



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
CAMELIDS
2024

Global Trends in the Camel Dairy Sector

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World Milk Day, 1 June, 2024

Webinar on Ethical Camel Dairying



What do we mean by ,ethical dairying‘?

- Good for animals
- Good for people
- Good for the environment
and planetary health



‘good for animals’

Animals kept in a system where they can express their natural social behaviour:

- In a herd
- No separation of mothers and young
- Ability to keep healthy by moving around
- Be in an environment where their senses are stimulated
- Ability to choose diet (to some extent)



‘good for people’

Producer:

- supporting livelihoods and creating rural income and jobs

Consumer:

- Healthy and unadulterated milk

Public Health:

- Avoiding antimicrobial resistance by no/minimal use of antibiotics



,good for the planet‘

- Not depleting biodiversity
- Climate positive – minimal use of fossil fuels
- Good for the land - recycling nutrients, instead of depleting or causing imbalances (agro-ecology), restoring the soil
- No pollution of air, water, soil
- **REGENERATIVE!**



Pastoralists may not be perfect, but basically keep camels in an ethical way

- CAMELS: Adoption of mobile lifestyle, keeping camels in herds and giving them freedom to choose their menus.
- PEOPLE: Often practice(d) a moral economy
 - Redistribution of animals to benefit poor people
 - Gave away camel milk for free
 - Slaughtered male animals only for special community occasions where meat was shared with all.
- PLANET: fossil fuel free/solar powered, nurturing biodiversity instead of destroying it, often providing organic manure, avoidance of pollution through mobility and dispersal.

The International Year of Camelids in 2024

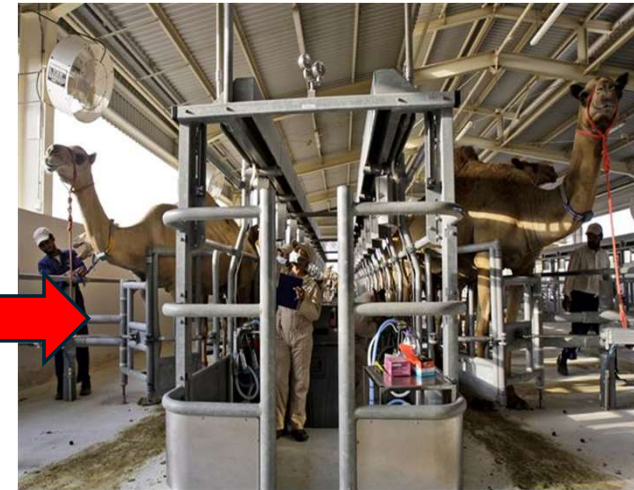
FAO's [justification](#) was:

- “the great potential offered by camelids to contribute to the **fight against hunger** (SDG 2),
- helping to **tackle extreme poverty** (SDG 1). The optimization of the many qualities of camelids (meat, milk, fibre, means of transport) would also contribute to guaranteeing food security and nutrition, providing sustainable livelihoods, and promoting the inclusion of communities that benefit from these animals.
- The participation of **women** working with camelid fibres and involved in pastoral work is relatively high, which significantly encourages the empowerment of women (SDG 5).
- Camelids can clearly help promote the **sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems** (SDG 15) and, therefore, combat desertification, halt and **reverse land degradation and stem the loss of biological diversity.**”

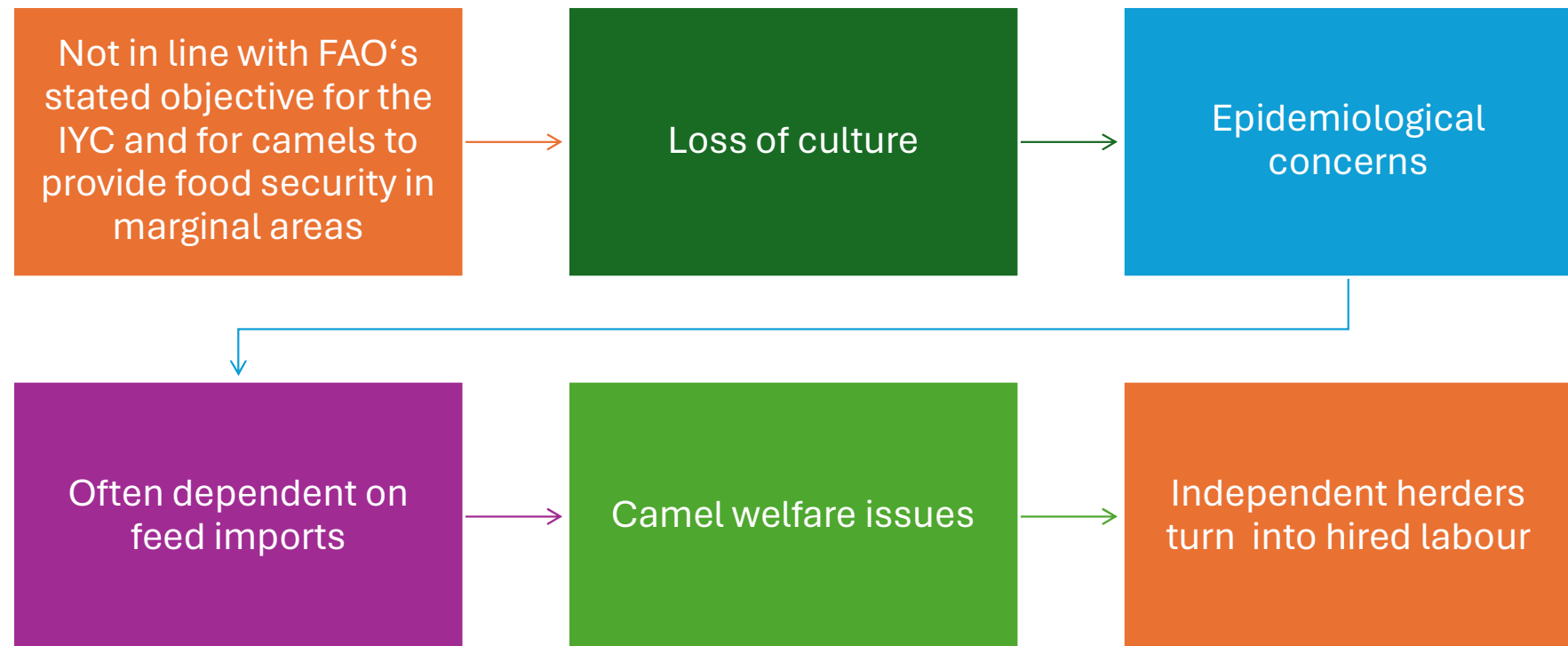


Global Trends in camel dairy

- Transition from collective subsistence to capital intensive industrialization
- From dispersal to concentration in huge units or in peri-urban areas
- Alternative to discredited cow dairy products (China)



Ecological and social implications of industrial holdings





If we want to implement
FAO's original vision
according to the SDGs
we need to :

support the people who
have stewarded camels
since centuries and have
accumulated knowledge
and experience in
keeping them as part of
the environment.

So how do we
best do that?





Thank you!



LEAGUE FOR
PASTORAL PEOPLES
AND ENDOGENOUS
LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

Please stay in touch and let's keep up the discussion on what kind of inputs and actions the camel dairy sector needs to avoid the errors of cow dairying.

Let's design Dairy 2.0 , inspired by mobile pastoralists and make the camel the lead animal for creating ethical dairy systems!

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