

International Goat Association News

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IGA News

Save money when you register for the 9th ICG

IGA members can save money when they register for the 9th International Conference on Goats.

Members in good standing

March 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.

Scholarships for the 9th International Conference on Goats

Written by Jim DeVries, IGA Secretary-Treasurer

The 9th International Conference on Goats is coming up in Queretaro, Mexico. It promises to be the best conference on goats yet having both a very strong academic presence and an excellent scientific agenda, as well as participation by many producers and therefore a strong production orientation.

We expect it to bring together the best of science with the best of production. It will be a great learning and professional development opportunity.

As part of IGA's mission to promote goat research and development we want to provide an opportunity for young scientists and extension workers, especially women, to participate in this conference. The majorities of such young professionals are found in the developing world, and lack the financial resources to participate in an international conference. Thus IGA is seeking financial sponsorship for these scholarships.

We will offer scholarships up to \$1,500 to as many qualified and deserving candidates as possible. This will meet part of their cost and hopefully will allow them to leverage additional support.

IGA needs your financial support to be able to do this. Please consider making a tax deductible donation or ask your institution to make such a contribution. This can truly change lives.

We want to extend a special thank you to Rosalee Sinn for being the first IGA member to contribute to this scholarship fund, thank you Rosalee for setting such an excellent example.

We know there are more people out there that want to give. Any amount that you can donate will be greatly appreciated!

All sponsorships will be recognized at the conference in Queretaro and in IGA publications unless you prefer to remain anonymous.

IGA has established a small committee which is reviewing all applications for sponsorship to determine whether the person is qualified and truly needs



for 2008 will receive a 10% discount on their registration if they register prior to the 9th ICG. IGA members who register after this deadline will receive a 5% discount.

If you have not renewed your membership for 2008 please contact us soon.

For more information visit the conference website at: www.igamexico.com.

Another important benefit for all 2008 IGA members

Early in April, Jim DeVries (IGA Secretary-Treasurer) will be mailing out voting ballots to all 2008 IGA members. Anyone who has not renewed their membership by March 31, 2008 will not be eligible to vote.

Help a young professional to participate in the 9th ICG

The Ninth International Conference on Goats is drawing near and we need your help.

This conference is the premier event for sharing the latest research on goats. Unfortunately there are many young professional around the world who will be unable to attend because they lack the funds necessary.

IGA has created a scholarship fund in an

financial help. We already have many more applications from worthwhile candidates than we can hope to assist. We are thus appealing to each of our members and others to help.

[To download a donation form, click here.](#)

From the President

Dear Friends of the IGA,

Renew your membership before voting begins

Soon we will be electing a new IGA Board of Directors. Ballots will be mailed to all IGA members in good standing during the first week of April.

Everyone who has renewed their membership for 2008 will be eligible to vote. Anyone who has not renewed their membership by March 31, 2008 will not be eligible to vote.

Therefore we urge you to renew your memberships as soon as possible. We need your support and assistance to make IGA the best it can be.

Currently membership rates are \$45 USD for a basic membership with online access to *Small Ruminant Research*. The rate for a hardcopy subscription to *Small Ruminant Research* is \$145 USD.

Please remember: *All IGA memberships are from January to December and all memberships include online access to Small Ruminant Research.*

Current IGA members will also save money when they register for the 9th International Conference on Goats. This conference will take place in beautiful, historic Queretaro, Mexico from August 31-September 5, 2008. For more conference information go to: www.igamexico.com.

Members in good standing will receive a 10% discount on their registration for the 9th International Conference on Goats if they register by prior to the 9th ICG. IGA members who register after this deadline will receive a 5% discount.

To obtain an application you can visit our website (www.iga-goatworld.org) and click on the button at the top left that says "Membership Application" or you can contact Christian DeVries at goats@heifer.org.

For your convenience, the IGA accepts payment by check or credit card (*VISA* or *MasterCard*). If you would rather pay your membership fees via wire transfer, we can also provide you with this information. If you use a credit card to renew your membership, please make sure that you include the expiration date.

Send all mail to:
International Goat Association
Attn: Christian DeVries



effort to provide young professionals with an opportunity to attend the 9th ICG.

Please consider donating to this worthy effort, no gift is too small.

For more information read the article by Jim DeVries in this newsletter or [visit the IGA website to learn more.](#)

[To download a donation form, click here.](#)

Do you want to write an article for the IGA newsletter?

We need our readers to send in all goat related stories, photos, conference information, etc. that they find or have written.

One of the most popular types of articles among our readers is the country reports/updates. We are always in need of these reports from our Country Representatives and Regional Directors around the globe. These reports/updates do not have to be long or comprehensive. For example they should include such things as; challenges and advantages for goats in the area that you represent, numbers and types of goats, information about the different industries in your area, etc.

Many of you have answered our call and for

1 World Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202
USA

Thank-you very much, we appreciate your support of the International Goat Association and hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Christopher D. Lu
IGA President 2005-2008

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

UPDATE - 9th International Conference on Goats

"Sustainable Goat Production: Challenges and Opportunities of Small and Large Enterprises"

In support of the 9th International Conference on Goats, of the International Goat Association (IGA), the Mexican Association for Goat Production (Asociación Mexicana de Producción Caprina; AMPCA) will collaborate and hold its annual meeting at the *Mision Juriquilla Hotel*, in Queretaro, Mexico, from August 31 to September 5, 2008.

For more information visit the conference website at: www.igamexico.com.

Conference Program

Day 1 - September 1st

- Opening ceremony and plenary sessions 1 and 2
- Invited papers and oral presentations
- Lunch
- Invited papers and oral presentations

Day 2 - September 2nd

- Poster Session 1
- Plenary Sessions 3 and 4
- Invited paper and oral presentations
- Lunch and poster session 1
- Invited paper and oral presentations

Day 3 - September 3rd

- Technical Tours

Day 4 - September 4th

- Poster Session 2
- Plenary Sessions 5 and 6
- Invited paper and oral presentations
- Lunch and poster session 2
- Invited paper and oral presentations
- Closing ceremony

Keynote speakers (plenary sessions) and invited speakers (individual sessions) will cover subjects falling within the scope of the conference which are of



your efforts we sincerely thank you, but it is really important that you continue to send in new information. We hope you will help all IGA members better understand the global goat situation and connect with other members.

Remember to send all goat news to:

Christian DeVries
goats@heifer.org

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

Goats in the News

[International Small Ruminant Conference, Oman](#)

[How to Raise Healthy Goats](#)

[Weaning, Fattening, and Butchering Goats on Rimfire Ranch](#)

[Bluetongue Vaccination Campaign, France](#)

[Raising Goats My Way](#)

[Incomes Boosted By Raising Goats, Kenya](#)

[Brazilian Farmers Hope to Sell Goats in Middle East and North Africa](#)

[Pashmina Goats Dying of Cold, India](#)

[Snow Threatens Kashmir's Pashmina Goats, India](#)

active current interest.

Invited speakers for plenary sessions will present review articles of the following topics:

- 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

[For a comprehensive Session Program, click here.](#)

Deadlines

- Submission of papers from keynote speakers (plenary sessions) and invited speakers (individual sessions), and three-page papers - March 30, 2008
- Notification of acceptance of abstracts for poster presentations -April 30, 2008
- Notification of acceptance of short papers selected for oral presentations, and papers from key-note and invited speakers - May 30, 2008
- Conference proceedings ready for publication - June 30, 2008

For more information, please visit the conference website at: www.igamexico.com or contact the appropriate coordinating person:

Jorge R. Kawas

Chairman

Phone: 52-811-080-3149

Email: jkawas@mnademexico.com

Felipe Torres-Acosta

Scientific Committee Chairman

Phone: +52 999 942 3200

Email: tacosta@uady.mx or rcamara@uady.mx

Paula Cardenas

Executive Secretary

Phone: 55-555-622-5854

Email: paulacg@servidor.unam.mx

Special thanks to Jorge Kawas for sending us the information for this update.

IGA Reaches Out to the Middle East

Written by Chris Lu, IGA President

Since 2004 the International Goat Association has cosponsored regional conferences in Asia, Central and South America, Eastern and Western Europe, clearly it was time for a conference in the Middle East.

[Herd of Goats Slaughtered, Iceland](#)

[Medicine From Milk, USA](#)

[Transgenic Kids With Human Lactoferrin, Belarus/Russia](#)

[Transgenic Goats to Serve Mankind, Belarus/Russia](#)

[Making Goat Cheese the Andaluz Way, Spain](#)

[Goats Improve Lives of the Vulnerable, Uganda](#)

[Making Goat's Milk Ricotta, USA](#)

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 October 2007 Newsletter

[9th ICG, Queretaro, Mexico](#)

[Meat Goat Production Handbook - Order Form](#)

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

The International Conference on Small Ruminant Production and Health in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions in the Middle East was successfully held in Muscat, Oman during January 26-28, 2008.

This Conference was under the autopsies of the Minister of Agriculture HE Salim bin Hilal Al Khalili who attended the Conference as the guest of honor. The Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University, Dr. Saud bid Nasser Al Riyami, IGA's Country Representative in Oman, Dr. Osman Maghoud Gaffar and IGA President, Christopher D. Lu spoke at the opening ceremony.

IGA members, country representatives and board members attended and participated in the Conference. The Conference was well attended by professionals from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Australia, Pakistan, Czech Republic, Spain, Mexico, France, Jordan, United States, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Nigeria, as well as Oman. Many government dignitaries also attended the Conference.

The Conference addressed relevant issues in nutrition, reproduction, management, health and ecology in small ruminants. The scientific program was excellent, and all participants toured the City of Muscat and had experienced the culture in the Middle East. Concurrently with the Conference, Muscat Festivals were also part of the Conference culture program. Conference dinner was held on the night of January 27.

On January 28, the participants had an all-day excursion to the interior of Oman. At the end of the Conference, a network in the region was formed. Conference proceeding are available at Sultan Qaboos University.

Opening Speech for the International Conference in Oman

Speech by Dr. Christopher D. Lu, IGA President

Salim Aleikum and Aloha

Your Excellency, Salim bin Hilal Al Khalili, Minister of Agriculture, Your Excellency Dr. Saud bid Nasser Al Riyami, Vice Chancellor of Sultan Qaboos University, Professor Sanmugam Prathapar, Dean, College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences, Dr. Osman Maghoud Gaffar, Chairman of Organizing Committee and Country Representative of International Goat Association in Oman, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Small ruminants, sheep and goats, have played an important role in the advancement of civilization in the arid and semi arid regions. Oman, as many other countries in the arid region, has a long history in raising goats and sheep successfully. Goats, particularly, has an important place in the history, culture and every day life of People in Oman. Not too many know that goats were the first animals to be domesticated for food purposes, far before cattle were.

Oman is known for important goat breeds like Batinah and Dofari, between them a very distinct difference in terms of growth rate and carcass

[No Meat in Goat Prices,
Australia](#)

[New Research on the
Benefits of Goat Milk,
Granada](#)

IGA Information

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[General IGA
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characteristics. As population grows, especially in arid and semi-arid regions, there is a greater dependence on imported food. However, people prefer food that is locally produced for safety and freshness reasons. It is an easier solution to import food to meet the local demand, but it is more important to be able to produce food locally for security and safety reasons. Oman must never forget her history in agricultural production, the essence that has sustained the population and advanced culture and civilization for centuries. I will encourage continue research and development in small ruminant production that is consistent with the concept and principles of food security, food safety, economic development, market viability, and environmental preservation. It is timely to have this international conference in Muscat, Oman in partnership with International Goat Association.

International Goat Association is a global network of people and organizations linking research and production by sharing information, experience, and best practices. International Goat Association advocates socially just, environmentally sound and economically viable goat production. International Goat Association also promotes regional activities with a global and diversity perspective.

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. Many of us who are active in the Association are with a commitment to change people's life.

On behalf of members from more than 70 countries around the world, country representatives, regional directors, and officers and members Board of Directors, members of the Board of Advisors, I wish a great success of this important conference.

Shukron and Mahalo

Proceedings from the 2007 International Symposium in Italy will soon be ready

Written by Lucia Sepe

Finally the Book of the Proceedings of the International Symposium "The Quality of goat products; models and tools for evaluation and promotion" is coming soon.

The Symposium, held in Bella (Potenza, Italy) on 24-26 May 2007, in occasion of the 25th anniversary of the IGA founding, dealt with the several aspects of the quality of goat products: the link with the territory, the market and the consumer's perception of quality, the factors that influence the quality (breed, health, feeding, technology), parameters of evaluation, all for meat, milk and cheese and fibre.

The Book is paper-bound, 270 pages, and 170 x 240 mm size. It contains the main papers and short papers presented orally during the Symposium. Moreover, it includes the posters showed during the exposition, in 4-pages

[MNA de México](#)

[Croatian Livestock Center](#)

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

Association of Goat Breeders - Republic of Macedonia

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format. The cost is just a contribution for shipping charges; for details please see the Order Form hereby available.

The Book of the Proceedings will be sent to all participants of the Symposium automatically, as soon as ready. Those who did not attend the Symposium and wish to receive the book, are invited to download the order form, fill it in and send it to the attention of Dr. Lucia Sepe by fax (+39 0976 79930) or email lucia.sepe@entecra.it.

8th European IFSA Symposium

“Empowerment of the rural actors: a renewal of Farming Systems perspectives”
Clermont Ferrand, France, 6-10 July 2008

The International Farming Systems Association aims at improving the living conditions of farmers and people living in the rural environment. The IFSA brings together researchers, agricultural development agents and local authorities.

The IFSA is a world association (<http://www.fao.org/farmingsystems/ifsa>) which is based on continental groups (Africa - East and South, West Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, North America).

Studies and research relate to the transformations of farming systems, agricultural produce sectors and agrarian systems, and to the way in which public policies and the intervention methods of organisations in charge of agricultural and rural development can evolve. The questions deal with require systemic and multi-disciplinary approaches: the IFSA is one of the rare scientific communities favouring multi-disciplinarity between agricultural technology sciences, ecology and social sciences.

The IFSA European group was structured at the beginning of the 1990s. Since then, it met regularly every two years within the framework of symposiums (Florence in 2002; Vila Real in 2004, Wageningen in 2006).

Each symposium brings together about 150 people over approximately 4 days, and is based on university or research reception facilities. The IFSA is a free, dynamic and inventive group, open to multi-disciplinarity, participative approaches, the change in farm-territory scale and science and society, research and development questions.

Workshop Themes:

1. *Learning, collective action and empowerment for rural reorganisation.* Collaborative approaches to rural change appreciate multiple stakeholders' views of the future, and empower co-development for this future. These approaches are underpinned by 'learning processes'. Practically, we question how learning addresses scaling up issues - effective collaboration at a local level often lacks a corresponding change in organisations and policies? Theoretically, what are appropriate knowledge perspectives in this context?
2. *Vertical integration: farming systems in food chain.* This workshop will discuss research based experiences of the changed conditions that farming systems face within the whole food chain. Therefore it will focus on the environmental, social and economic impacts of different food chains and the challenges and opportunities offered by diverse quality schemes and standard setting organisation at the world level as well as the certification tools implemented. The ability of diverse farm systems to enter in those schemes has to be addressed as well, as well as the possibilities that exist for different farm types to be proactive and competitive.
3. *Adaptive farming systems.* The rapid pace of change and its often unforeseeable direction require farmers to

keep their farms flexible and adaptive. This workshop will focus on exploring the attitudes, structures and activities that build and sustain the ability of farmers and farming communities to cope with on-going change and to use the opportunities offered by change. In particular, we will examine the factors that support the capacity of farming systems to create, test and maintain an adaptive design.

4. *Landscape as a frame for- and a product of developments in rural areas.* Landscapes have always had a dual role in the rural area: on the one hand they provide a frame and resource for (production) functions and on the other hand they are a product of these functions. Because in the rural areas in (western) Europe a shift can be seen from mono-production functions to societal multi-functions, this dual dynamic of landscapes will change too.

Landscape is more and more used as resource for rural development and as flexible frame to incorporate that. The main goal of this workshop will be to open the debate to representations, models, participatory approaches and other tools that help to discuss the changing roles of landscape and its impacts at farm and regional scales.

Other important issues in the context of this debate will be to compare Eastern and Western European countries and to discuss the role of planning and education to deal with landscape changes.

5. *GHG emission reduction and energy production in agriculture, forestry, aquaculture and mariculture: potentials and impact.* Europe is facing important challenges, including Global Warming or Climate Change. Agricultural, forest and aquatic production systems (sea and coastal zone systems included) play an important role in both the cause as well as the solution of this problem.

The problem is not calling for a revolutionary shift nor for one-way solutions but, in stead, for a mosaic of good practices and ideas. The workshop will discuss added-value or competitive advantages from production systems to produce energy and/or to reduce GHG emissions.

6. *Change in knowledge systems and extension services: role of new actors.* This workshop deals with the management of change in know-how production, exchange and use, considering the multiple and often complex relationships between scientists, extension agents and rural actors. There are very different approaches of extension in different countries, as well as a broad variety of players in the field. Structuring catching up processes in developing farming systems by extension services have to be re-discussed under the new conditions of globalisation, climate change, energy stress and reduced public impact.

Satellite Sessions:

Education in Landscape and Territory Agronomy. Landscape Agronomy analyzes the two-way relationship between farming practices and landscapes: practices build landscapes and are determined by landscapes. It is a participatory action science that aims also to provide indications for action (development projects at the territory level).

The satellite session wish to develop a comparative analysis regarding research and training experiences in Europe dealing with questions on changes in agriculture, related to landscape dynamics and environmental demands. *Protected Areas, Sustainable Research and Development: What is Known and What are the Perspectives?*

European Protected Areas in general and French Regional Nature Parks in particular have since their creation always represented special places of innovation seeking to reconcile economic development and protection of the environment. The conception and then the diffusion of technical, social or economic innovations, calls upon research whose forms and qualities are varied: applied research, action research, research and development etc.

We have taken the opportunity of drawing up an overall assessment of these practices and their achievements at the 8th Symposium of the European Group of the International Farming System Association at Clermont Ferrand. The objective is to encourage dialogue and exchange between researchers and those active in the areas concerned (elected representatives, public decision-makers, professionals, associations etc.).

For more information please consult the 8th European IFSA website
www.8th-european-ifs-symposium.org