



# IGA Newsletter

July 2013

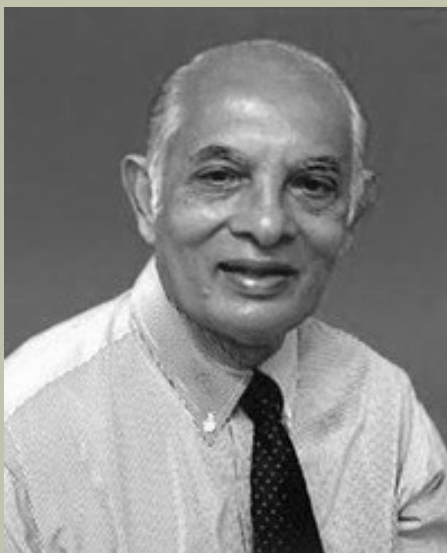


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## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Dr. Devendra appointed to Board of Directors of Heifer International

We wish to congratulate our long-term friend, a former IGA Vice-President and member of the Board of Directors and current *Country Representative in Malaysia*, Dr. Canagasaby Devendra. He was chosen to serve on the Heifer International Board of Directors as an At-Large Representative residing in the Asia/South Pacific region in November 2012.



Dr. Devendra said that he was pleasantly surprised at the appointment and felt deeply honored to join this prestigious development organization. He is excited to be part of its noble mission and values to promote agricultural development in small farm systems and improve the livelihoods of poor rural communities.

His specialization is in animal nutrition and animal production systems, central to which is integrated natural resource management. He currently serves as a member of the Livestock Advisory Council of the Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industries, and Chairman of the Malaysia Ministry of Science,

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## IGA Board of Directors (2012-2016)

We are pleased to present the full IGA Board of Directors. There were a few new members added to the Board over the past 6 months. Here is the complete list:

1. Gisèle Alexandre
2. Odd-Arild Finnes
3. Hervé Hoste
4. Nazan (Darcan) Koluman
5. Mahendra Lohani
6. Beth Miller
7. Okeyo Mwai
8. Maria Norma Ribeiro
9. Tilahun Sahlu
10. Shoorvir Singh
11. Juan Felipe Torres Acosta
12. Xu Gangyi
13. Stela Zamfirescu

### Officers

1. Juan Capote, President
2. Jean-Paul Dubeuf, Past-President
3. Lucia Sepe, Vice-President
4. Carina Visser, Vice-President
5. Jean-Marie Luginbuhl, Secretary-Treasurer
6. Johan Greyling, Editor-in-Chief

[Contact a Board member? Click here.](#)

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT *(continued from Page 1)*

Technology and Innovation's (MOSTI) Science Fund grants. He also serves on the editorial board of six international journals and consultant to eight others.

Previously, Dr. Devendra has worked with the University of the West Indies in Trinidad, the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), and was Senior Program Officer responsible for the Animal Production Systems Programmed of Asia with the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC). He has served as a consultant for the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Commonwealth Secretariat, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and several governments.

Dr. Devendra holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from New Zealand, Master of Agricultural Science from Malaysia and PhD and DSc degrees from the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom. He is an Academician (Senior Fellow) to the Academy of Sciences in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Dr. Devendra was the first Asian recipient of the International Dairy Production award from the American Dairy Science Association in 1989. He was awarded the

Medal of Honour by the Minister of Agriculture, Vietnam in 2001. In 2004 he also received the Lincoln University International Alumni Medal from New Zealand, and the Asian Animal Science award from Korea. In 2009 he received the Excellence award from Pakistan for 'outstanding contribution to the development of Animal Science'. He was also awarded the Rotary Research Gold Medal in Malaysia for 2011. He has recently been appointed by the FAO to the Technical Advisory Group to study benchmarking livestock products on GHG foot printing in livestock supply chains, which includes goats and sheep in extensive systems.

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## A Tryst With Goats: an interview with Dr. Devendra

### A Tryst With Goats: an interview with Dr. Devendra

Following a recent Heifer International Board meeting in Little Rock, Dr. Devendra sat down with Christian De Vries for a relaxed and candid interview. They discussed a wide range of issues on the development of goats,

including: the evolution and importance of IGA, consistent interest and commitment to the development of the species, trends in their multi-functional values, and priorities for the future.

#### **Christian**

You've been involved with IGA since the beginning. How did it

IGA evolve?

#### **Devendra**

"Few people know the background that led to the formation of IGA. It was born during a bus ride for a field excursion, during the 2nd International Goat Conference in Tours, France in 1971.

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## A Tryst with Goats (*continued from Page 2*)

I made the suggestion to Prof. Christian Gall from Germany who was sitting next to me that that we move to form a professional association to provide information and promote the development of goats. This led to the formation of The World Committee on Goats in which Prof. Gall was made the President and I was elected as the Vice-President, with the Secretariat in France. Since then I have served over a record 17 years as Vice-President, by my own choice, to work with colleagues so that I could play a more effective role in spreading the regional focus and development of goats, assisting the Presidents, and finding venues for the international conferences in which I was directly involved with four.”

### **Christian**

How did you become involved in the field of small ruminants?

### **Devendra**

“My early interest in the science of goats was mooted by the mentoring influence of the late Prof. I. E. Coop of Lincoln University in New Zealand, who developed the now famous Coop-



**Dr. Devendra contemplating the empowerment of women and the ownership of goats in nutrition, food security & stability of farm households in Janakpur, Nepal.**

worth breed of sheep which now accounts for about 62% of the total population of sheep in New Zealand. During most weekends, I worked part time with his sheep experiments to earn money to upkeep myself in the University. On return to Malaysia, this early interest in small ruminants provided the impetus and intuition as I contemplated the situation with goats. That enquiry led to four important conclusions. One, goats were a developing country resource. Two, being generally unimportant in the industrialized countries, resource use and their develop-

ment was meagre. Three, there was an extreme paucity of information on the science base of the species, and fourth, the opportunities for generating important and much needed information were limitless, overwhelming and most compelling.”

“My extended tryst with goats has brought with it enormous and very deep satisfaction in ways that are difficult to express. With academic contributions, conference participation and other windows of opportunity, I have been privileged to establish

*Continued on Page 4*

## A Tryst with Goats (*continued from Page 3*)

a large network of colleagues and friends both regionally and internationally. Above all, I have been blessed with the camaraderie of very fine individuals in many parts of the world.”

### **Christian**

How did you get involved in research and development?

### **Devendra**

“The defining issue was writing the book on goats at the invitation of the late Mr. J. P. Maule, former Director of the Commonwealth Bureaux of Animal Breeding and Genetics in Scotland, concurrently with my post-graduate studies for the PhD degree at the University of Nottingham under the Commonwealth Scholarship Programme in the U.K. This re-

sulted in the publication by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux in 1966 of *Goat Production in the Tropics* which introduced the species fully, its potential importance in the developing world, and multifunctional value in agricultural development. This text became the standard reference throughout the developing world, simply because of the paucity of knowledge, which in turn stimulated widespread interest, R and D initiatives, and enquiries into their socio-economic relevance in farming systems. Beyond the PhD, continuing R and D focused on the efficiency of use of feed resources that can give predictable levels of increased productivity and sustainability, and the socio-economic importance of goats to poor people,

especially in less-favored environments.”

“The R and D mission began with the establishment of the energy requirements for maintenance in goats for

first time from Malaysia, followed later by requirements for growth and dietary protein utilisation, and efficiency in feed resource use. The submission of the originality of the research results led to the award by application, of the DSc degree also from the University of Nottingham from the UK. Since then there has been a constant flow of publications, chapters and journal articles that have emphasized the multifunctional value of the species in the context of natural resource management, their particular role in the drier agro-ecological zones (AEZs), eco-regions, small farm systems, relevance to food insecurity and the poverty dimension, and potential income generation”

“In subsequent years, work with the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) over some 25 years enabled the pursuit of many of these issues across Asia and elsewhere with small ruminants. Some 80 projects and 6 networks were formulated.”



Admiring a Bach Thao x Sannen crossbred doe used for home milk consumption outside of Ho Chi Minh City in South Vietnam.

*Continued on Page 5*

## A Tryst (continued Page 4)

### Christian

You've written 18 books and approximately 470 publications. Why have you been such a prolific writer and publisher?

### Devendra

"The importance of information dissemination, the impact of empowerment, and the firm belief that knowledge was the purview of all mankind were driving forces and the ultimate goal. This drive was fortunately enhanced and blessed by a strong passion for writing and sharing the information."

### Christian

What are the challenges IGA and goats face in the future?

### Devendra

"Maximizing the contribution of goats is fundamental, but is certainly not without problems, limitations and concerns. There is incomplete characterization and utilization of the many bewildering variety of breeds in developing countries and their productive potential to the extent possible. In addition, there is the looming threat of climate change and increased temperature that

## Dr. Ashley Robinson

IGA regrets to inform its members of the passing of Dr. R. Ashley Robinson, a leading advocate for small ruminants in international development.

Dr. Robinson was a native of New Zealand. He earned his bachelor's degree in veterinary science from the University of Sydney in Australia, and his master's in public health and doctorate in veterinary microbiology from the University of Minnesota, where he was a faculty member for 20 years. Dr. Robinson came out of retirement to serve as Associate Dean of Pre-Clinical Programs at Western University School of Veterinary Medicine in Davis, California. He was active in development work with FAO, Heifer International and many projects,



especially in the Middle East and South Asia.

"He was internationally renowned both as an epidemiologist and an educator. His expertise in zoonotic diseases, food safety, public health and international veterinary medicine has had an impact on veterinarians around the world," says Shirley Johnston, DVM, PhD, Vice President of University Advancement at Western University of Health Sciences.

will affect cereal plant growth, with resultant reduced plant yields and crop residues. Ensuring the multifunctional values includes the following in Australasia: the potential harvest of goat meat in Australia and New Zealand; improved understanding of the livelihoods, sustainable

[Read the full article online.](#)

**Are you an IGA member?  
Download an application  
and email us today.**

The image shows a screenshot of the '2013 OFFICIAL VETERINARY APPLICATION' form. The form includes fields for Name, Address, Telephone, and Email. It also contains a section for 'I am applying for...' with options for 'New Member', 'Renewal', and 'Transfer'. There is a section for 'I am applying for...' with options for 'New Member', 'Renewal', and 'Transfer'. The form is titled '2013 OFFICIAL VETERINARY APPLICATION' and includes the IGA logo.

## *Report on the 7th Conference on the “Novel Approaches to the Control of Helminth Parasites of Livestock”*

### **“Bridges between scientific advances and farm development”**

**by Hervé Hoste**

This conference took place in Toulouse, France from March 24<sup>th</sup> to March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and joined with a session of the COST Action FA0805 CAPARA on “Goat-Parasite Interactions: From Knowledge to Control”

### **Aims and Scope**

Since the first meeting in Armidale (Australia) in 1995, the International Conferences on the Novel Approaches (NA) to the Control of Helminth in Livestock aimed at stimulating links between scientists and specialists of extension services from developed, emerging and developing countries on the specific topic of the control of helminthes in livestock. The main objectives of the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Action CAPARA (Goat-parasite interactions: from knowledge to control) FA0805 are similar to those of the Novel Approaches meeting. However, as indicated by its title “Goat-Parasite Interactions: From Knowledge To Control” this COST

Action is specifically dedicated to caprine production.

Both the Novel Approaches Conferences and the CAPARA Cost Action FA0805 are frameworks where the importance to maintain or expand links between scientific advances and extension services and end-users is underlined. Last but not least, this conference was also supported by the International Goat Association.

### **Organization and Results**

The joined conference of these two organizations was held in Toulouse for 3 days at the end of March 2013. It was organized in 13 common sessions, including 2 sessions dedicated to the specific questions on the sustainable control of helminthes in goats, completed with poster presentations per sessions (see list of the speakers in the session program). Over 100 participants were present. They were from 30 countries representing the 5 continents. As underlined by the Conference title “*Bridging gaps between scientific advances and farm developments*”, this workshop was aimed at being a unique opportunity for

the dissemination of recent scientific advances on the topic of helminth control in livestock and for stimulating discussions about bottlenecks before implementation on farms settings under different epidemiological conditions.

### **CAPARA Core group meeting**

A Core group meeting was held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> which gathered the board members of CAPARA. Decisions have been adopted concerning the next year of the COST Action. A report on this meeting has been provided by the chairwoman of the COST Action, Dr S. Sotiraki.

### **Technical tour**

On the following day of the meeting (28<sup>th</sup> March), a trip was organized to visit a local goat/cattle farm. It gave participants the opportunity to discuss the management of such a mixed farm run under organic farming rules and exploiting a local breed (Pyrenean goats).

**Want more information? Visit the conference website: <https://colloque.inra.fr/na07>**

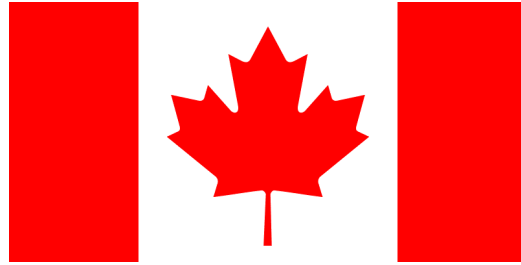
## Canadian National Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for the Goat Industry

Biosecurity is a set of practices that are used to minimize the transmission of disease-causing organisms in animal populations, including their introduction, spread within the population, and release. Biosecurity is proactive and focuses on routine, day-to-day on-farm activities to protect the health of the herd.

The Standard was developed through a partnership of the Canadian National Goat Federation (CNGF) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), in collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). An advisory committee made up of producers, along with representatives from regional and sector-specific goat industry organizations, colleges and universities, and the public sector, provided invaluable guidance throughout the process.

The Standard is a useful tool for goat producers when developing

and implementing on-farm biosecurity plans. It contains a set of recommendations that can be adapted to the needs of each farm to raise its current level of biosecurity.



### Why is biosecurity important?

Animal health management has undergone significant change in recent years, influenced by:

- greater understanding of the risk of new and emerging pathogens,
- increased awareness of zoonoses and concern for public health,
- changing epidemiology of disease,
- due to the concentration and commingling of animals and people in more intensive farming situations,

- new production practices in agriculture, including farm specialization,
- globalization, increasing movement of people and goods,
- opportunities to sell to additional markets, both in Canada and internationally, and
- more attention to traceability and the ability to identify product attributes and production conditions along supply chains.

As a result, using a proactive approach as the first line of defence in animal health is more important now than ever before. Livestock industries have therefore started to shift their focus to disease prevention and on-farm biosecurity.

Clearly, biosecurity is important not only for improving animal health on the farm, but also for strengthening the Canadian goat industry as a whole.

[Read more...](#)

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