

# BEYOND DESERTS AND HIGHLANDS - GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAMELIDS 2024

## Animal Production and Health Section

Joint FAO/IAEA Centre for Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture

### Background

Camelids, comprising camels (one humped dromedary and double humped Bactrian), llamas, alpacas, vicugna and guanacos play an integral role in sustaining the livelihood of human societies across diverse geographical regions. Their unique characteristics, including adaptability to harsh climates, efficiency in resource utilization, and resilience to various diseases, make them valuable assets in agriculture, transportation, and cultural practices. From the arid deserts where camels have been indispensable companions for centuries to the high-altitude regions where alpacas and llamas have been integral to indigenous communities, camelids contribute significantly to socio-economy by providing milk, meat, fibre, draught and recreation.

In recent years, scientific advancements and a growing awareness of the need for sustainable and resilient agricultural practices have led to increased interest in camelid research. These animals are not only sources of meat, milk, and fibre but also offer valuable insights into genetic diversity, disease resistance, and adaptation to changing climates. The United Nations declared 2024 the International Year of Camelids seeking to highlight the role of camelids in global food security, sustainable agriculture, and the preservation of cultural heritage. The Joint FAO/IAEA Centre proposes to organize an international event to celebrate the “International Year on Camelids-2024”.

### Purpose

The International Event on “Beyond Deserts and Highlands–Global Celebration of the International Year of Camelids 2024” serves as a response to the growing global interest and the need for a collaborative platform that brings together experts, researchers, policymakers, and breeders to share knowledge, discuss challenges, and explore innovative solutions. The event aligns with the global agenda for promoting biodiversity conservation, given the unique ecological niches that camelids occupy. Recognizing the potential of camelids in sustainable agriculture, ecotourism, and poverty alleviation, the event seeks to foster international collaboration and partnerships that will contribute to the well-being of both camelid-dependent communities and the broader global population.

### Objectives

- Facilitate the exchange of cutting-edge research, technological advancements, and best practices in camelid science, husbandry, and management.

- Provide a platform for participants to network with fellow researchers, breeders and policymakers, to share knowledge on various aspects of camelid husbandry, including genetics, nutrition, health, and socio-economic impacts.
- Raise awareness about the significance of camelids in diverse fields and advocate for their sustainable integration into global agricultural and economic systems.

### Event Highlights

**Plenary session:** Keynote address by an eminent expert in the field of camelid research and husbandry.

**Technical Session:** Covering diverse topics such as genetics, nutrition, health, socio-economic aspects, and cultural significance of camelids.

**Panel Discussion:** Engage participants in interactive discussions on emerging challenges and opportunities in camelid management.

**Exhibition:** Exhibits of camel products and services, posters on camel studies and research

### Location and Date

We propose hosting the International Event on “Beyond Deserts and Highlands – Global Celebration of International Year of Camelids 2024” at Vienna International Centre, Vienna, Austria on 10 June 2024.

**DRAFT AGENDA:  
BEYOND DESERTS AND HIGHLANDS - GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAMELIDS 2024**

**(10 June 2024, Vienna International Centre, CR6 & Rotunda)**

**SESSION A: TECHNICAL (CR6, 08:40 – 15:00)**

08:00 - 08:40	Arrival and Registration at VIC
08:40 - 08:45 (CR6)	<p>Welcome Remarks:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ms Dongxin Feng</b>, Acting Director of the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, IAEA</p>
08:45 - 08:55 (CR6)	<p>Opening Remarks:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ms Najat Mokhtar</b>, Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, IAEA</p>
08:55 - 09:00 (CR6)	Introduction of Event Program
09:00 - 09:10 (CR6)	<p>Presentation of FAO – International Year of Camelids</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mr Giacomo de'Besi</b>, Animal Production Officer, International Year of Camelids Secretariat, FAO</p>
09:10 - 9:40 (CR6)	<p><b>Plenary Session</b> (Moderated by Ms Farai Muchadeyi, Section Head, Animal Production and Health, Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, IAEA)</p> <p>Keynote Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camelids - Agile Genetic Resource in the Face of Climate Change <b>Mr Bernard Faye</b>, Emeritus Scientist, The French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), FRANCE (20 mins)</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A session (10 mins)</p>
9:40 - 10:00	Coffee Break and Photo Session
10:00 - 11:00 (CR6)	<p><b>Technical Session – Camel production systems and husbandry practices</b> (Moderated by Mr Kathiravan Periasamy, Livestock Geneticist/Breeder, Animal Production and Health, Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, IAEA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production System, Management Practices and Economic Significance of Camelids in Asia <b>Mr Ved Prakash</b>, Senior Scientist, Indian Council of Agricultural Research - National Research Centre on Camel, INDIA (15 mins)</li> <li>• Alpaca, Llama and Vicugna Production in Latin America –Challenges and Opportunities <b>Mr Gutierrez Reynoso Gustavo</b>, Head of the Animal Breeding and Research and Outreach Programme, Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, PERU (15 mins)</li> <li>• Camelids and Pastoralism in Africa – A Kenyan perspective <b>Ms Wilkister Nakami</b>, Tutorial Fellow, University of Nairobi, KENYA (15 mins)</li> </ul> <p>Panel Discussion with speakers (15 mins)</p>
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee Break



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<p>11:15 - 12:15 (CR6)</p>	<p><b>Technical Session – Biodiversity, genomic advancements and breeding for sustainable camelid management</b> (Moderated by Mr Paolo Ajmone Marsan, Professor, Department of Animal Science, Food and Nutrition – DIANA, ITALY)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camelid Genomics: An Update on Tools and Resources for Improvement <b>Mr Kathiravan Periasamy</b>, Livestock Geneticist/Breeder, Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, IAEA (15 mins)</li> <li>Beyond the Horizon: Assessing Biodiversity of Old &amp; New World Camelid Populations <b>Ms Pamela Burger</b>, Senior Researcher, Vienna Research Institute of Wildlife Ecology, AUSTRIA (15 mins)</li> <li>Assisted Reproductive Biotechnologies in Camel Breeding-Challenges and Opportunities <b>Ms Lulu Skidmore</b>, Scientific Director, Camel Reproduction Centre, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (15 mins)</li> </ul> <p>Panel Discussion with speakers (15 mins)</p>
<p>12:15 - 13:30</p>	<p>Lunch Break and Preparation of Posters and Exhibits</p>
<p>13:30 - 14:30 (CR6)</p>	<p><b>Technical Session – Current research on camel health and disease control</b> (Moderated by Mr Viskam Wijewardana, Acting Laboratory Head Animal Production and Health, Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, IAEA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zoonotic viruses transmitted by dromedary camels <b>Mr Norbert Nowotny</b>, Professor, Institute of Virology, University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, AUSTRIA (15 mins)</li> <li>R&amp;D in Disease Detection and Diagnosis: Implications on Camel Health <b>Mr William Dundon</b>, Molecular Microbiologist, Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, IAEA (15 mins)</li> <li>Control of Camel Diseases - Challenges and Way Forward <b>Mr Habil. U. Wernery</b>, Scientific Director, Central Veterinary Research Laboratory, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (15 mins)</li> </ul> <p>Panel Discussion with speakers (15 mins)</p>

**SESSION B: OPEN SESSION (ROTUNDA, 15:00 – 18:00)**

<p>15:00 - 16:15 (Rotunda)</p>	<p><b>Open session: Camel Connections - Socio-economic and cultural dimensions of camel rearing</b> (Moderated by Ms Farai Muchadeyi, Section Head, Animal Production and Health, Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, IAEA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening Remarks: <b>Ms Najat Mokhtar</b>, Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, IAEA (5 mins)</li> <li>Opening Remarks from representatives of Permanent Missions <b>Voluntary</b>: 4 Permanent Missions (20 mins)</li> <li>Camelids – The Heroes of Desert and Highlands <b>Ms Ilse Kohler-Rollefson</b>, Coordinator and Senior Advisor League for Pastoral Peoples, GERMANY and Co-founder Camel Charisma, INDIA (15 mins)</li> <li>Camelids - Guardians of Resilience in the Face of Climate Change <b>Ms Ilona Gluecks</b>, Head of Clinical Research Facilities and Clinical Research Officer, International Livestock Research Institute, KENYA (15 mins)</li> </ul> <p>Panel Discussion: Supporting Camel Herders – Way Forward (20 mins)</p>
<p>16:15 - 18:00 (Rotunda)</p>	<p><b>EXHIBITION</b> – Exhibits on camel products and services Permanent Mission of Peru - New world camelids</p> <p><b>SOCIAL EVENT</b> – Finger food and Drinks</p>

**HEROES OF DESERTS AND HIGHLANDS:  
NOURISHING PEOPLE AND CULTURE.**

**#IYC2024**