

Campaign for functional food value of camel milk

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Bikaner, 5 January 2014. The three-day brain storming meet on 'Functional value of camel milk as compared to cow, buffalo, goat and sheep' was started at National Research Centre (NRC) on Camel. The deliberations were on 'research efforts of NRC on Camel directed towards promotion of camel as a milch animal and importance of camel milk as functional food to address the issues of human health; functional food quality and pharmacological properties of the camel milk in terms of its functional food values; the utility of value of mare and donkey milk for human health and its closeness to human milk in terms of nutritional quality; data on milk yield potential of Indian and exotic sheep breeds and value-based products prepared from sheep milk; utility of goat milk in term of its medicinal value and use of goat milk control dengue fever in human; and issue of collection and marketing of camel milk and its value-added products. It was informed that URMUL can support activity of marketing the processed camel milk and products from SARAS dairy booths locally as well as outside Bikaner. About 115 people engaged in camel rearing from villages of Dhoulia and its nearby areas were also present.

Kisan Goshti involving famers—scientists and technical personnel was also held in Dhoulia village wherein the camel farmers narrated the difficulties in rearing camel in the area like loss of rangelands, acceptability and marketing of camel milk in the area, marketing of live animals, health problems and lack of policy.

Recommendations

- It was suggested to form Self-Help Groups of the camel farmers and inform possible quantity of milk collection so as to contact local dairy unions for milk collection and transport.
- It was also suggested to form Camel Breed Association by which the activities like rangeland rejuvenation, development of milk processing facility, conservation of camel germplasm, health management measures can be undertaken collectively and appropriate agencies—local or government can be contacted.

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