

IGA Newsletter

Keep Informed—Stay in Touch—Get Involved

- Fostering the use of goats to provide for the needs of humankind.
- Encouraging research with and development of goats to increase their productivity and usefulness throughout the world.
- Perpetuating the International Conferences on Goats.



Message from the President

By Pierre Morand-Fehr

All IGA members are entitled to know how IGA is running, one year after the Tours Conference, as well as IGA progress in the course of the next few years. I had promised to emphasize regularly the highlights on the efforts that enabled IGA to progress and to be successful. First of all, the membership has increased from 20 to 25%. Indeed, this is not yet sufficient. However, the actions implemented are becoming profitable. Our aim is to demonstrate that IGA is in a position to provide every member with the needed contacts and information, and to avoid the feeling of being isolated.

We are starting an important initiative to recruit corporations and organizations that are interested in the goat sector as IGA members. Also, the IGA Board cares very much about the improvement of communications among IGA members. The presentation and the contents of IGA Newsletter handled by Chris Lu is a step forward to address this concern.

We have started the implementation of the IGA website. We thank Jean-Paul for his efforts and EAAP for its friendly co-operation in

this regard. The website's contents and activities will be constantly improved.

David Sherman was appointed as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal Small Ruminant Research that is supported by IGA and published by Elsevier. The Journal's scientific quality is well known, but some other proposals will be implemented to further enhance the quality and presentation of the Journal.

We have other projects concerning communications. We shall keep you informed as these projects are approved by our Board.

Roberto Rubino has initiated a publication project on the products. The first results of this project will be presented at the next ICG in Pretoria.

Preparations for the 8th ICG are progressing fairly well, as it is handled by Norman Casey. As the ICGs are the focus of IGA activities, the 8th ICG will be an important international event for the goat sector. This is the first time that an ICG is organized in Africa. Accordingly and as you may know, IGA is very active

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The Official IGA Web Site

By Jean-Paul Debuef

The official IGA web site can be accessed at the following url: www.iga-goatworld.org/index.html. You can find at this site the latest information on IGA; IGA Board activities; invitation to participate in IGA projects; contacts and links with organizations working on goats; contents of the last issues of Small Ruminant Research and invited or short papers presented at IGA sponsored conferences; the name, address, telephone, fax, and e-mail address of your country representative(s); and review papers, original full length research papers, short technical notes, and book reviews. The IGA web site will be gradually updated with regular new information. It will be soon available in Spanish and French.

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IGA Board of Directors Met in Little Rock, USA

By Beth Miller

The IGA Board of Directors met between the 5th and 6th of March 2001 in Little Rock, Arkansas, at the Headquarters of Heifer Project International and the office of the IGA Secretariat. Ten Board members attended, at their own expense: Pierre Morand-Fehr, Jim DeVries, Chris Lu, Jean-Paul Dubeuf, Jiabi Pu, Norman Casey, Roberto Rubino, Rosalee Sinn, Sahr Lebbie, and Beth Miller.

The main topics of the Board meeting were the new IGA Website, the 8th ICG in 2004 in South Africa, guidelines for institutional members, regional meetings, and membership. We also elected Dr. Juan Capote from the Canary Islands, Spain, to the IGA Board. Welcome Dr. Capote!

The Board identified the following conditions for IGA sponsorship of Regional meetings:

1. Level of quality.
2. International topic.
3. The sponsoring body becomes an Institutional Member.

The Board also adopted the following procedures for IGA endorsement of Regional Meetings:

1. Regional Director and conference committee will send the proposal to the President.

2. Benefit to IGA must be clearly stated (financial return, recruitment of members, etc..).
3. IGA will provide expertise, logo, reputation, and publicity (through the Newsletter and the Website).
4. Approval is given by the Board (via meeting or email).

The Board approved "Draft Guidelines for Corporate Sponsorship" (see website for details), a project about goat products around the world and another to identify goat-related organizations, and discussed membership-related issues.

The next meeting of the IGA Board of Directors will be held on the 27th of August, 2001, in Budapest, Hungary. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the 52nd Annual Meeting of the European Association of Animal Production.

The topics to be addressed during the next IGA Board of Directors meeting include preparations for IGA's 20th anniversary in August 2002 in Cairo, Egypt; review of IGA's financial status and membership; updates on the website; and progress towards the 8th ICG in South Africa.

Suggestions of issues of urgent importance may be sent to Pierre Morand-Fehr, IGA President.

Message from the Secretary-Treasurer

By Beth Miller

Greetings from Little Rock, where the days are hot and humid, but the goats have full udders.

I would like to introduce Ms. Kelly Brant as the administrative assistant to the Secretary-Treasurer of IGA, courtesy of HPI. The secretariat now has a new office within the HPI HQ building, but we are still unpacking boxes. Please excuse us if we are late in responding to you. We hope to better serve IGA in our new arrangement.

Please send your 2001 dues if you have not already done so. Also, inform the Secretariat of any changes in email or postal addresses. Messages and mail are often returned and we do not know how to find you.

Dues are payable in US dollars, bank deposit or credit card. Your credit card number is protected if

you send it by email goats@heifer.org or fax (501-907-2606 or 501-907-2602). Dues are for the calendar year in which they arrive, unless otherwise indicated.

Members in certain countries may also use UNESCO coupons. Contact the nearest UNESCO or UN-related office for directions.

Some members have experienced delays in receiving their Journals. Please let me know if they do not arrive so that I may take the matter up directly with the publisher. I apologize for such inconveniences.

I have appreciated the opportunity to get to know so many of the wonderful members of the IGA family in the past year, and I look forward to many more worthwhile programs.

Dr. Juan Capote was elected to the IGA Board... The Board adopted procedures for IGA endorsement of Regional Meetings... The Board approved "Draft Guidelines for Corporate Sponsorship".

Please send your 2001 dues if you have not already done so. Also, inform the Secretariat of any changes in email or postal addresses.

Message from the President

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but can only rely on voluntary members, especially board members, country representatives, and members involved in various projects. We got to thank them for their initiatives and their efforts. Their activities are mainly aimed at developing IGA's reputation, particularly in the countries of Asia, Africa, and South America where goat production is very likely to play an important socio-economic role.

We look forward to members' cooperation, participation, and support for many of IGA's activities. You are the future of IGA. The President and Board members are nominated to facilitate the implementation of your initiatives.

Do not hesitate to send your suggestions to Beth Miller or myself. We shall analyze it very carefully and give a reply.

IGA Will Celebrate its 20th Anniversary in 2002

Twenty years have passed! At the event of the 3rd International Conference on Goats held in Tucson, Arizona, in 1982, pioneers such as Warren Foote and Christian Gall had the idea to continue these international conferences every four to five years, and the International Goat Association was born. The founding members believed that the development of the goat farming industry could be the solution for the nutritional problems in some countries as well as the improvement of socio-economic status of the farmers in regions that adapted to goat farming. Thanks go to all IGA presidents and Board members during these 20 years for their leadership and contributions.

A celebration will take place in Cairo, Egypt, during the 53th annual meeting of the European Association for Animal Production (EAAP). The meeting

will be held between the 2nd and 5th of September 2002. Rosalee Sinn, our former secretary-treasurer, and Adel Aboul Naga, our former president, have accepted the responsibility of the organization of this 20th anniversary event.

If you have some suggestions concerning the program of this anniversary, do not hesitate to send them to our two coordinators: Rosalee Sinn (Fax: 1 501 907 2609 and e-mail: Dansingoat@aol.com) and Adel Aboul Naga (Fax: 92 51 824 371 and e-mail: FAO-PAK@field.fao.org).

The finalized program will appear in the next issue of the IGA Newsletter. We hope that many IGA members will be able to join and celebrate our 20th anniversary in Cairo.

IGA Wishes to Increase its Corporate/Institutional Membership

In countries with goat farming, corporations and organizations interested in goat production and marketing play a leading role in development. The success of goat projects depends on the cooperation with these corporations and organizations. This is the reason why it is important for IGA to increase the membership of such organisations.

The institutional structures, objectives, and activities of these corporations/organizations are linked with the socio-economic environment, the trend of the agricultural policy, and the goals of research institutes. Accordingly, IGA will have to get adapted to the specific kinds of structures so as to meet their needs and institutional requirements. IGA will try to facilitate the contacts among differ-

ent corporations/organizations (communication by the website) so as to enable cooperation on specific problems in various fields of activities.

IGA considers three levels of corporate membership: silver, gold, and platinum, matching with the three levels of recognition and service by IGA. The corporation/organization/institution will be free to choose the level that meets its needs. More detailed information on corporate/institutional membership will be in the next issue of IGA Newsletter.

***All IGA members will receive complimentary copies of "Caseus International Magazine as indicated by the Secretary-Treasurer".*

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Meet Your Regional Directors and Country Representatives

By Christopher D. Lu, Membership Leader and Vice President

There has been strong emphasis at IGA to promote interactions among members. A membership structure has been established to accomplish this important goal. New regional directors and country representatives have been appointed.

In the IGA Constitution, the Country Representatives are described as:

- Official representatives of a country with one or more members.
- Provide input on IGA matters.
- May be nominated by the Board of Directors.
- Must be a member of IGA to serve.

Their responsibilities include:

- Assist IGA to achieve its objectives.
- Assist IGA to become a global organization.
- Solicit new members in respective countries.
- Organize local chapter activities.
- Promote ICGs.
- Contribute to IGA newsletters.
- Assist IGA in membership fee collections.
- Organize national or regional meetings with IGA, providing co-sponsorship and resource assistance whenever possible.

They are appointed through the following appointment process:

- Nomination, solicitation, or volunteering should be directed to the Vice President in charge of membership.
- Brief curriculum vita and two letters of recommendation are to be sent to the Vice President.
- The prospective country representatives will be contacted to confirm the willingness to serve.
- Recommend to the IGA Board or President for appointment.
- A certificate and business cards will be sent to the appointed country representatives from the Secretary-Treasurer of IGA.

A number of ways to recognize their contributions:

- Recognize country representatives in IGA publications.
- Recognize country representatives in IGA membership meetings.
- A distinguished service award is presented for one (minimum) to three (maximum) country representatives for the highest growth in membership within their respective countries between two ICGs.

The Country Representatives can assist in collecting and processing membership dues:

- New members with Visa, MasterCard, or US bank check can simply fill the application form (country representatives to receive a supply from the IGA Secretary-Treasurer) and mail to IGA Secretary-Treasurer.
- Country representatives can collect cash from new members and send their personal check to IGA.
- New member can use UNESCO coupons for membership fees.

MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

Region 1: Australia, Oceania, & South Asia

Regional Director: Barry Norton

Country Representatives:

Australia: B. J. Restall

Indonesia: Dahlanuddin

Vietnam: Chau Ba Loc

Region 2: Southeast Asia

Regional Director: Jayasheeree Honmode

Country Representatives:

TBA

Region 3: North Asia

Regional Director: Pu Jiabi

Country Representatives:

China North: Zhang Yong

China South: Yang Liquo

Japan: Seiichi Osoro

Taiwan: Yung-Yi Sung

Region 4: North America

Regional Director: Mohammad Fahmy

Country Representatives:

Canada: Paula Menzies

Region 5: Europe

Regional Director: Roberto Rubino

Country Representatives:

Cyprus: C. Papachristoforou

France: Gilbert Toussaint

Greece: George C. Fihenakis

Italy: Michele Corti

Portugal: Alfredo Teixeira

Spain: Dolores Megias-Rivas

Switzerland: Jeannine Muhlherr

United Kingdom: Alan Mowlem

Region 6: Central and South America/Caribbean

Regional Director: TBA

Country Representatives:

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The establishment of regional directors and country representatives are aimed to encourage regional interactions among members.

Meet Your Regional Directors and Country Representatives

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Argentina:	Silvia Saad de Schoos
Bolivia:	Angelika Stemmer
Mexico:	Arjona Guillermo Rios
Peru:	C. Matossian de Pardo
Panama:	Jose Manual Perez
Venezuela:	Fidel A. Pariacote

Region 7: Middle East

Regional Director:	E. S. E. Galal
Country Representatives:	
Egypt:	Samir Ahmed Salem
Lebanon:	Saab Abi Saab

Region 8: Africa

Regional Director:	Sahr Lebbie
Country Representatives:	
Cameroon:	Rueben Njwe
Kenya:	Shaukat Ali Abdulrazak
Uganda:	Jolly Hoona
South Africa:	Ned Donkin

As indicated by the IGA President Pierre Morand-Fehr, we have recently seen an increase of 20 to 25% in membership. Thanks to the country representatives, regional directors, officers, and members of the Board of Directors for the team effort. It is important for IGA to expand the services to its members. Increasing the number of issues of the newsletter is among the new initiatives. We would like to keep the members informed and encourage interactions among members. A new drive for corporate membership is on its way. The IGA website is a milestone for the facilitation of communications and interactions. It is a great challenge to maintain a reasonable contact with the global membership for an organization like IGA. The establishment of regional directors and country representatives is aimed at encouraging regional interactions among members. We hope that active IGA members will help us identify qualify and energetic individuals to serve as country representatives.

News from IGA Country Representatives

Angelika Stemmer, Bolivia

In Bolivia, about 1.5 million goats are kept, mainly in the interandean valleys at altitudes of up to 2700m above sea level. Valleys are bordered by steep mountainous slopes. The mean annual rainfall ranges from 200 to 600 mm, with 8 to 9 months of little or no rain. The mean annual temperature is in the range of 15 to 21 °C.

There is no market-oriented goat industry in Bolivia. Depending on location, goats and sheep (along with cameloids) are the most important farm animals for the subsistence of small farmers in remote areas. Women and children do most of the husbandry concerning small ruminants. The majority of goats are of the Criollo type, which in Bolivia has been influenced less by other goat breeds than in other South American countries. The most important product from goats in subsistence farming is their dung, which is used as fertilizer followed by milk, meat, and hides (consumed by the family and, to a lesser extent, are sold). Criollo goats are very well adapted to the difficult climatic and management conditions to which they are subjected to. Adult females weigh approximately 25 to 40 kg and are able to reproduce throughout the year with the exception of times of extreme feed shortage. Milk production in small holder conditions is about 240 g/day and 450 g/day in the dry and rainy seasons, respectively.

Common problems faced by goat keepers (especially women) are the lack of extension services, in general, and the lack of interest in livestock apart from cattle in national development organizations. Through its goat-keeping activities, however, the family is provided with essential goods that are vital for the functioning of their subsistence-oriented production systems.

Paula Menzies, Canada

The goat industry has experienced tremendous growth in the last year, in the dairy sector in particular. Strong prices for milk and increased capacity for cheese production have mostly fueled that increase. However, it is still a minor sector of the agricultural economy. There is little goat research being done in Canada, although it is hoped that this will change in the future. A bright spot is the success of a transgenic company, Nexia, which has developed transgenic goats that carry genes for the production of spider silk proteins, among other things. The important infectious diseases of goats are chlamydial abortion, coxiella abortion which causes important zoonotic disease in humans (called Q Fever), Johne's disease which is increasing in prevalence, CAE, caseous lymphadenitis, and (of course) internal parasites. Drug availability is limited because goats are a minor species. Most drugs

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News from IGA Country Representatives

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must be used in an extra-label fashion which has implications in residue avoidance and adverse reactions. However, goats continue to find their niche as an alternative agricultural activity, lending to diversity of rural wealth. Strong markets should continue because of the economic health of our urban populations, particularly Toronto and Montreal.

Gilbert Toussaint, France

Each year, a National Show of Goat Cheese is organized in France. This year, the 24th show will take place in Crest (South East of France), on the 29th and 30th of September 2001.

This event will be a good opportunity to exhibit hundreds of milk goat cheeses, produced in farms from all French Territories. These cheeses will be tasted and given a notation by referees constituted of well known experts of cheese production, individuals belonging to agricultural and food distribution networks, caterers, and consumers.

IGA French members are considering the creation of a prize dedicated to the winner of this French competition as well as of a show whose referees are constituted of foreign experts, at an international level.

During this National Show, technical sessions will draw a large audience of farmers, technicians, and amateurs of goat cheeses. The technical sessions will be focused on goat milk and cheese as well as the promotion of one A.O.C. cheese (controlled appellation) produced in the region: the "Picodon".

For any further information, please contact Gilbert Toussaint (Tel: 33 1 49 70 71 87 or e-mail: Gilbert.Toussaint@wanadoo.fr).

Saab Abi Saab, Lebanon

In Lebanon, goat farming is estimated at 500,000 heads (200 to 500 heads per farm). The pasture is the main dietary resource. The transhumance system is the most spread. It consists of migration from winter pasture regions (coast areas) to summer pasture regions (mountains at different altitudes). This is an up and down vertical transhumance. It is a family farm system of a maximum of 50 heads located in Lebanese villages. Besides, some intensive commercial systems are appearing. Approximately 6000 families earn their living from raising goats.

The main goat breeds, the Baladi and the Chami (Damascus), are raised in intensive systems. These systems represent only 7% of the Lebanese goat farming. Goat farming is mainly dedicated to milk products (milk, yoghurt, and cheese) which are rarely commercialized in the modern trade organizations, and accordingly sold directly to consumers.

The Baladi breed is local, well adapted to difficult environmental conditions (Mediterranean mountains, limited water allowance, and low energy value of feed). This breed has a relatively low performance. Characteristics of the Baladi breed include the productive capacity of adaptation to strong variations of temperature and a black or dark-grey coat. Their production capacity can be estimated by the carcass weight: 49% of the live weight. The bucks reach a mature weight of 65 to 70 kg. Females have their first kidding at 20 to 24 months of age with one kid of 2.5 to 3 kgs. The prolificity rate is 1.3 and milk production ranges from 120 to 140 kg per year while the lactation length is about six months. The Chami breed is less rustic with productivity and very high prolificacy. Its performances are close to European breeds recently introduced in Lebanon.

Juan Capote, Spain

At the end of March 2001, a six-day Seminar on Goat Health and Management was held in the Canary Islands (Spain). The seminar was specifically designed for veterinarians and technicians working in goat farming organizations. The event was organized by the Canarian Government together with the Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, and supported by IGA. Many applications were received. The seminar board selected 43 of these applications to attend the conferences. However, only 21 were selected to attend the full seminar, including the necropsies and farm visits. Different issues were addressed during the sessions. These included nutrition, selection, management, products, diseases, and sanitary programs.

Several members of the IGA presented at the conference, mostly from Spain. Dr. Antonio Contreras, Dr. Adolfo Falagan, Dr. Juan L. López, Dr. Anastasio Argüello, and Dr. Juan Capote were among those who made presentations. Among the foreign visitors were Dr. Roberto Rubino and Dr. Eduardo Manfredi.

At the end of the conference a survey form was distributed to the attendants, to be filled out anonymously.

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News from IGA Country Representatives

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mously. The general opinion was largely positive and similar events in future years were demanded. The participants suggested that the contents of future conferences address more specific issues.

Alan Mowlem, United Kingdom

There are two major goat interests in the UK. There are the pedigree breeders who are interested in showing their goats (these include all breeds). The shows for dairy breeds are controlled by the British Goat Society that registers the goats and publishes an annual herd book. The Shows and pedigree registrations for Angora goats are controlled by The British Angora Goat Society.

In addition to the interest in pedigree breeding,

there is also a growing commercial sector. In the case of dairy goats, there are now farmers milking over 1000 animals (many with herds of 500). The majority sell their milk to a number of processors who make cheese, yogurt, and/or pasteurise and package the milk for drinking. There are some who add value to their own milk by processing it into, mainly, cheese. There are only few commercial Angora goat farmers. Most of these sell their mohair in bulk through a cooperative. Others process their mohair to finished garments that they retail through their own shop or sell wholesale to other retail outlets. There is also an interest in cashmere production. Most of the farmers with cashmere goats are in the North of England and Scotland. There is no good market for meat in the UK.

News and Events

The International Conference on Boer Goat will be held in Anshun, China, between the 20th and the 25th of October, 2001. The conference will be jointly sponsored by the IGA and China Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine Academy (Goat Branch) to promote the understanding of meat goat development in the world, sharing related information, and establishing international cooperation. The conference committee is chaired by Dr. Pierre Morand-Fehr. Prof. Zhao Youzhang is the Vice-Chairman while Prof. Christopher Lu, Mr. Tao Xingqian, Prof. Pu Jiabi, Mr. Wu Chen, Prof. Ma Ning, Dr. David Sherman, Prof. Zheng Zhongchao serve as committee members. The main topics include, among others, the following:

- The usage and development of Boer goat.
- Effect observation on Boer goat crossbreeding with local goats.
- Boer goat raising, managing, and disease prevention and treatment.
- Environmental reservation and the development of goat sector.
- The challenges and opportunities the China goat sector will face after joining WTO.
- The application and extension of new and high technology, such as embryo transplant in the goat sector.
- Goat raising and poverty reduction in developing countries.

For more information, please contact:

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The FAO-CIHEAM Sub-network on Nutrition of Sheep and Goats will organize its next seminar at Hammamet in Tunisia between the 8th and 10th of November 2001. The subject of the seminar is on the "Nutrition and Feeding Strategies of Sheep and Goats Under Harsh Climates". For further information, please contact:

Dr. Hichem Ben Salem
INRAT
Laboratoire de Prod. Animales et Fourragères

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The International Conference on Boer Goat will be held in Anshun, China, between the 20th and the 25th of October, 2001.



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News and Events

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The 10th International Conference of The Association of Institutions for Tropical Veterinary Medicine "Livestock, Community, and Environment" will be held between the 20th and 24th of August, 2001, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The 26th Scientific Meeting and 5th International Conference of the Spanish Society of Sheep and Goat Science will be held in Seville, Spain, between the 20th and 22nd of September, 2001. For more information, please check the conference's web site at www.seoc.es or contact:

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A new IGA Brochure and Membership Form will be available on 1 August, 2001. It will contain updated information about the 8th ICG, the IGA Website, corporate membership, and the Board of Directors. Please contact your Country Representative or the IGA Secretariat for copies.

To contribute to the articles and news and events of the IGA Newsletter, please contact:

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