

December 2003

# IGA Newsletter

## Keep informed—Stay in Touch—Get Involved

### Editorial

by P. Morand-Fehr, President of IGA

The year 2004 is coming soon, a year very important for IGA due to the 8th International Conference on Goats (8 ICG SA) in Pretoria and to the election of a new Board with new ideas and new objectives.

In 2003, the Board's work has been focused on the follow up of projects undertaken since 2000 so as to reinforce IGA's structures and to demonstrate IGA's dynamism for acting efficiently for the development of goat farming.

During the current year, several issues have arisen that we are pursuing: the devotion shown by IGA members, IGA's meetings, which have more and more participants, in some countries, peoples involved in the goat sector are more aware of the interest of IGA's actions (ex : in France, the membership has increased from 4 to 36 between 2000 and 2003), the improvement of the Website, projects such as Goat Products, the good rank of SRR, etc... .

membership has increased from 4 to 36 between 2000 and 2003), the improvement of the Website, projects such as Goat Products, the good rank of SRR, etc...

For several other actions, there is still quite a bit of heavy work to accomplish (membership, starting projects such as Goat Information, Goat on line... ) to allow the presentation of a positive balance for 2000-2004 in Pretoria. IGA relies on all Board members, Country Representatives and the IGA members to strengthen their efforts during the 7 coming months before Pretoria Conference. At Pretoria, we shall be able to assess the efficiency of all these actions undertaken so as to start from South Africa with new perspectives.

Please be prepared because IGA will need and request your help.

Pierre Morand-Fehr

President of IGA

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?? 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.

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### From the Secretariat:

As we enter into 2004, it is important that each IGA member realize the importance of their participation in increasing IGA membership and participating in other IGA activities. Please encourage your friends, colleagues, and institutions to support IGA. Only with your help and support, IGA will achieve its important goals.

Please contact your Country Representative, Regional Director, or our office at [goats@heifer.org](mailto:goats@heifer.org) with any questions or ideas you might have to increase membership. Through teamwork, we will succeed.



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## Goat Sector Continued...Portugal

### Goat situation and research projects in Portugal



#### Portugal Goat Information

In 2000 the goat population of Portugal was 623 000 heads, 162 000 less than in 1997 (785 000 heads) 188 000 less than 1995, confirming a downward trend since 1992 (862 000 heads). The dominant region is the Alentejo (South) followed by Beira (Centre East) and Trás-os-Montes (North East) regions.

There are 5 goat breeds: Algarvia in Algarve Region, Serpentina in Alentejo Region, Charnequeira Centre and Alentejo, Serrana in the North and Centre and Bravia in the North. The most important local breed is the Serrana and is the only goat breed not endangered. All breeds have a National Breed Association with their own herd -book. In spite of the small quantity of animals recorded on Goat Herd Books, only 7,8 % of the total population, we suppose that are a greatest number of goat farmers not registered in the breed associations.

The average flock size is smaller in the North Center than in the South of Portugal. Family farms are predominant in the North. Most of the flocks are very heterogeneous and it is very common find different genotypes in the same flock, animals from crosses between local and some animals from exotic breeds as well Murciana Granadina, Sannen and Alpina. A large proportion of goat flocks are kept on transhumance and extensive systems with natural meadows, forest meadows and stubble fields. Goats are one of the most domestic animals well adapted to the nature and harsh climate of the interior of Portugal. This is one of the reasons why kid meat and goat cheese could be known as nature products.

All breeds are milk and meat producers with the exception of Bravia that is only breeding to produce meat. In Portugal there are: one Protected Designation of Origin (Cabrito Transmontano) for meat goat and 3 Protected Geographical Indication (Cabrito das Terras Altas do Minho, Cabrito do Barroso, Cabrito da Beira) and one (PDO) for goat cheese (Queijo de cabra Transmontano). The young kids, 4 to 8 weeks old, from milk-goat herds are the preferred by consumers. The kids are cooked according to a classical cuisine in which the traditional method is grill or roast the whole carcass, with no more than 7-10 kg. The traditional consumption peaks are Easter and Christmas. Consumption tends to be mainly of light carcasses, fresh, rose colour, tender and without fat. Some goats are milked and the cheese produced was sold on small markets as regional products.



## Goat Sector Continued...Portugal

During 2001 the program AGRO from Agriculture Ministry of Portugal approved the following research projects on goats:

- ?? Improvement in milking conditions of sheep and goat farms in Trás-os-Montes. Scientific Coordinator: Alfredo Teixeira. Institution responsible: Escola Superior Agrária do Instituto Politécnico de Bragança;
- ?? Characterization of the products with denomination of protected origin: "Cabrito transmontano" and "Borrego Terrincho". Scientific Coordinator: Alfredo Teixeira. Institution responsible: Escola Superior Agrária do Instituto Politécnico de Bragança;
- ?? Study of the authenticity of the sheep cheese "Terrincho" and of goat cheese "Transmontano". Scientific Coordinator: António Peres. Institution responsible: Escola Superior Agrária do Instituto Politécnico de Bragança;
- ?? Study and monitoring of browsing places used by sheep and goats established in Q. pyrenaica, Q. suber and Q. ilex forests. Scientific Coordinator: Alfredo Teixeira. Institution responsible: Escola Superior Agrária do Instituto Politécnico de Bragança;
- ?? Genetics preservation of portuguese sheep breeds (Merina Preta and Campaniça) and the goat breed Serpentina. Scientific Coordinator: Claudino Matos. Institution responsible: Direcção Regional de Agricultura do Alentejo.
- ?? Milk production selection of goat breed Serpentina on basis of molecular marker. Scientific Coordinator: Carlos Bettencourt. Institution responsible: Direcção Regional de Agricultura do Alentejo.
- ?? Sensory characterization of cheeses made by sheep and goat milk from Centre region; application to "Queijo da Serra Velho". Scientific Coordinator: João de Noronha. Institution responsible: Escola Superior Agrária de Coimbra.
- ?? Sheep and goat milk production in Minho - characterization of production and processing network and new technology demonstration. Scientific Coordinator: José Teixeira. Institution responsible: Universidade do Minho.
- ?? Development and demonstration of artificial insemination in Portuguese local goat breeds. Scientific Coordinator: Ramiro Mascarenhas. Institution responsible: Estação Zootécnica Nacional.
- ?? Achieving and valuation of cured goat cheese in Algarve. Scientific Coordinator: João Dias. Direcção Regional de Agricultura do Algarve.
- ?? Cheese from Transmontana goat - characterization of milk from goat Serrana, ecotype transmontano and its cheese with denomination of protected origin. Scientific Coordinator: Maria Barbosa. . Institution responsible: Instituto Nacional de Engenharia e Tecnologia Industrial

Supported by Sapiens Program from Ministry of Science and Technology of Portugal:

The use of ultrasounds to assess sheep and goats carcass and body composition. Scientific Coordinator: Alfredo Teixeira. Institution responsible: Escola Superior Agrária do Instituto Politécnico de Bragança.

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Country Representative for Portugal





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Contact the IGA Secretary at [goats@heifer.org](mailto:goats@heifer.org)  
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