

## The CAMELMILK Handbook on dairy camel management

The camels were for long time confined to the arid areas of the Old World. But nowadays, they are increasingly present around the Mediterranean Basin including in European agricultural landscape. Intended for various tourist activities (entertainment, desert trekking), sports (racing) or production (milk, meat or even wool), both dromedary and Bactrian camel do not belong to a well-established breeding tradition, notably in European latitudes. Moreover, in the southern part of Mediterranean Sea, breeders, technicians, and veterinarians are often faced to many questions about how to behave in front of the animal, handle it, determine its feeding needs, manage its reproduction or simply provide it with the necessary care on a daily basis. Regarding all these points, few textbooks are available in local language.

It is therefore the ambition of this handbook to provide useful, simple, practical answers for all these actors of a traditional sector in full mutation in arid countries, or new in Europa. There is evidence that a certain enthusiasm is occurring in recent decades for this species, both in the countries of origin and in the Western world. Enthusiasm that we owe of course to the remarkable resistance of the great camelids to extreme ecological conditions in a context of climate change, but also to the exceptional quality of its products (milk, meat, wool) and its services (transport, riding, management of pastoral areas). Enthusiasm that we also owe to the good valorization of its products and services on national and international markets, so much so that we can speak of the emergence of a new sector for local and even regional economy, especially in the dairy sector which is the topic of CAMELMILK project.

SO, the purpose of this handbook is therefore to provide the basis for knowledge of the physiology of this animal (reproduction, lactation, nutrition) and a set of practical advice on the management of its breeding (reproduction, milking, feeding) and health in traditional and new dairy farming context.

This guide will therefore successively address (i) the physiological bases of reproduction, lactation and feeding, (iii) the management of a camel farm (reproduction, feeding, production), (iv) the management of health and hygiene in breeding, (v) its main other productions. Turkey, Algeria, Spain and France being among the partners of CAMELMILK project, the handbook is published in Turkish, Arabic, Spanish and French language. An English version is also under study.

