The 7th China Camel Industry Development Conference 2019

The 7th China Camel Industry Development Conference was organized by the Alxa League Government in Ejina Banner, Inner Mongolia China. That conference was centralized on the camel development in the China particularly about the role of Bactrian camel in the socioeconomics of the Chinese people. The main participation of the conference was about International Society of Camelids Research and Development (ISOCARD) executive committee. The conference was linked to the National Camel Festival of Inner Mongolia.

The two technical sessions were conducted majorly in Inner Mongolia Agricultural University and in conference hall of Taolai Holiday Hotel in Ejina. The later technical session was also linked with the visit of national museum of Inner Mongolia including the camel history, camel festival, camel racing, wrestling, camel shows and the visit to the camel farm. The visit to the National Camel Research Center in Ejina Banner was very informative about the camel industry development in China. They make cushions, blankets, shawls, ropes by the camel wool. They have also well-developed industry of camel processed milk, meat and fermented products. The camel milk was also seemed to be used in the cosmetic products.

The China has a well-developed camel industry and they are trying much to uplift it on international level in a more mechanized way. The wondered thing was that in recent past there was a severe decline in the camel population in China but after their valuable inputs and actions now they got a much stable population in very short time.

The hospitality of Chinese people were great and the whole international delegation was enjoyed a lot especially the Chinese camel world and their famous places. The cooperation extended by Dr Surong Hassi and Prof. Jorumoto was adorable. Actually the Chinese people have their own developed traditions which are intensively linked to camel. The presentation of ISOCARD was made by the scientific officer Prof. Wael Khamas (USA), PRO Dr Asim Faraz (PAK) and Treasurer Dr Faisal Almathan (KSA).

An informative lecture was delivered by Dr Asim Faraz to the conference participants in Inner Mongolia Agricultural University on the topic "Ancient camels offering new opportunities to the world". Prof. Khamas gave a lecture on the camel adaptation in different ecological zones of the world. Dr Faisal Almathan presented a lecture on camel genetic biodiversity. Dr Serge

Muyldermans (Belgium) presented a very useful work on the role of nano-bodies in the life science. His work emphasis and associations were on new world camelids. Dr TK Gahlot (India) presented a comprehensive lecture on the camel surgery being practiced in India. His focus was on the treatment of mandibular fracture by inter-dental wiring technique in camels.

In the conference technical session-II in Ejina a lecture was presented on the topic "Dromedary's mining – a nexus to food security" by Dr Asim Faraz in which the main emphasis was on the dromedary's role and contribution to the world as a food animal. As the camel is considered a food animal now days instead of the beast of burden and ship of the desert. Because the camel can contribute to the food chain in new eras as well as more than any other domestic specie. A bird eye view of which is given below:

Pakistan is 5th largest populated country in the world, where livestock provides food and livelihood support to more than 35 million people. It nourishes almost 8 million rural families directly. Camel is an important part of livestock as Pakistan ranks 8th in the world having 1.1 million camels. Mainly the camel production is practiced as pastoral system in desert ecosystem. Due to the urbanization, this husbandry system is changed and the camel herders are moving towards urban and peri-urban areas of arid and semi-arid environment. People mainly use camel for milk production and its milk is now used as a food product which is not so far in the past. As in past the people have some taboos about the usage of camel milk. Now they get conscious about its peculiarities especially due to its therapeutic worth. Camel milk contributes up to 30% in the annual caloric diet of pastoral community. Reported daily milk yield is 5-12 kg with a longer lactation period of about 12-18 months that ensures the food security in deep deserts. Its milk is also used for the treatment of diseases like diabetes, tuberculosis, liver disorders, asthma, piles, spleen ailments, food allergies and arthritis. It is also considered as an aphrodisiac. Additionally, camel milk has higher vitamin C and Phosphorus contents, thus it is considered superior than milk of other domestic species. Camel meat demands are also increasing day by day due to health associations as it produces carcasses with less lipids & cholesterol with higher polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA). The water contents are also 5-8% greater than other meat. It is also used as therapeutic agent in the treatment of hypertension, hyperacidity, pneumonia and respiratory diseases. The daily gain reported is almost 1 kg in camel calves reared on feedlot in

Pakistan. Hence, it is concluded that the camel is a food animal now which has changed the conception "ship of the desert" and have an eminent function in food security.

The concluding remarks about the conference were very intimate and it would bring valuable growth in the field of camel science and development.



