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Animal husbandry in warm climates.

Proceedings of the international Symposium on Animal Husbandry in Warm Climates, Viterbo, Italy, 25-27 October 1990 (EAAP Publication No. 55, 1991) Pudoc Wageningen 1991, 151 p., Price 43 US\$.

The contents of the proceedings are quite complete with an Introduction, seven Sessions, Concluding remarks and a Poster session. Unfortunately there is no mention of the topic of each session although it seems that they correspond to same number of scientific commissions of the European Association for Animal Production EAAP/Fédération Européenne de Zootechnie FEZ. First authors of the 19 articles were 9 from Italy, 3 from France and one from Egypt, United Kingdom, Israel, Germany, Portugal, Morocco and FAO.

Titles are listed below:

Endocrinological and neurological systems in body thermoregulation — Metabolic responses of farm animals to high temperature — Reproductive responses under high temperature.

Productive responses of ruminants under high temperature conditions.

Breeding programmes for improved dairy production in tropical climates.

Problems associated with the transfer of genetic material from temperate to warm Mediterranean regions: consequences on the equilibration of the animal production systems.

Selection and breeding strategies for production in warm climates.

Feeding strategy for animal production in warm climates — Ruminant production strategies in warm climates, a case study: the Iberic Peninsula — Alternative breeding programs for dairy cattle in North Africa — The effects of environmental factors on water balance in animals.

Effect of high temperature on production and quality of milk.

Heat stress effects on some blood parameters of sheep.

Effects of high temperatures on reproduction in small ruminants.

Italian beef breeds in warm climates.

Breeding strategies in dry-hot countries.

Strategies for the use of agricultural by-products as ruminant feed in warm climates.

Suitable engineering strategies for livestock shelters in warm climates.

Preservation of animal ecotypes bred in the Mediterranean area.

Cheminement d'une action de développement.

E. Beaudoux, Geneviève de Crombrughe, F. Douxchamps, Marie-Christine Guéneau et M. Nieuwkerk.

Ed. L'Harmattan Paris, 1992; 203 pages. Prix: 110 FRF.

Cet ouvrage a été réalisé dans le cadre d'une étude sur les ONG menée pour la C.C.E. sous la coordination du Collectif d'Echanges pour la Technologie Appropriée COTA en collaboration avec l'Institut de Recherches et d'Applications des Méthodes de Développement IRAM. De nombreuses enquêtes ont été menées dans divers pays d'Amérique du Sud, d'Afrique, d'Asie et d'Europe. Le document s'intéresse aux quatre étapes classiques d'une action de développement: identification, programmation, suivi et évaluation.

L'ouvrage n'est pas un livre de recettes pour bien réussir un programme de développement, mais un guide aussi bien pour les organisations qui mettent en œuvre un projet que pour celles qui sont chargées de l'évaluer. Dès l'introduction le lecteur

sait qu'il s'agit d'un «document d'orientation méthodologique».

Ce document est présenté dans un esprit très cartésien, très systématique, très dense. Aucun détail ne semble avoir échappé aux enquêteurs. Les quatre principaux chapitres sont consacrés aux quatre étapes citées plus haut, avec chaque fois deux parties: les points de repère, et les démarches et outils. La bibliographie est abondante.

«Les relations entre les acteurs du développement sont extrêmement importantes: il faut que chacun apprenne à aborder tout autre acteur avec une saine curiosité.» Cette phrase de l'épilogue est une sorte de leçon; c'est aussi une incitation à lire l'ouvrage lorsque l'on est confronté aux actions de développement.

(ouvrage remis par le COTA)

Quand les pauvres du Sud s'autofinancent.

Institut Panos (31 rue de Reuilly, & 75012 Paris); éditions L'Harmattan, Paris, 1989 pour la première édition (anglaise?) et 1991 pour celle-ci; 157 pages petit format (13,5 x 21,5). 85 FRF.

L'ouvrage porte comme sous-titre: «L'accès au crédit des laissés-pour-compte», et c'est bien de cela qu'il s'agit. Onze auteurs différents, apparemment des journalistes locaux, ont effectué des enquêtes de terrain dans des pays aussi divers que le Bangladesh, le Chili, la Colombie, l'Inde, l'Indonésie, le Kenya, le Pakistan, le Sénégal, le Sri Lanka, la Tanzanie et la Zambie.

Dans des styles délicieux qui s'apparentent souvent à la poésie, chacun des auteurs parvient à faire comprendre aux lecteurs les difficultés rencontrées par les pauvres des pays en développement, et plus particulièrement par les femmes, lors de la recherche de crédit.

Une leçon peut être tirée de ces études fort différentes: le système bancaire classique ne convient pas pour les petits pays sans alors que de nombreuses expériences montrent que des prêts SANS garantie sont presque toujours remboursés dès que l'on accepte des systèmes sortant des voies classiques. Mais il n'est pas toujours facile d'échapper aux usuriers, aux propriétaires fonciers sans scrupules, ou aux corrompus. La dizaine de pages d'introduction sont une excellente synthèse de l'ouvrage qui n'est ni un guide de haute finance ni un inventaire des circuits de prêts. Ce sont au contraire des textes pleins de vie, d'espoir et de confiance dans ces populations pauvres que l'on dit trop souvent incapables de gestion.

Strategy for sustainable livestock production in the tropics.

T.R. Preston and E. Murgueitio, published by Consultorias para el Desarrollo Rural Integrado en el Trópico (CONDRIT) Ltda, Cali, Colombia: 1992, 89 pages 13,5 x 19,5 cm + 12 color plates and covers.

Authors' address: CIPAV, Carrera 35 A Oeste # 3-66, AA 20591 Cali, Colombia; Fax 23-824-627.

The senior author is well known in the world of the tropical animal production, and the booklet just issued is focused on a very up-to-date concern of many scientists. Sustainable production is actually a key-word. But the main difference with many other books on sustainability is that this one gives pragmatic solutions based on scientific analysis.

Livestock production systems for developing countries should be designed according to criteria which take account of their likely impact on long-term economic, ecological, ethological and sociological issues which are all explained and exemplified.

Judged by these criteria, the less-developed countries, especially those in tropical regions, have important comparative advantages for competitive production of food, feed and fuel from renewable resources.

For densely populated regions, where production of food staples is the dominant activity, the livestock feed base is the fibrous crop residues and agricultural byproducts. Urea-rich, multivitamin blocks, and restricted amounts of tree foliages and supplements containing «bypass» protein will permit ruminant animals to perform efficiently on these basal diets, despite their low digestibility.

Where population densities are lower, there are opportunities for growing a high biomass-producing crop such as sugar cane, and with simple technologies produce feeds of very high digestibility (the cane juice) which can be the basal diet for the more efficient monogastric animals such as pigs and ducks. The residual fibrous material (the tops and bagasse) can be the basal feed for ruminants, especially sheep, or be used as fuel.

In these systems much of protein can be supplied by multi-purpose trees and water plants. All the livestock are managed in partial or total confinement to minimize environmental damage and to maximize nutrient recycling to the crops. Fuel for the family is derived from the biodigester which uses as substrate the excreta from the pigs, and from the sugar cane bagasse.

Earthworms upgrade the fertilizer value of the excreta from the ruminant animals and also produce protein which can be fed to ducks.

Potential productivities of this system are extremely high; in contrast, methane: meat ratios are low. The total carcass meat output from 1 ha established in sugar cane is estimated to be 4207 kg (79% from pigs). It is associated with the production of approximately 483 kg methane (465 kg from the sheep and 18 kg from the pigs). The ratio of methane to meat is thus 115 kg methane per tonne of carcass meat. There is a surplus of 30 tonnes (408 GJ) of bagasse to be used as fuel.

The constraints in all savannah ecosystems are: (i) the availability of the critical nutrients required to sustain efficient utilization of the available biomass, which is of low digestibility and deficient in nitrogen and minerals; and (ii) the availability of total biomass during prolonged dry periods and drought. The proposed strategy is to provide critical nutrients and biomass that can be stored and made available as needed.

Supplements imported from outside can generally be discounted on grounds of transport cost and availability. The resource must be grown locally, must be adapted to the area and must be protective of the environment.

Experience points to trees and shrubs as the most logical resource to fulfil the dual role of providing supplements and biomass. They have the added attributes of contributing to environmental stability by providing a renewable source of fuel and a sink for carbon dioxide and provide considerable employment in the establishment stage and at harvest.

The success of the *Prosopis juliflora* programme in the arid and semi-arid areas of North-Eastern Brazil is an example of a sustainable alternative to traditional grazing systems.

Economically significant reproductive disorders in small ruminants.

Proceedings of a seminar. Amman, Jordan, 6-10 May 1990. Under the Auspices of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH and the Jordan Ministry of Agriculture. Editors: F. Schenkel and G. Weiland

Publ. GTZ; 155 pages 16,5 × 23,3 cm; no date of issue (1992?). Available from GTZ.

Many papers presented at the seminar provide excellent syntheses; it is the case for the articles on mycoplasma infections or cryptosporidiosis, and also for the two papers on diagnostic measures.

The proceedings are divided in four parts:

1) Production and health care (4 papers)

The special economic importance of sheep and goats. Sheep and goat rearing in the Middle East. Infectious diseases of small ruminants in Jordan. Neonatal mortality in sheep and goats.

2) Infectious agents (5 papers)

Viral diseases as a cause of reproductive disorders in sheep and goats. Role of bacterial infections in the reproduction of sheep and goats. Brucellosis in small ruminants in Jordan. Mycoplasma infections of small ruminants. Important parasitic diseases with special reference to toxoplasmosis and cryptosporidiosis.

3) The role and value of diagnosis in recognition of infectious diseases (3 papers)

New diagnostic measures in microbiology. Serodiagnostic measures in parasitology. Diagnosis of the causes of perinatal loss in small ruminants.

4) Epidemiology and prophylaxis (3 papers)

Epidemiological investigations of sheep and goats in selected areas of Jordan. Aspects of the vaccination of sheep and goats. Vaccine production in Jordan: possibilities and limitations.

Eighteen pages are devoted to the abstracts. Addresses of 3 out of the 15 first authors are unfortunately missing. The absence of papers on economics is surprising when the title of the seminar is checked at.
