Camel milk collection systems in Morocco

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Introduction

Camel production in Morocco:

Two main basins
1) East – 11,000 heads
2) South – 160,000 heads

Annual output:

Milk – 8,860 metric tons
Meat – 4,350 metric tons

Less than 0.3% of total milk
Less than 0.7% of total red meat

Performances largely determined by reproduction (Julien et al., 2021)
Production basins very far from consumption centers…
Recent evolutions

A strong political will:
Developing desert territories where no agriculture is possible:
Public intervention with consequent budgets

Recurrent droughts, social changes

Which impacts on production systems:
- feed resources?
- labor?
- products’ valorization?

Numerous constraints:

Generalized use of purchased feed resources

Acute difficulties for watering the herds

Mobility restrictions
Consequences on production systems

Poor performances
Less than one third of females giving birth annually
High mortality rates
Marketing constraints

A very weak dairy output
Roadside hazardous sales
Seasonal production
Role of professional organizations?

The rise of camel milk marketing in the Mediterranean basin – An international Symposium – Montpellier, November 15th and 16th, 2021
Consequences on production systems

Camels have moved next to consumers...

Suburban herds, even in Northern cities

Almost no-grazing systems

High milk price (around 1 Euro/litre)

Numerous questions

Milk quality issues?

Future of large scale camel milk dairy processing units?

Consequences on territorial development?
Conclusion

Camel milk

A niche market product

Hazardous availability

More frequent: proximity sales

Future perspectives

Increasing the output of raw matter

Organizing herd owners

How to add value in a sustainable way?