

JOURNAL OF CAMEL PRACTICE AND RESEARCH

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GROWING CAMEL SCIENCE AND AUSTRALIA INDIA CAMEL SCENARIO

Camel science is ushering to a new era since the year 2006 and significant growth has been adjudged. A period of 11 months (April 2006-February 2007) has become a hall mark for camel science, since three international camel conferences were organised during this period at UAE, Saudi Arabia and India. All these conferences were attended by a large number of scientists showing their non-lack-a-daisical but earnest approach to camel science.

Commitment to form ISOCARD, creation of an international camel research centre and recommending stringent measures for saving the camels were highlights of conferences held at UAE, Saudi Arabia and India, respectively. A sharp decline in camel population in India has drawn serious attention of camel scientists. Mere camel breeding by camel keepers is not proving a sustainable and viable source of income. Much stress has been put to evolve alternative measures to generate income for cameleers and to popularise the camel milk and its products in view of its advantage to human health.

The scenario of camel at Australia and India bears significant contrast. Australia wants to control population of feral camels and has gained the revenue through camel tourism, races, meat and export. Contrarily, India wants to increase the camel population. Camel slaughter is banned in India, hence it cannot be popularised as meat animal. Camel milk is yet to gain popularity in general public, although significant efforts have been made by research organisation and NGO in India. Hosting camel festival in India imparts more to foreign tourist pleasure than a monetary gain to cameleers. Decreasing trend in camel population has escalated the price of camels in popular animal fairs of Rajasthan, which was never seen before. Popularising goods made up of camel leather are popular in Australia but not in India other than "USTA Camel Art" on some decorative items of camel leather but this too is just a tourist delight.

The delicacies of camel milk are reaching to super market from even poor countries like Mauritania and rich country like Dubai. Tiviski dairy of Mauritania and Modern Dairy Camel Projects are among the premiere camel dairies. Improving the products and marketing strategies of camel milk may help generating renewed interest of camel in camel breeding and may perhaps help saving camel from further decline in population.

This issue of JCPR completes 14 years of journey. It provides paper on new and old world camelids. Electroejaculation in llama, digestibility of organic zinc forms in llama and alpacas and haematological parameters in llama are featuring in new world camelid section. Camel dermatology is gaining interest of researchers as evident by 4 papers on this aspect in this issue. Seroepidemiological and serosurveillance studies on infectious diseases indicate inclination of researchers towards camel immunology. However, morphological studies of brain, metacarpal, phalanges of bactrian camel are also included in this issue. Papers on pharmacology, parasitology, physiology, production, surgery, anaesthesiology and infectious diseases also make part of this issue.

Good wishes



(Dr. T.K. Gahlot)

Editor

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