

Assessment and Improving Camel Milk Production and Marketing in Some Arab Countries: A Socio-economical Overview

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ABSTRACT

The Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) has implemented a project aimed at identifying, prioritizing and introducing the interventions needed to improve camel milk production, processing and marketing in the traditional dromedary pastoralists and communities in three Arab countries (namely; Sudan, Morocco and Algeria) during 2011 - 2013.

After conducting a socio-economical assessment of camel milk supply chains, the project has made some interventions in Sudan and Morocco included provision of camel milk pasteurizing machines, feed supplements, feed processing facilities, milk cooling and storage utensils, disease control packages as well as sensitizing breeder's village groups and organizing local vendors. The interventions also included offering and conduction of workshops, training courses and field days targeting camel pastoralists, particularly women, and addressing issues related to camel and camel milk production, processing and marketing.

The evaluation and analysis of the of the socio-economic impacts of the implemented interventions on improving livelihoods of the targeted camel pastoralists were carried out which revealed strong positive impacts of these interventions as reflected by the economic analysis results and conclusions. These impacts included marked improvement in the quality and quantity of produced, marketed and consumed camel milk in these two countries. The breeders groups and associations were organized and

now managing the pasteurization units, which encouraged camel breeders in other areas in these two countries to prepare for procurement and installation of similar interventions in their production localities.