Main issues and challenges faced by pastoral goats in arid areas in a fast changing world

Jean-Paul Dubeu², INRA-LRDE
Pastoralism is a type of animal production characterized by the use of spontaneous food resources.

Goats have always been linked to pastoralism:
- Adapted to harsh environments and water shortages
- A diversity of breeds, of practices
- Suitable for poor rural people everywhere
- The resilience of pastoral goat systems well adapted to face global changing
- But also an ability to valorize subproducts
Introduction

...But a negative image which has lead many public policies to eliminate it.

- New intensified goat systems with improved high yield breeds

- Not integrated in the food industry
Some examples in Northern Africa

The case of Morocco
Some examples in Northern Africa

In Morocco, a dominant traditional sector but changes in the modes of consumption in urban areas

Northern Morocco with the goat milk sector and certification of the “Ajbane Chefchaouen” cheese

What differentiation of the goat milk price for what market?
What development for pastoral isolated goat farms?

What development for goat milk in arid areas?
The cases of Tunisia or Senegal
Some examples in Northern Africa

In Morocco, a dominant traditional sector but changes in the modes of consumption in urban areas

Argane tree area with the Argane oil and kid meat: a complex system

The goats on the trees

The women

The goats

The tree

Oil
Some examples in Northern Africa

In Morocco, a dominant traditional sector but changes in the modes of consumption in urban areas

Argane tree area with the Argane oil and kid meat: a complex system

« Agdal » traditionnal practice
The example of Nordeste Brasil

A very arid area impacted by climate changing

60% of poor
The example of Nordeste Brasil

To fight against poverty, a political objective
A social program to buy goat milk and share it among poor people
Organization of infrastructures of research and development but a bureaucratic organization
The negative image of pastoralism is still present in the public policies to eliminate it.

- The new intensified goat systems with improved high yield breeds are more and more supported in spite of high inputs and negative aspects.

- Public policies favor strategies of specialization and intensification which are not connected to the behavior and expectations of local actors and communities

- Little integrated in the food industry (except for cashmere)
Teachings from the examples

Pluriactivity in the communities could help to improve their resilience:
- South Western Morocco: Kid meat + argane oil + tourism
- Northern Morocco: Pastoral goat farming for milk + meat
- (Iran: Cashmere production + Fiber processing).

- The coherence between the production systems and the water availability has to be checked.
Teachings from the examples

More initial documentation and expertise are needed prior to a project (markets, social conditions, local practices,...)

The strategies and projects have to be built by hybridizing expert knowledge and actors (communities) empiric knowledge not by following external models.

Infrastructures have to be developed to make possible livestock activities in arid areas (wills, roads, communications, etc...) 

The importance of quality