

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



IGA Newsletter
December 2018



- [REPORT: Asian Regional Conference on Goats \(ARCG-2018\), October 22-26](#)
- [First Announcement - ARCG 2019, October 20-23, Nepal](#)
- [Nepal Trip Report - Goats and the Chepang people](#)
- [Announcement: Award to Dr. Shoor Vir Singh](#)
- [Goat Day in Goat Town, Kecskemét, Hungary](#)
- [Country Report: New Zealand Dairy Goat Industry](#)
- [Profile - Dr. Vicki McLean](#)
- [Burkina Faso study quantifies impact of sustainable intensification on household food security](#)
- [Profile - Irfan Daskiran](#)
- [Profile - Hsiu-Luan Chang](#)
- [Asi son mis Cabras](#)
- [Profile - Heather Rose Briggs](#)
- [Profile - Dr. Osman Mahgoub](#)
- [Profile - Lisa Shepard](#)
- [Why Livestock Matter](#)
- [Interventions and tools to improve small ruminant health in Ethiopia](#)
- [Profile - Marisia Geraci](#)
- [Profile - Luca Rapetti](#)
- [Book Announcement - The World of Sheep and Goats](#)
- [Profile - Dr. Francisco de Asis Ruiz Morales](#)
- [XI Congreso de la ALEPRyCS](#)
- [Balancing Welfare and Productivity](#)
- [Greetings from the new Country Representative for Japan](#)
- [Keynote Speech at 2018 CAAS Summer Meeting](#)
- [Country Report - The Goat Industry in Morocco](#)
- [Dr. Lucia Sepe presents goat cheeses for special culinary lecture series](#)
- [Send us links to goat videos](#)

REPORT: Asian Regional Conference on Goats (ARCG-2018), October 22-26

Written by Yoko Tsukahara, IGA Board member

The Asian Regional Conference on Goats (ARCG2018) was held at Amity University, Rajasthan, Jaipur, India on Oct. 22-26, 2018. The theme entitled “Current Challenges in Goat Industry and the Strategies to Combat in Asia Region.” A total of 287 researchers, professors, and producers from 14 countries including, Canada, China, Ecuador, France, Hungary, Japan, Mongolia, Spain, and the USA attended the meeting. The scientific program included keynote addresses, expert talks, oral and poster presentations, and brainstorming and valedictory sessions. The participants enjoyed a warm traditional welcome during the technical tour at the

Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute which produces and conducts research on pure Sirohi goats, varieties of sheep and rabbit breeds, veterinary medical plants, and so on.



Amity University Rajasthan is a government recognized private university and was established in 2008. It is located 40 km away from the city center of Jaipur with a huge campus area where you may see neem forest, wild blue bells, squirrels, and other wild animals. The conference hotel was in the International Center for Environment Audit and Sustainable Development (ICED) area located about 1 km from the Conference Center. The guests enjoyed the large rooms and breakfast daily. Some of the guests observed grazing goats and cattle led by local people near the hotel during the day. Because of the distances and heat during the day, vehicles were essential from the accommodation to the

Continued on Page 5

First Announcement - Asian Regional Conference on Goats, October 20-23, 2019, Nepal

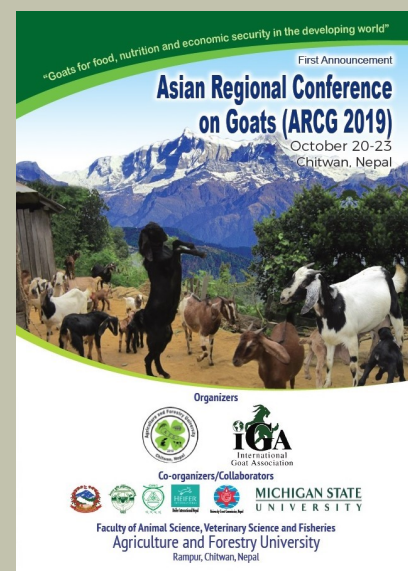
“Goats for food, nutrition and economic security in the developing world.”

Background

The Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU) is the first state-owned technical university in Nepal that was established under a land grant model with the mandate of three functions: education, research, and extension. AFU aims to produce internationally competent human resources to promote education, research, and development in the field of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, and allied disciplines. Since being established, AFU has engaged in organizing various national, regional, and international conferences, as well as seminars and symposiums, to meet its vision and mission.

Goats (*Capra hircus*) are very social, curious, gentle, independent and intelligent creatures that were first domesticated by human beings in 10,000 BC. The largest goat population in the world remains in Asia (59%) followed by Africa (35%). Goat husbandry is becoming the most popular enterprise among the rural as well as urban youths in Nepal. Goat, the “poor man’s cow” contributes about 20.4% to the total meat production in the country and ranks second after buffalo (54.3%). Goats are considered a living bank account, as they can be converted into cash when needed by farmers. Thus, this species has made a great contribution to sustaining the livelihoods of rural smallholders in the developing world.

Continued on Page 14



Nepal Trip Report - Goats and the Chepang people My Visit to Siddhi, Chitwan, August 25-28, 2018

Written by Yumiko Kawamura, IGA member from Japan

Thanks to the wonderful assistance of Heifer International Nepal, I had the opportunity to visit Siddhi, a hillside village in Chitwan, where most residents are from the Chepang people group. The purpose of my visit to Siddhi was to witness the current livelihood status of Chepang and how goat initiatives deployed in 2012 by Heifer International Nepal are progressing.

The Chepang are one of 125 ethnic groups found in Nepal. They live in central Nepal along the steep slopes of the Mahabharat range from 45 meters to 1,400 meters above sea level. They are found in Makawanpur, Dhading, Chitwan and Gorka Districts, which are among Nepal's 75 administrative districts. Based on their low economic status and threatened cultural identity, the Chepang are categorized as a highly marginalized indigenous group by National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities (NFDIN)

(World Vision Advocacy Forum, 2009). According to a 2011 population census, there are 68,399 Chepang people in Nepal among which 34,640 are males and 33,779 females; and more than 97% of Chepang people live in rural areas (CBS, 2011).

Historically, the Chepang people have lived semi-nomadic lives in the dense forest of the Mahabhart hills. Chepang men traditionally hunted wild animals, birds, and fish, while the women cared for small children. They are the most disadvantaged people in comparison to other social groups living around their region (Bista, 2013). Their mean average of literacy rate was around 50% in 2011 (United Nations, 2012). Many studies indicate that low Human Development Index (HDI) of ethnic minorities, including Chepang, drags down the entire HDI of Nepal.

Siddhi has 648 households with approximately 2,900 population, of which 87% are Chepang, 9% are Tamang, and the rest consists of Dalits

and other family roots. Access to Siddhi was a big challenge. It was the end of the rainy season, and the river was full of rapid-running water. We had to cross the river on foot with the assistance of Deepak Chepang, our Chepang guide. On the other side of the river, there was a toku-toku waiting for us. Proudly painted on its side was Siddhi Express. "Wow," I thought, "They have taxi service!" This was the first surprise I experienced in Siddhi.

Continued on Page 3



Announcement: Award to Dr. Shoor Vir Singh

During the Asian Regional Conference on Goats (ARCG-2018) this year, the International Goat Association presented Dr. Shoor Vir Singh with a Certificate of Recognition for his outstanding service and contributions to IGA, and for efforts to promote goat research and goat keeping in India and around the world.

Dr. Singh served on the IGA Board of Directors for three consecutive terms from 2004 to 2016. He also served as the IGA Regional Director for Asia for many years.

Thank you Dr. Singh for your service!



Nepal Trip Report - Goats and the Chepang people *(Continued from Page 2)*



Approaching the center of the village, I saw many goats, dogs, chickens, and ducks roaming around the road. The toku-toku took us to the farmer's two-story house on the main street of the village, where we planned to stay for the night. A friendly host farmer family welcomed us with warm smiles and guided us upstairs where three large beds were nicely prepared. It was a much fancier room than I had imagined. The room was furnished with electricity so that I could re-charge my cell phone and PC.

The host family consists of six family members: a wife and husband with four children. Two of the children go to the community primary school from 10:00-15:00 every day except Saturday. There is also a secondary boarding school across the river, and most of the children go there after graduating from the primary school. They speak the Chepang language between themselves but are also very fluent in Nepali. Children and older people are perfectly bi-lingual!

After a rest, Deepak suggested we visit the other farmer's house where they have successfully reared more than 40 goats, which was a five-minute walk down the hill from where we were staying. According to the farmer's wife, they started systematically rearing goats in 2012 with assistance provided through a Heifer International Nepal project

partner. They were trained how to keep healthy goats, and they began learning how to read and write in the Nepali language. They also learned about raised goat sheds to keep the goats and environment clean. However, she said the most significant change they experienced was access to the major goat market in the nearby town. This has brought them a stable income and a secure livelihood.

Thanks to the income from their goats, they can send all their children to school, they have renovated their house and irrigation facilities, and they no longer struggle with fear and anxiety about their future. It was very impressive that they seemed so confident and satisfied with their current life. The wife said, "My husband used to drink a lot and did little work on the field. But he has changed since I participated in the women's goat cooperative. Now, he goes to the field every day while I take care of our goats. Many things in our lives have been changed since we started rearing goats for selling in the market."

Before dinner, I had a chance to talk with Deepak Chepang about his life and their community. Deepak is 25 years old, married with one child. He said their life had changed dramatically in the past 10 years. Especially after every household started systematic goat rearing five or six years ago (92% of households in the community joined the Heifer goat initiative). He also said that women in the community were very empowered by this project. "Five or six years ago, not many women were literate," Deepak said, "but after they joined the women's goat cooperative, they realized the importance of literacy.

Additionally, the power balance in

households also changed. Chepang women are no longer subservient to their husband. They have equal voices on important household decisions such as education of their children, sanitation and hygiene, the marriage of their children and so on."

Deepak also mentioned that families with stable lifestyles are promoting Chepang's traditional values in the community. Now they are very proud of being Chepang. "I want to pass our Chepang culture to my children through festivals, songs, and tales from our ancestors." It was also surprising to me that everyone, regardless of their ethnicity and caste, is living in harmony. In fact, I had a chance to chat with a Dalit lady in a storefront. She said she was very happy living there because everyone is so kind to her.

The next morning around 7:30, we departed the center of the Siddih to visit another village on top of the mountain. Deepak estimated it would only be a 30-minute walk. However, it took more than two hours for me to reach the destination. After crossing wild rivers more than three or four times, walking up and up on an endless rough and rocky road, I truly appreciated and was relieved to hear the voices of people shouting "Japone, Japone! (Japanese, Japanese!)"

The village was located probably 1,000 m above the main village area of Siddhi. I could see clouds below

Continued on Page 4



Nepal Trip Report - Goats and the Chepang people (Continued from Page 3)

the village. Deepak guided us to a farmer's house for lunch. As soon as we arrived, heavy rain started to fall. I felt lucky.

The household consisted of nine family members including a 75-year-old grandmother, and two couples with four children. They are also members of the goat cooperative and rear about 30 goats in their raised goat sheds, along with two buffalos and cows. The wife of the son is the chairperson of the cooperative in this community. They fixed a wonderful lunch, which was the best Dal Bhari I ever had in my life, especially after the hectic mountain climbing.

After lunch, we moved to another farmer's house where we planned to stay for the night. Our room was prepared above the goat shed. For a goat lover like me, it was paradise as I could look down on goats peacefully grazing and sleeping below the window. A toilet was near the shed, and the bed was clean and comfortable.

I talked with the household owner about their life on the mountains. He is a 50-year-old farmer whose father was a Pande (traditional healer). He also mentioned that the community had experienced a big change in the past ten years. He said his 75-year-old father was too traditional to accept the change, so he now lives apart from his son. He lives with a wife, son and his wife and two grandchildren.

Thanks to the interventions of INGOs and NGOs, there have been a lot of improvements, especially in the fields of economy, medical services, education, and agricultural technologies. Above all, the most important change was their access to main-stream goat market in the nearby town, which brings constant income when needed. "Goats are our liquid assets. We cannot live in this remote area without connection to the market. Goat marketing surely changed

our life."

I also had a chance to interview with a 75-year-old lady who had experienced the history of this community. She was part of an arranged marriage when she was just 13 and came to this community from an even more remote community over the mountain. She had nine children, of which she lost six children due to disease. She had to struggle to survive as her husband died when she was 45. She had to work from dawn to sunset every day on the field to feed her children and parents-in-law. "But things had been getting better and better especially in the last five or six years," she said. "Now we don't have to worry about food. I am very happy living here with my family." She proudly added, "I still take care of my cows because I am very good at it!"

On the way back to the center of Siddhi, I asked Deepak if there is any concern or challenge the community must tackle. He said his community still needs basic infrastructure such as road, bridges, and internet access. Also, he mentioned that there are other Chepang communities in even farther, more remote areas where the people are still struggling with chronic poverty and lack of education. He however proudly said, "I think we can overcome any difficulties we may face because now we have abilities to do so."

Probably, Siddhi is one of the most successful communities with development interventions. The reasons for the success are due to the following three reasons. First, geographically, Siddhi is located near to a town, so market access is relatively easier for them compared to other Chepang communities. Second, religious conversion from Animism to Christianity might have promoted the social cohesion of the community. Interestingly, 90% of the community residents, except Tamang and Dalits,

are Christians (Protestant) since it was introduced about 20 years ago. Every Saturday, about 600 people get together at churches for religious services. Christianity might have provided communication opportunities among village people and a new identity as diligent workers. There are 13 churches in Siddhi area (even on top of the mountain). Third, but not least, goat business has clear advantages for them regarding making a stable livelihood. Once the community established access to the main market with a decent pricing system, starting with a small investment and with proper techniques and vet services, goats can be a very productive and sustainable business even in remote hillside areas like Siddhi. Because of the size of the animals, women can handle goats easier than cows and buffaloes, which promotes their status in the households.

Visiting Siddhi and meeting many of the Chepang people, I am deeply impressed by how successful development projects can change the lives of people. Siddhi is one of the most successful communities with interventions. Not all Chepang people are living as well as the people in Siddhi, but now I believe there is potential for the future of Nepal with better development projects like those started by Heifer International's Nepal office. Good development projects make people happy, gentle and equal; Siddhi people are in fact much happier than many of those who work 12 hours a day with heavy stress in Tokyo.

I wish to express my deepest appreciation to Ms. Suminima Shresta of Heifer International Nepal and her staff in Chitwan as well as to the staff of WWGC, the project partner of Heifer. This trip to Siddhi surely changed my life.

[See all of Yumiko's wonderful photos on the IGA Blog.](#)

REPORT: ARCG-2018 (Continued from Page 1)

Conference Center or city center. The organizing committee members were kept busy accommodating all the transportation requests from the guests.

Abstracts of scientific programs and poster presentation consisted of 57 Goat Health Management & Welfare, 23 Nutrition Management and Alternative Feeding Systems, 37 Breeding and Genetics, 16 Production Systems and Climate Change in Asia, 38 Innovation in Reproductive Technology, 20 Socio-Economic, Marketing, and Financial Issues in Asia, and 13 Goat Products. In India, there are 20 registered local goat breeds of meat, milk, hair, and multi-purposes according to the diverse geographic and climate conditions. Health management is one of the biggest concern and interest. Vaccination programs of PPR, goat pox, FMD, enterotoxaemia, hemorrhagic septicemia as well as anthrax and black quarter were encouraged. Other diseases including blue tongue and Johne's diseases also commonly oc-

cur. Currently, among these diseases, the most important problem and the biggest challenge is PPR in India.

The IGA Board Meeting was held on October 23rd, the evening of the second day of the conference. Dr. Beth Miller (the president of IGA), five members from the Board of Directors, and two Country Representatives (CRs) from China (Northwest & Inner Mongolia) and Japan were present, while the Executive Director and other Board members attended via Skype. The nominated CR from India, Dr. Mamta Dhawan, was officially approved at the beginning of the meeting, and she also attended. The progress of ICG2020 was announced, and each committee reported their recent activities. There were discussions on new membership categories for individual members and new benefits for Institutional membership. Amity University also proposed a project collaborating with the IGA to enhance extension programs in India. IGA was encouraged by this proposal and in

this regard, announced a memorandum of interest. The Board felt that further discussion was necessary to finalize certain details of this proposal and agreed to meet again soon.

There were also entertainment programs, such as gala dinner, networking teas, and a cultural evening. It was very nice to meet and get to know some of the professors and students. Some of the students impressed us with their enthusiasm, interest, knowledge, and dancing skills.

Although there were some miscommunications and disorganized situations, the organizing committee gave their full effort with respects to the Conference and tried their best to accommodate all the requests, conditions, nonstop-speakers, and no-shows. All the attendees were certainly grateful and pleased with the Conference. With this newly created friendship, we look forward to the improvement of goat production in India in the future.

Goat Day in Goat Town, Kecskemét, Hungary

On Saturday, August 25, we had celebrated Goat Day in Kecskemét. In Hungarian, kecske means goat, so Kecskemét means goat town.

The crowning moment of this day was attempting the world record for the most people drinking goat milk. We had 434 registered participants, but nearly 800 participated. Unfortunately, these extras were unable to register during the given time period. We had hoped to have 650 people drinking goat milk at the same time in the same place. It was still a huge crowd of people and we had a great time. We also organized several other events as part of this celebration:

- a presentation of goat breeds kept in Hungary;
- presentations about goats and goat products in human consumption;
- a goat cart race with obstacle course;
- a goat milk products competition; and
- a goat milk drinking competition.

Many of the pictures (and short films) will be uploaded to the 13th ICG website, but we wanted to share some

photos by Miklós Biszkup with you.

Sincerely,
Sándor Kukovics
IGA Board member



Country Report: New Zealand Dairy Goat Industry

Written by Dr. Vicki McLean

The New Zealand (NZ) dairy goat industry is just a blip on the international market for the amount of milk produced. Asia produces over 217,000 tons times more milk than Oceania (Faostat 2013).

However, the NZ dairy goat industry has become more prominent on the international market in the last five years and is presently the most developed of the NZ goat industries compared to the meat and fiber goat industries. The present domestic market is small and mainly consists of cheeses, yogurt, UHT, whole milk, milk powder and ice cream sold at local farmers markets and supermarkets. There may be future growth in the domestic markets with the changing palate of New Zealanders.

Approximately 85 thousand dairy goats are supplying one major and three minor companies producing milk powder, cheese, and liquid milk. The most valued commodity being produced and largely exported is milk powder. The majority of commercial milking goats are farmed in the North Island, and at present, the largest population of those dairy goats are supplying the Dairy Goat Co-operative (N.Z.) Ltd (DGC) in Hamilton. The predominant breed milked is the Saanen (including the NZ Sable breed), followed by Toggenburgs, Cross-Breeds, British Alpines, and Nubians.

An average NZ commercial dairy goat produces 826 kg of milk with top farms producing 1,440 kg per goat at 11.5% to 13.5% solids (fat, protein, and lactose), over 280 to 305 days. The commercial herd sizes range from 200 to approxi-

mately 2,500 milkers. Smaller family farms herd sizes will range between 20 to 70 milkers on average.

NZ dairy goat farmers utilize different farming systems from 100% pasture grazing systems to 100% housed and fed on a total mixed ration (TMR). The type of system is dependent upon the number of goats per hectare, the type of environment (including weather, soil type, and topography), economics and personal preference. Goats managed in a housed environment are the most common commercial systems utilizing a “cut and carry” feeding system. Commercial goat milking is typically done through herringbone and rotary sheds. The 40 aside “rapid exit” herringbone and the 80 to 100 bale rotary sheds are the most popular for large herds. Through those sheds, they can milk 300 to 400 goats per hour. The main goat feeds are forages such as grasses, clover, lucerne, grass and cereal hay, grass and maize silages. Some of the concentrates fed include maize, canola, peas, barley, fava beans, hominy, wheat, and dried distiller’s grain. DGC’s policy is that farmers

may only use supplementary feeds that sourced from New Zealand or Australia, GE free and no reject feeds from products manufactured for human consumption (e.g., bakery waste and potato waste).

Animal welfare

New Zealand has a Code of Welfare for Goats which specifies what is considered to be optimal animal welfare and how this may be achieved for goats farmed under conditions specific to New Zealand. All DGC Suppliers receive a copy of this national code and a DGC code of practice and are required to manage their farms under the guidance of these two codes. They are audited twice annually by external auditors and at least once or twice by the DGC veterinarian.

Industry Future

The NZ dairy goat industry future looks very promising. There is a global increase in demand for dairy goat products, especially from “safe” countries. New Zealand currently has a “clean green” image, meaning that imports of dairy goat products from NZ are “safe.”



Profile - Dr. Vicki McLean

Country Representative for New Zealand

Vicki graduated from the University of California Davis with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine and a Master's Degree in Epidemiology and Population Medicine. She spent three years teaching at the University of Missouri Veterinary School before immigrating to New Zealand. She was a lecturer and a farm services clinician at the only veterinary teaching institution in New Zealand. She lectured at Massey University Veterinary School in NZ for four years and concurrently obtained a Ph.D. in dairy cattle mastitis with emphasis on *Streptococcus uberis* mastitis. Vicki went into private practice for nine years working in the Waikato Region of the North Island of NZ. In practice, she worked on species including small animals, but her main work was with dairy goats, dairy cattle, beef, sheep, and pig operations. She treated the individual animals, but always focused on the prevention of further clinical cases. In the last few years of private practice, half of the clients she had were commercial dairy goat farmers. After three years of doing contract health audits for all

the Dairy Goat Cooperative Ltd (DGC) farms, they decided to employ Vicki full time.

Vicki has over 30 years of experience working with meat, fiber and dairy goats. At present, she is the only veterinarian in NZ who is a Member of the Australian New Zealand College of Veterinary Science - Goat Medicine. Vicki oversees the health and welfare of approximately 60 thousand goats divided among 71 farms supplying the DGC. She ensures that healthy goats are producing top quality milk to produce formula for infants and children. She is a hands-on clinician as well as assisting and teaching other veterinarians about dairy goat and sheep medicine and management. She has talked at goat meat and fiber producers' meetings. She is a member of several National Committees, including the National Mastitis Committee and an Animal Welfare Committee. Vicki has traveled extensively to international and re-

gional goat conferences in the Netherlands, France, Australia, USA, England, and Cyprus. She has lost count to how many goat related conferences she has been to in the last ten years but will continue to travel and learn all she can to improve the animal health and welfare of the NZ goat industries.

Vicki's present goal is to eradicate CAE from all commercially farmed goats in NZ.

Want to learn more about our other Country Representatives? [Click here.](#)



Burkina Faso study quantifies impact of sustainable intensification on household food security


Sustainable intensification (SI) of agricultural production has become a predominant theme in development agendas in West Africa. But despite the availability of a wide range of technologies for adoption, uptake has been very minimal. One reason for the often-disappointing uptake of technologies could be poor targeting of households.


Researchers at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) have analysed and quantified the potential food security impact of boosting a set of sustainable intensification options in Burkina Faso to better identify which technologies would fit the characteristics of specific households.

The research activities were designed to be solution-focused to meet the needs of farmers and were implemented in Seno and Yatenga provinces in the Sahelian zone of the country. The basis of the study is that there is a great potential for smallholder farmers engaged in crop-livestock systems, to produce more in a given area of land, thereby improving productivity, food security and nutrition while preserving ecosystem services.


[READ MORE...](#)

Download the [Assessment of the potential food security benefits in Burkina Faso report.](#)

 FEED: FUTURE
Partnership for Resilient Livelihoods & Food Security



Assessment of the potential food security benefits of increased income from crops, livestock and off-farm employment in Burkina Faso

 USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Profile - Irfan Daskiran

Country Representative for Turkey

Irfan has over 25 years of experience and expertise in livestock production. He received his Master of Science and Ph.D. in animal husbandry and breeding & selection systems from Ankara University, Turkey.

He started his career as an Agricultural Engineer in Turkish Agricultural Bank for ten years and later transferred to the Yuzuncu Yil University,



Faculty of Agriculture, Animal Sciences Department as an Assistant Professor in Van, Turkey. Irfan worked as a Lecturer and Researcher in University and managed the Vocational School of Bitlis for two years.

After seven years he transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture of Turkey, under the General Directorate of Agricultural Research and worked as a researcher in the National Small Ruminant Project for two years. He began working in the UN-FAO/SEC office as a JPO and prepared some international projects and organized several national and international meetings and workshops between 2009 and 2011. After his contract has ended, he transferred to Ministry of Food Agriculture & Livestock as a Small Ruminant Research Coordinator and managed National Small Ruminant Project for five years. During this period, he completed his Associate Professor academic criteria and produced more than a hundred academic articles on different livestock issues.

In 2016, he arranged the [12th International Conference on Goats](#) in Tur-

key on behalf of the International Goat Association and participated as the chairperson of the conference. He is the IGA Country Representative for Turkey and has worked as a consultant for many national and international projects. He has been actively working in the ERA-Net project as the work package leader.

Highlights of his professional experience include:

- Project coordination and management,
- Project preparation,
- Animal breeding and selection methods,
- Dairy goat farm management,
- Consultant services on livestock production,
- Data collection and analysis,
- FAO project experiences,
- Livestock strategy development, and
- Academic facilities, reporting, and writing facilities.

Want to learn more about our other Country Representatives? [Click here.](#)

Profile - Hsiu-Luan Chang

Country Representative for Taiwan

Hsiu-Luan is Professor of Animal Science at National Pingtung University of Science and Technology (NPUST). She holds a bachelor's degree (BSc) in Animal Husbandry from the National Taiwan University, Taiwan. She also received her Master of Science (MSc) and Doctoral degrees (Ph.D.) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, in 1988.

After a brief stint at the same university, UI, as a post-doctoral researcher, she moved back to Taiwan and joined Taiwan Livestock Research Institute (TLRI) in 1989-2004 with research responsibilities. Her research focused on animal breeding and genetic evalua-

tion of livestock to promote the genetic progress of pig, dairy cattle, goat and chicken industry in Taiwan. She also coordinated the national germplasm preservation program for farm animals from 1989 to 2004 before transferring to the NPUST.

In addition to serving as the Chairman of Animal Breeding and Genetics Division in TLRI for 15 years, Dr. Chang also held administrative positions at NPUST, including Chairman of Animal Science Department and Director of Innovation and Practical Training Center from 2010 to 2014.

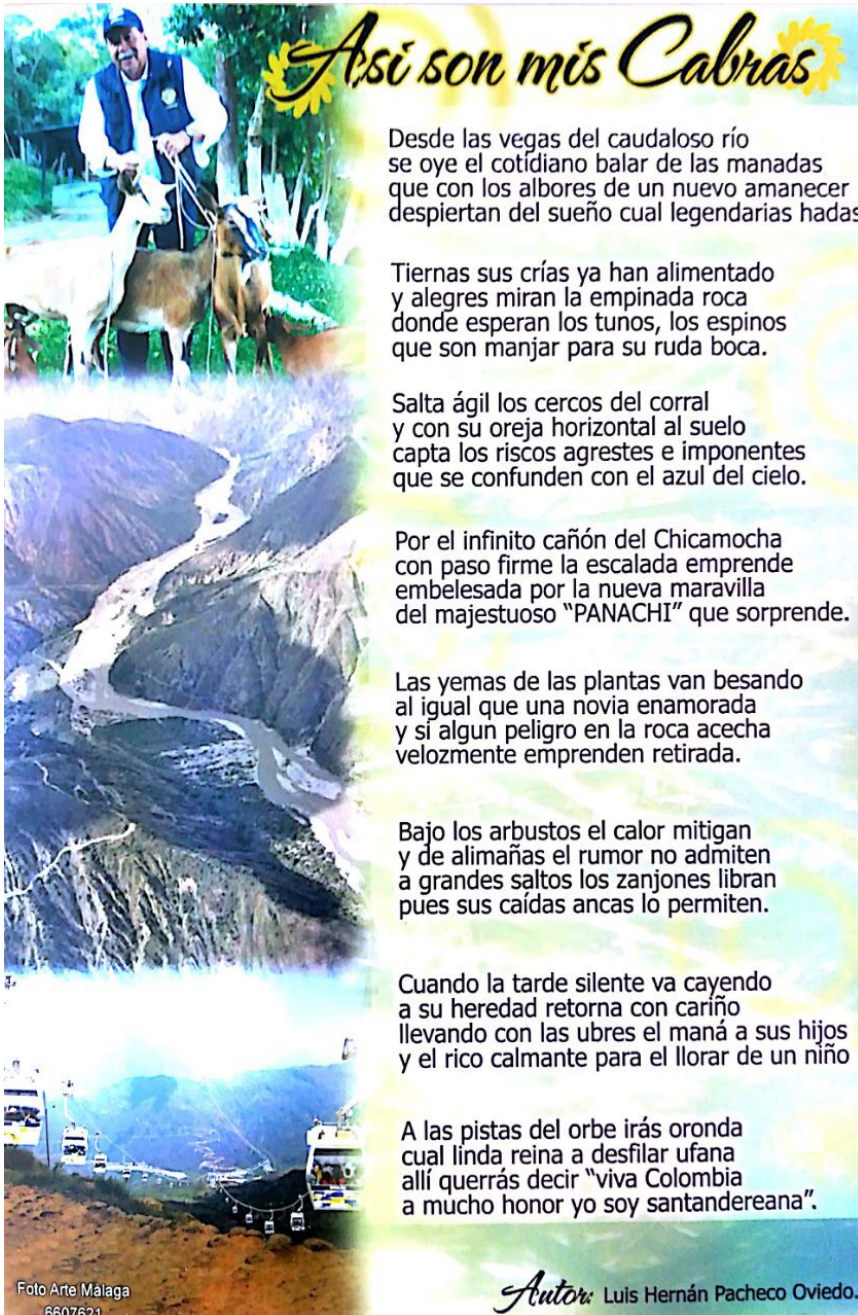
She is currently on the advisory committees of National Animal Industry Foundation and Council of Agricul-



ture, Executive Yuan counseling and evaluating animal sciences and industry programs funded by the government.

Want to learn more about our other Country Representatives? [Click here.](#)

Asi son mis Cabras



Asi son mis Cabras

Desde las vegas del caudaloso río se oye el cotidiano balar de las manadas que con los albores de un nuevo amanecer despiertan del sueño cual legendarias hadas.

Tiernas sus crías ya han alimentado y alegres miran la empinada roca donde esperan los tunos, los espinos que son manjar para su ruda boca.

Salta ágil los cercos del corral y con su oreja horizontal al suelo capta los riscos agrestes e imponentes que se confunden con el azul del cielo.

Por el infinito cañón del Chicamocha con paso firme la escalada emprende embelesada por la nueva maravilla del majestuoso "PANACHI" que sorprende.

Las yemas de las plantas van besando al igual que una novia enamorada y si algún peligro en la roca acecha velozmente emprenden retirada.

Bajo los arbustos el calor mitigan y de alimañas el rumor no admiten a grandes saltos los zanjones libran pues sus caídas ancas lo permiten.

Cuando la tarde silente va cayendo a su heredad retorna con cariño llevando con las ubres el maná a sus hijos y el rico calmante para el llorar de un niño

A las pistas del orbe irás oronda cual linda reina a desfilar ufana allí querrás decir "viva Colombia a mucho honor yo soy santandereana".

Autor: Luis Hernán Pacheco Oviedo.

Foto Arte Malaga 6607621

Un hermoso poema escrito por un Caprinocultor del departamento Santander, el señor Luis Hernan Pacheco un hombre Lider, amante de las cabras y la leche de cabra, ha participado activamente a nivel gremial, participó en el reconocimiento de la cabra Santandereana, un ejemplo de persona.

Special thanks to Clara Viviana Rúa Bustamante (IGA-CR Colombia) for bringing this poem to our attention.

Need to contact us?

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2016 OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: 2016 2017 2018 2019

Family Name: Title:

Address:

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- IGA memberships are effective for 1 year from the date you join.
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- Participate in IGA projects, such as the IGA Consulting Group.
- Access to the MEMBERS area of the IGA website, where you get exclusive information, access to IGA member documents, etc.
- Submit articles for publication in the IGA Newsletter.
- Opportunities for leadership and participation in IGA committees.
- IGA is the voice of goat researchers & producers at national & international levels.

[Pay Now](#)



Profile - Heather Rose Briggs

Country Representative for United Kingdom

Heather is a mature, part-time, self-funded Ph.D. candidate at the Sustainability Research Institute, University of Leeds. Her interest in goats stems from work done in translations for a number of specialist researchers on the caprine species. She holds an MSc in Agricultural Economics from Wye College, University of London and is a freelance agricultural journalist regularly working for numerous national and international agricultural

trade publications. She also has experience as manager of an agricultural cooperative based in Spain and exporting fruit and vegetables to the UK and the Netherlands. Her doctoral research involves investigating links between sustainable intensification and vertical farming. She is also an international cheese judge, judging at the Nantwich International Cheese Awards and the World Cheese Awards.

Want to learn more about our other Country Representatives? [Click here.](#)



Profile - Dr. Osman Mahgoub



Country Representative for the Sultanate of Oman

Osman is a professor of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University, Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences, College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences. He holds a BSc in Veterinary Science and MSc in Meat Production from the University of Khartoum, Sudan and a Ph.D. from Lincoln College, University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

He is currently carrying out several duties including teaching, research, extension and community service. He has built strong relations with the local goat producers and goat scientist to improve the local goat population.

Osman has diverse experience in areas that cover goat and other domestic animal species including production systems, molecular genetics and breed evaluation, nutrition and health. He supervised several students who worked on goat production and health. He co-authored a book entitled "Goat Meat Production and Quality" published by CABI. He has published about 200 scientific, scholarly works including refereed scientific journal papers, conference presentations, and book chapters. He has also helped organize conferences on small ruminants in Oman.

Want to learn more about our other Country Representatives? [Click here.](#)

Profile - Lisa Shepard

Country Representative for Southwest USA

Lisa currently works for the American Dairy Goat Association as the Performance Programs Manager. This involves efforts with the DHI Production Testing, Linear Appraisal, Sire Development, DNA Typing, Artificial Insemination, and Type programs. Before this, she was employed in the labora-

tory genetics field for 30 years which evolved into the areas of quality assurance and regulatory affairs. Lisa is a representative to the California Dairy Goat Advisory committee and on the Board of New Mexico's caprine DHIA.

Want to learn more about our other Country Representatives? [Click here.](#)



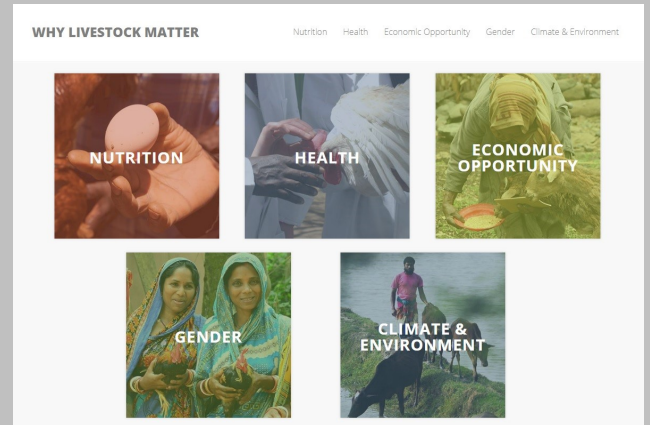
Why Livestock Matter

[Making the Case: Sustainable Livestock for Development](#)

Livestock are critical for sustainable development yet often overlooked. The world’s cows, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and other farm animals are the mainstay of livelihoods across the developing world. And the energy and nutrient-dense milk, meat and eggs these animals produce provide hundreds of millions of families in the world’s poorer countries with basic livelihoods, incomes, food and nutrition.

Despite this, the livestock sector receives no more than 2.5% of official development assistance to agriculture from major donor countries. Investing in sustainable livestock systems is essential if we are to achieve our sustainable development goals. Explore the themes below about how to invest in livestock for development:

- [Nutrition](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Economic Opportunity](#)
- [Gender](#)
- [Climate & Environment](#)

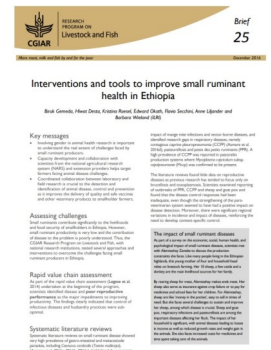


Interventions and tools to improve small ruminant health in Ethiopia

Key messages

- Involving gender in animal health research is important to understand the real extent of challenges faced by small ruminant producers.
- Capacity development and collaboration with scientists from the national agricultural research system (NARS) and extension providers helps target farmers facing animal disease challenges.
- Coordinated collaboration between laboratory and field research is crucial to the detection and identification of animal disease, control and prevention as it improves the delivery of quality and safe vaccines and other veterinary products to smallholder farmers.

[READ THE FULL BRIEF](#)



Profile - Marisia Geraci

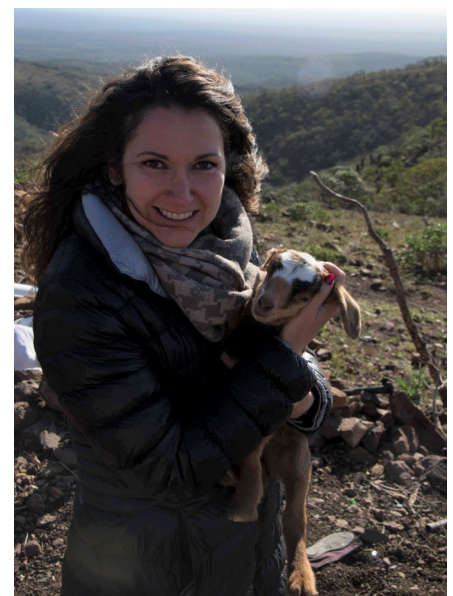
Country Representative for South Africa

Marisia has been the CEO for HPSA (Heifer Project South Africa) since 2009 and worked previously (2001 to 2009) for Heifer International.

She is currently leading a 5-year 100 million Rand (6 million euro) Goat Agribusiness Project with partner Mdukatshani, looking at increasing productivity, commercializing 7,000 rural women farmers and formalizing the indigenous goat market. In collaboration with Mdukatshani and the Department of Agriculture, she recently wrote a [Goat Production Handbook](#), a

Chicken Production Handbook and a Livestock Handbook. In addition, Marisia has developed training materials (getting AGRISETA accredited) for farmer and Community Animal Health Worker trainings, and a best practice guide for Community Animal Health Workers. She also developed a simple 5-ingredient goat protein block with partners that can be produced by youth in communities and established an Innovation Platform on goats bringing together stakeholders all along the goat value chain that meets quarterly.

Want to learn more about our other Country Representatives? [Click here](#).



Profile - Luca Rapetti

Country Representative for Italy

Luca is an associate professor in Animal Nutrition and Feeding at the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences - Production, Landscape, Agroenergy, of the University of Milan. He carried out several researches, mainly at the experimental farm of the Department, aimed at evaluating the requirements of dairy goats and the nutritive value of feeds and diets, with a view to sustainability and quality of production.

Luca is a member of the Cheese Tester National Organization. He is mainly involved in goat cheese evaluation. In few words, from forage to cheese!

Want to learn more about our other Country Representatives? [Click here](#).



Book Announcement - The World of Sheep and Goats

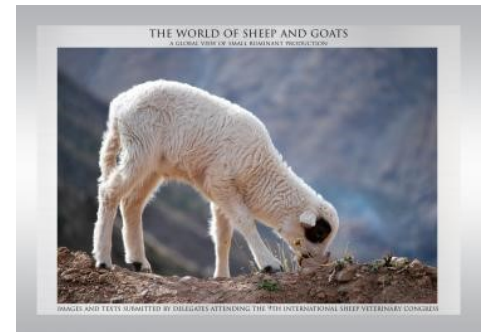
A global view of small ruminant production gives a fascinating and truly global insight into the daily lives of vets, livestock keepers and the sheep and goats in their care. Featuring over 400 images and accompanying texts from over 50 countries, this collection was first displayed at the 9th International Sheep Veterinary Congress in Harrogate in 2017.

**All profits from this book will go to

the Karl Linklater Fund, which will help delegates from emerging countries to attend the 10th International Sheep Veterinary Congress in Seville in 2021. The Karl Linklater Fund is administered by the [Moredun Foundation](#), a charity registered in Scotland, No: SC022515**
£25.00

A4 Paperback, 160 pages
First published June 2018

UK delivery please [order here](#).



Rest of world shipping [order here](#).

Profile - Dr. Francisco de Asis Ruiz Morales

Regional Director for Western Europe

Francisco obtained a Ph.D. in Animal Science and Sustainable Management as well a degree in Technical Agricultural Engineering from the University of Seville. He also received a degree in Environmental Sciences from the University Pable de Olavide.

Francisco's research experience is focused in the field of sustainable management of small ruminant systems and the marketing of their products. He has developed his work in different research centers and universities, including the University of Seville (Spain), the Agency for Agricultural Research in Sardinia (Italy), the French Livestock Institute (France) and in his current research center, the Andalusian Institute of Agricultural Research and Training.



Francisco is a member of the FAO/CIHEAM Subnetwork of Sheep and Goat Systems and a reviewer of scientific articles for various journals. Also, he is the Coordinator of the Shepherd School of Andalusia. He currently holds the position of Technical Specialist A - Area Agricultural Economics and Sociology of the Andalusian Insti-

tute of Agricultural Research and Training (IFAPA).

Francisco has published articles in scientific journals such as Small Ruminant Research, Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, Science of the Total Environment, Journal of Cleaner Production, etc. He has also written ten book chapters and has made more than 100 conference presentations. The article he wrote, "The Situation of Dairy Goats in the World - Situación del Caprino de Leche en el Mundo" has been posted on the IGA website, along with an interview by OVIEESPAÑA about "The Potential of Indigenous Goat Breeds and the Increase in Consumption of Cheese - El Potencial del Caprino son las Razas Autóctonas y el Aumento en Consumo de Quesos".

Want to learn more about our other Regional Directors? [Click here](#).

XI Congreso de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Especialistas en Pequeños Rumiantes y Camélidos Sudamericanos (ALEPRyCS)

1er Congreso de la International Goat Association Latinoamericana
June 4-7, 2019

- Mesas de trabajo de Productores.
- Visitas a Granjas de Ovinos y caprinos (Leche y carne).

Actividades

- Reunión Científica presentaciones magistrales y pláticas cortas.
- Cursos Precongreso (Lácteos, Reproducción, Control de Parásitos etc.)
- Exposición y Juzgamiento de Ovinos y Caprinos.
- Exposición y venta de productos derivados de ovinos y caprinos.

Auditorios del Centro de Negocios de la Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro
Querétaro. México

Contacto

e-mail: andrademon-temayor@gmail.com



Balancing Welfare and Productivity



Check out this great article over at [Ontario Goat](#).

Good animal welfare is defined, for the purposes of this article, as when an animal has both its physical needs

(adequate housing, food, and water, and good health) and mental needs (able to perform normal behaviours, not frustrated, fearful, or distressed) met.

There are many perspectives on animal welfare. Some may think that an animal that is producing well has good animal welfare while others think that animals with a high level of production must have poor welfare. In reali-

ty, the link between production and welfare is more complex.

This graph, adapted from one created by Richard M. Bennett from the University of Reading in the UK, represents a simple theory on the relationship between welfare and productivity.

[READ MORE...](#)

Greetings from the new Country Representative for Japan

Hello, goat lovers throughout the world!

I was appointed Country Representative (CR) of the International Goat Association for Japan in May 2018. Goat raising has become fashionable in recent years in my country, although the population of goats is only around 20,000. Goat keepers raise goats not only for dairy and meat purposes but also for weeding, education, companion animals, etc. Nonetheless, goat raising in Japan is facing some issues.

One of these issues is to establish a feeding standard for goats raised in Japan. As Japanese standards for nutrient requirements of goats do not

exist at present, goat keepers have been using the nutrient requirement tables published by the National Research Council (NRC) for feeding goats. The NRC requirements, however, sometimes do not seem to fit Japanese goat conditions. The Japan Goat Network, the only national organization for goat lovers in Japan, has initiated collecting references and is in the process of creating a temporary feeding standard. Complete feeding standards will be established for goats in Japan in the near future.

Another issue is a shortage of abattoirs which accept processing goats in Japan. Although the population of goats had decreased since 1957 to a recorded number of approximately

14,000 goats in 2010, the population is trending upward due to the increased popularity of goats during the last few years. People keep goats for dairy production, weeding, and restoration of abandoned cultivated land, emotional education in school, companion animals, etc. Conversely, the effective use of male and non-productive goats as meat should be considered. Goat production for meat consumption is popular in Okinawa, located in the southern inlands area of Japan. The distribution of goat meat in the Japanese mainland, however, is still minor. Many research studies have shown the advantages of goat meat compared to other livestock meat. Thus, meat goat

Continued on Page 14

First Announcement - Asian Regional Conference on Goats (Continued from Page 1)

In this context, AFU/Faculty of Animal Science, Veterinary Science and Fisheries is organizing an Asian Regional Conference on Goats (ARCG 2019). The conference is tentatively scheduled for 20-23 October 2019, and is organized in association with the International Goat Association; Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development, Department of Livestock Services, Nepal Agricultural Research Council; Heifer International Nepal; the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization. The conference's

main aim is to gather researchers, academicians and development entities to exchange knowledge and technologies generated in the field of goat research and development across the globe.

Proposed thematic areas

- Goat as a source of food and economic security in the developing world
- Goat production policies, socio-economics, and value chain devel-

opment

- Goat husbandry management
- Goat feeding and nutrition management
- Phenomics, genomics, and biotechnology for enhanced goat production
- Health management and disease control
- Advancement in goat product processing

Greetings from the new Country Representative for Japan (Continued from Page 13)

production and goat meat consumption still have possibilities to be developed in the country. Nevertheless, the locations of abattoirs for goats are limited in the Japanese mainland. Negotiations with concerned organizations should be conducted to increase the places for processing goats in the country.

For tackling and solving these issues, information and advice from colleagues all over the world are necessary. The strong relationship with IGA is important for our activities relating to goats in Japan. I look forward to keeping good relationships and communicating with IGA members. Thank

you in advance for your kind consideration and cooperation for developing goat production in Japan.

Best regards,
Yoshiaki Hayashi, Ph.D.
IGA Country Representative for Japan

Keynote Speech at 2018 Chinese Assoc. of Animal Sciences Summer Meeting

Written by Professor Lu

Upon invitation, Professor Lu, IGA President 2004-2008, delivered a keynote speech at the Summer Meeting of the Chinese Association of Animal Science in June 2018, Tainan, Taiwan. The Meeting was held at Taiwan Livestock Research Institute (TLRI), an IGA gold institutional member.

The topic of the presentation was "Global Trends of Animal Production and New Agricultural Policy in Taiwan." Professor Lu discussed global trends in population growth, food production, food imbalance, as well as social and environmental costs associated with these trends. Water scarcity, soil degradation, ecosystem stress, biodiversity loss, decreasing forest cover, and high levels of greenhouse gas emissions are among the most severe environmental costs discussed.

As a result of an increase in global demand, meat, milk and egg consumption increased dramatically from 1961-2014, concomitant with an increase in world livestock counts in the same period. Goat counts increased from just over 200 million to over 1 billion in the same period. Meat consumption in Asia, particularly in China, increased at a faster pace than Europe and North America. Sales of organic milk increased while that of conventional milk decreased in the U.S. during 2012-2017. World egg consumption per person per year increased by 64% from 1980 to 2005, largely due to the increase in developing countries.



Citing US EPA 2018, Dr. Lu indicated that over time, heat stress caused by heat waves could increase vulnerability to disease, reduce fertility, and reduce milk production. Drought reduces the amount of quality forage available to grazing livestock and the amount of grain to higher procuring

Keynote Speech at 2018 CAAS Summer Meeting (Continued from Page 14)

animals. Climate change may increase the prevalence of parasites and diseases that affect livestock.

As far as animal welfare is concerned, Dr. Lu pointed out that access to pasture is increasingly viewed as a way to alleviate stress and to promote the natural living of animals. Newer generations of consum-



ers are increasingly sophisticated and willing to pay more for products such as organic to promote environmental sustainability and animal welfare. Dr. Lu pointed out that the welfare of farm animals is among the top three priorities that European consumers would like to know more about, right after safety and quality of foods, and effect of agriculture on environmental and climatic changes in 2011 Eurostat.

Greenhouse gas emission by animals presents a serious challenge in the animal production sector. Dr. Lu reviewed a number of mitigations including use of high-quality forages, increasing the concentrate to forage ratio in the diet, protein supplementation of low-quality forage, and inclusion of fat; CH₄ inhibitors include ionophores, probiotics, acetogens,

bacteriocins, archaeal viruses, organic acids, and plant extracts; vaccination against rumen methanogens; bacteriophages; homoacetogens; H₂ utilizing acetogenic bacteria; and genetic selection for ruminants.

In conclusion, Dr. Lu indicated that food, environment, climate change and economic success would be the key to animal production sustainability imperatives. It is necessary to produce more with less. Therefore animal production will take advanced breeding, improved practices, and technology to make it possible. Attending to consumer preferences and concerns, increasing production efficiency, and a justified and fair return to producers can be the foci for future animal production, and it is never too early to address environmental concerns.

Country Report - The Goat Industry in Morocco

Written by Mouad Chentouf, IGA Regional Director for North Africa*
INRA - Regional Center of Tangier

This article was edited in collaboration with Francisco de Asís Ruiz Morales, IGA Regional Director for Western Europe, and translated by Jean-Marie Luginbuhl, IGA Secretary-Treasurer.

The productivity of Moroccan goats is low, with a national average estimated at 38 kg of milk and 6 kg of meat per goat and year.

The Moroccan goat sector is dominated by extensive herds dedicated to the production of meat, which have very seasonal sales

The production of goat milk is undergoing an important development, especially in the north of the country, and is allowing for a significant improvement in the profitability of goat herds

Introduction

With an estimated number of 8 million heads in the 70s, the Morocco goat

sector currently numbers 6.2 million animals. This significant drop in number is due to the years of drought that the country experienced during the 1980s, but also to the abandonment of this activity towards other more profitable agricultural activities.

The productivity of Moroccan goats is low with a national average estimated at 38 kg of milk and 6 kg of meat per goat and year. The annual production of the goat sector amounts to 25,000 metric tons of meat and 57 million liters of milk, the equivalent to 5 and 3% of the national production, respectively.

Despite these low levels of production, goat farming plays an essential role for the population of mountainous regions and inaccessible areas. 83% of the national herd is located in small farms of less than 5 ha, with 46% and 16% located in mountainous areas and the Sahara region, respectively. In these areas, goats play a major role in providing protein and income for the local rural populations.

Local breeds

The local indigenous population represents 98% of the Moroccan goat inventory. Four breeds are officially recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture (Figure 1).

The Draa breed

The Draa breed originates from and derives its name from the Draa Valley, an oasis located in the southeast of the country. With a population of 210,000 animals, this breed is perfectly integrated into the agricultural system of the oasis. The herds use products and byproducts of agriculture (dates, alfalfa, cereals, olives, etc.) and provide fertilizer to improve soil fertility. Producing both milk and meat, the Draa is considered a double purpose breed with average levels of production. The milk production for a standard 120-day lactation averages 142 kg, with concentrations in dry matter, fat, and protein of respectively 13.8, 4.1 and 3.7%. The goats reach a standard weight at 10, 90 and

Continued on Page 16

Country Report - The Goat Industry in Morocco (Continued from Page 15)

180 days of 5.4 kg, 10.1 kg and 13.5 kg, respectively, with weaning viability of 0.97. The main characteristic of this breed is the absence of reproductive seasonality and its high prolificacy. In spring (March and April), the fertility levels of the herds reach 80% with an average prolificacy of 1.6. These characteristics permit the

adoption of an intensified reproduction rhythm to improve the general productivity of herds. This autochthonous breed is undergoing an intense process of erosion with the massive introduction into the oases of the Alpine breed to improve milk production. Conservation and improvement programs must be implemented to

minimize the effects of this process. The Atlas breeds: Barcha and the Atlas black

According to the census, these two breeds account for the largest number of goats with 570,000 animals.

[READ MORE...](#)

Dr. Lucia Sepe presents goat cheeses for special culinary lecture series

The International Goat Association was proud to participate in a special culinary lecture series through the University of Arkansas Pulaski Technical College (UAPTC) in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Dr. Lucia Sepe, IGA's Vice-President, presented a wonderful array of six different regional cheeses and wines from France, Italy and the USA on October 11, 2018. Guests and some of

the UAPTC staff from the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management Institute learned about different types of cheeses, identified different aromas and flavors, and discussed pairing options.

The IGA thanks all those who attended and those who helped set-up the event. We also wish to give special thanks to the staff members at UAPTC who made this event possible, Kristin

Howell, Kenneth Lipsmeyer, and Jennifer Danser; and to Lucia for flying in for this special occasion.

About Dr. Lucia Sepe

Lucia has served as Vice President of the International Goat Association (IGA) since 2012. She is a researcher for the Council for Agricultural Research and Economics, Research Centre for Animal Production and Aquaculture in Bella Muro (Potenza), Italy.



Dr. Sepe has an extensive background in goat livestock husbandry and particularly on cheese making. Some of her experience includes managing a training center for planning and direction of cheesemaking training courses and serving as the editor of two Italian magazines about cheese culture. She has also taught cheese quality and sensory evaluation in companies and schools since 1994.

Her academic history is too lengthy to list, but among her courses are "Cheese Taster" from the National Organization of Cheese Tasters, Italy (ONAF) and "Cheese Panel Leader" graduate from Industrial Services & Training, Italy (UNIS&F).

In addition to many scientific publications, she is the author of a book about cheese addressed to children "Il formaggio raccontato ai bambini" (Italian language) and personally cured the book "Atlas of Goat Products" (English language), edited for IGA.

Please send us links to goat videos

Dear IGA members,

We are working to collect good goat videos from around the internet. However, the internet is beyond huge, so we need your help. Our request is simple.

Please send us links to interesting and informative goat videos. They

do not have to be in English. Currently, we have videos covering: health, breeds, webinars, and more. But don't limit yourself. If you've watched the video and you like it, send it to us with a short note and put goat video in the subject line.

Thank you and happy holidays from all of us at the IGA.

[SEE MORE PHOTOS](#)