



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?



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?

