, the cash balance increases substantially during the past four years. In addition, IGA employs a part-time Director of Operation for the first time to oversee IGA. We have learned from the past which lead to signing contract with the host country which allows a 7.5% return of registration fee back to the International Goat Association.

As of June 2008, IGA has a cash balance of US\$72,085. The cash balance was US\$23,065 in July 2004. IGA is to receive contribution of \$15,000 from Heifer and approximately \$14,000 from the 7.5% share of registration fee of 9th International Conference on Goats this year. By the time the new Board takes over, IGA will have more than US\$100,000 in cash balance, a 400% increase from 2004.

IGA has made progress in diversifying its sources of income through Elsevier



royalties, institutional membership, conference income, and contributions and donations.

Small Ruminant Research

Publishing scientific journal is one of the three mandates in IGA Constitution. Thanks to authors, reviewers, members of editorial board, associate editors, Editor-in-Chief and Elsevier, Small Ruminants Research continues its path to become "The Journal" for small ruminants. It has been ranked in the 20's worldwide for agriculture related journals. Many milestones have been achieved:

- Manuscripts received increased from 313 in 2003 to 514 in 2007.
- Rejection rate increased from 30% in 2003 to 75% in 2007.
- Downloads of full text articles increased from 62,753 in 2003 to 220,925 in 2007 indicating 300% growth in usage.
- Impact factor increased from 0.555 in 2003 to 0.777 in 2005 and 0.637 in 2006, while 2007 number is not yet available. To read the entire report, click here.

In November 2004, several senior members of IGA Board of Directors gathered in IGA Headquarters and mapped out an IGA Strategic Plan 2005-2010. The Strategic Plan was subsequently approved by the Board of Directors in April 2005 during its meeting in Paris. It is gratified to learn that IGA has accomplished most of the major priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan. Furthermore, IGA has several projects including The Goats in Iberia-America, World Goat Breeds on the Web, and IGA Technical and Consultancy List on the Web that are in progress. I want to congratulate members, country representatives, regional directors, members of Board of Directors, and members of Board of Advisors for making International Goat Association a more viable organization that has a global perspective with regional impact. As IGA just celebrated its 25th Anniversary in Italy last year, our members look forward to another twenty-five years of global impact.

Sincerely,
Christopher D. Lu
President of International Goat Association

[To visit the IGA website, click here.](#)

International Conference on Goats: The Choice of a Venue Factors to be Considered

This is an abbreviated version of the conference guidelines. [If you are interested in learning more about these guidelines, click here to see the full version.](#)

An International Conference on Goats (ICG) is held at a different venue once every four years, under the auspices of the (IGA). This is a prestigious event, and it is an honour to be granted the opportunity to host this Conference. In return, the Board of the IGA requires the host organization to fulfil certain objectives and expectations.

All participants should strive to ensure that the planning of the ICG achieves excellence in scientific input, without neglecting the importance of being relevant to the promotion of sustainable goat development.

Some of the factors that should be considered are listed below, more or less in order of importance, according to the requirements of the Board of the IGA.

1. Competent People (a Team)
2. Organizational Infrastructure and Adequacy

3. Costs
4. Budget
5. Financial Support
6. Relevant Goat Research and Development
7. Geographical Diversity

Previous ICGs have been held in different countries and on different continents:

- 1st - London, UK, 1967
- 2nd - Tours, France, 1972
- 3rd - Tucson, USA, 1982
- 4th - Brasilia, Brazil, 1987
- 5th - New Delhi, India, 1992
- 6th - Beijing, China, 1996
- 7th - Tours, France, 2000
- 8th - Pretoria, South Africa, 2004
- 9th - Queretaro, Mexico, 2008

If a country is not successful in hosting an ICG, then it is still possible to host a Regional Conference in the years between the main ICGs.

Conclusion:

These principles should be put to the Board of the IGA for discussion, amendment and approval.

Special thanks to Ned Donkin for preparing this document for the IGA Board.

ROSA and Hassania Kanoubi

Hassania Kanoubi was recently chosen by IGA to receive a partial scholarship to attend the 9th ICG in Mexico. We thought it would be nice if you had a chance to get to know her better.

Written by Peggy Petrzelka

The phone rings at Hassania's house on Sunday morning. Someone's milk goat has had difficulty giving birth and they ask Hassania to come look at her. Making "house calls" on Sundays is a frequent occurrence for Hassania, President of ROSA, a rural development association located in Southern Morocco.



The principle objective of ROSA is to encourage the raising of milk goats and create money generating activities for poor families through the process of "pass it on", based on the Heifer model.

In her work as an agricultural technician in the rural region for over 15 years, Hassania knows the women well, and also knows the immense needs of the area.

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

News from *Small Ruminant Research*

Written by Wim Meester

Get your research published fast

Over the past year a joint effort between Editors and Publisher has resulted in optimising the review and production process of SRR. In 2007 and 2008 more articles were published and production times were significantly reduced. We are pleased to inform you that accepted manuscripts are now published online within 6 weeks and articles appear in the printed issue approx. 3 months after acceptance. *Small Ruminant Research* is the official journal of the IGA and provides a unique forum for the publication of topical articles on all scientific aspects relating to goats, sheep and other small ruminants. Publication of your most recent original research in SRR ensures maximum visibility amongst a worldwide audience and is faster than ever. Manuscripts should be submitted online using the Elsevier editorial system at: <http://ees.elsevier.com/rumin>



[To read the rest of the news from Small Ruminant Research, click here.](#)

Norwegian Goat Husbandry

*Written by Odd Arild Finnes,
IGA Country Representative - Norway*

Only 3 % of the Norwegian land is cultivated. Mountainous landscape and a cool climate provide demanding conditions for agriculture. Except from grain production in the south-east part, the agricultural industry is dominated by animal production, cattle, pigs, sheep and goats.

Goat husbandry is relatively small compared to other livestock. Still, goat milk production has long traditions in Norway. In the whole country there are about 38 000 dairy goats. Total milk production is about 23 million liters. The total production has been stable the recent years, while the number of farms has declined heavily (fewer but bigger farms). The average size of a Norwegian goat farm is 85 dairy goats, and the milk production is regulated by a quota system. Though goat farms are spread all over the country, they are more densely concentrated in the Western and the Northern parts. Only a few farms in Norway base their production on meat from goats.



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

For more information about the IGA visit our website at: www.iga-goatworld.org

Or contact Christian DeVries, IGA Director of Operations: goats@heifer.org

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