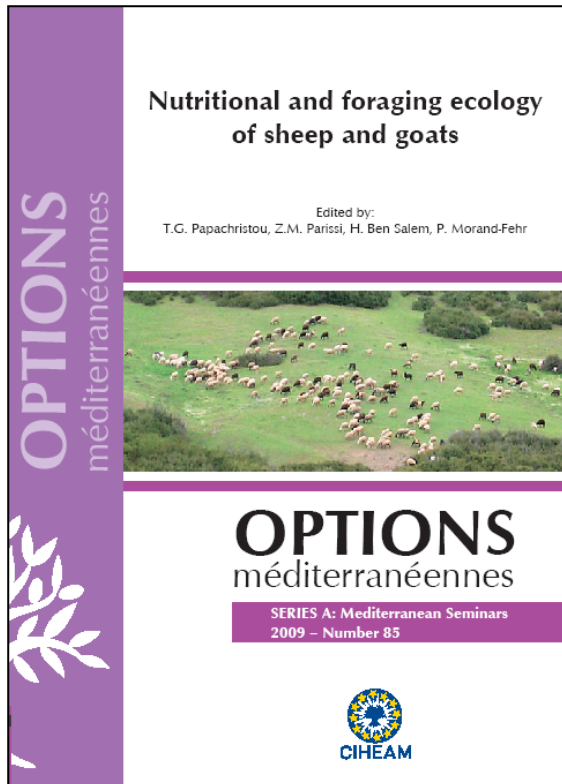


Options Méditerranéennes, Series A, No. 85

NUTRITIONAL AND FORAGING ECOLOGY OF SHEEP AND GOATS



This publication is the outcome of the 12th Seminar of the FAO-CIHEAM Sub-Network on Sheep and Goat Nutrition "Nutritional and foraging ecology of sheep and goats" which was held in Thessaloniki (Greece) from 11-13 October 2007, and includes the invited and selected papers presented at the meeting. The seminar was jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) and the National Agricultural Research Foundation – Forest Research Institute (NAGREF), in collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food – Directorate General for the Development and Protection of Forests and Natural Environment.

The aim of this seminar was to provide a venue for specialists in livestock production, rangeland management, animal health, and animal production science to meet and discuss the current state of knowledge on the use of recent scientific advances in the small ruminants sector. The outcome was to orient the future research programmes, with the goal of developing grazing and/or feeding systems of sheep and goats that support the needs of society. Therefore, the seminar covered a wide range of topics that were allocated into three sessions and two round tables, which were: (i) Plant-animal interactions – implications for animal and landscape management; (ii) Rumen ecology and manipulation to improve small ruminant performance; (iii)

Targeted feeding to improve performances of sheep and goats at different physiological stages; (iv) Strategies that use plant secondary compounds to improve the efficiency and profitability of small ruminant agriculture; and (v) Quality products of sheep and goats for human nutrition and health.

Sixty-five papers have been selected to be published in this volume. In order to maintain the high scientific standards in the published proceedings, each paper was refereed by two recognised specialists in the subjects addressed-

Eds: T.G. PAPACHRISTOU, Z.M. PARISSI, H. BEN SALEM, P. MORAND-FEHR

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Information: Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza / CIHEAM

Apartado 202. 50080 Zaragoza. Spain

Tel: 34 976 716000 Fax: 34 976 716001

E-mail : iamz@iamz.ciheam.org

WEB: <http://www.iamz.ciheam.org>

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Table of contents

Foreword.....	7
<u>Session 1 – Plant-animal interactions: Implications for animal and landscape management</u>	
<u>Main papers</u>	
Behavior-based management of ecosystems – Provenza F.D., Papachristou T.G.	13
Nutritional consequences on the outcome of parasitic challenges on small ruminants –Athanasiadou S., Kyriazakis I., Giannenas I., Papachristou T.G.	29
<u>Short papers</u>	
The anthelmintic effect of heather supplementation may not always be associated with antinutritional effects in grazing goats – Frutos P., Ferreira L.M.M., Hervás G., García U., Moreno-Gonzalo J., Ferré I., Celaya R., Ortega-Mora L.M., Osoro K.	43
Impact of animal sheds on vegetation configuration in Mediterranean landscapes – Papanastasis V.P., Ghossoub R., Scarpelo C.	49
The effect of different grass-legume mixtures on nitrogen excretion of grazing sheep – Molle G., Giovanetti V., Cabiddu A., Cuccureddu M., Sitzia M., Decandia M.	55
Effects on the environment of a flock of sheep when free ranging or under the guidance of a shepherd – Rochon J.J., Duval M., Goby J.P.	61
Habitat use of free and mixed livestock ranging in grassland-heathland mosaics of Atlantic Mountains – Mandaluniz N., Ruiz R., Oregui L.M.	67
Long-term effects of grazing on composition in various habitats of a mountainous area in Central Greece – Abraham E.M., Karatassiou M.D., Parissi Z.M., Koukoura Z., Tsiouvaras C.N.	73
Foraging behaviour of sheep and goats grazing on silvopastoral systems in Northern Greece – Yiakoulaki M.D., Zarovali M.P., Papanastasis V.P.	79
Behavioural strategies of dairy goats fed an acidogenic diet – Giger-Reverdin S., Desnoyers M., Rigalma K., Morand-Fehr P., Sauvant D., Tessier J., Dhumez O., Duvaux-Ponter C.	85
Interactions between grazing behaviour and plant community structure in shrubland and their consequences on desertification – Kyriazopoulos A., Sklavou P., Nastis A.S., Papanastasis V.P.	91
Protection from grazing: A way to restore vegetation in semiarid grasslands in Northern Greece – Karatassiou M.D., Koukoura Z.	99
The grazing preferences of sheep on pastures containing drunken horse grass (<i>Achnatherum inebrians</i>) in Xinjiang province, China – Norton B.W., Li X.S., Fletcher I.	105
Weed selection by sheep grazing dryland lucerne – Pérez E., de Vega A., Delgado I., Pueyo Y.	111
Assessment of edible biomass production of <i>Acacia senegal</i>, <i>Guiera senegalensis</i> and <i>Pterocarpus lucens</i> in the Sahelian zone of West Africa – Sanon H.O., Ledin I.	117
Seasonal variations of chemical composition, intake and digestibility by ewes of natural pasture in the south-eastern regions of Algeria – Chemmam M., Moujahed N., Ouzrout R., Guellati M.A.	123
Botanical and chemical composition of fallow lands grazed by sheep under extensive conditions – Głowacz K., Niżnikowski R., Popielarczyk D., Strzelec E., Łozicki A., Klimaszewski K., Poleszczuk O.	129
Faecal NIRS to assess the chemical composition and the nutritive value of dairy sheep diet – Decandia M., Giovanetti V., Boe F., Scanu G., Cabiddu A., Molle G., Cannas A., Landau S.	135
Milk urea as nutritional indicator in sheep grazing legume-based pastures – Molle G., Giovanetti V., Cabiddu A., Cuccureddu M., Scanu G., Decandia M.	141
The effects of endophyte content on the nutritive value of drunken horse grass (<i>Achnatherum inebrians</i>) fed to sheep in Xinjiang province, China – Norton B.W., Li X.S., Fletcher I.	147
The mineral content of river saltbush (<i>Atriplex amnicola</i>) changes when sodium chloride in the irrigation solution is increased – Masters D., Tiong M., Norman H., Vercoe P.E.	153
Effect of fertilization and artificial shading on N and various mineral content of herbaceous species – Parissi Z.M., Koukoura Z.	159
Effects of shading on herbaceous plant patches transplanted reciprocally between three shading treatments – Kyriazopoulos A.P., Nastis A.S.	165
Small ruminants as manipulators of brown hare (<i>Lepus europaeus</i>) habitat in kermes oak rangelands – Karmiris I., Nastis A.S.	171
Quantitative aspects of phosphorus absorption and excretion in sheep – Bueno I.C.S., Lopes J.B., Sallam S.M.A., Abdalla A.L., Vitti D.M.S.S.	177
Growth performance of hair sheep at pasture, supplemented with tropical legume (<i>Mimosa caesalpiniiifolia</i> Benth) rich in condensed tannins – Campos G.M., Louvandini H., McManus C.M., Cabral Filho S.L.S., Garcia J.A.S., Abdalla A.L.	181
Monitoring and analysis of the natural vegetation in the area of Argitheia, Central Greece – Tsiouvaras C., Platis P., Ainalis A., Meliadis I., Karmiris I., Sklavou P., Tantos V., Athanasiou Z.	185

Responses of lambs to camphor highlight opportunities for management of savannas – <i>Dziba L.E., Provenza F.D., Hall J.O.</i>	191
Control of <i>Lymantria dispar</i> L. for eliminating the risk of forage production loss for small ruminants – <i>Papadopoulou Sm., Chryssochoides C., Katanos J.</i>	197

Session 2 – Rumen ecology and manipulation to improve small ruminant performance

Main papers

Risk assessment of mycotoxins in ruminants and ruminant products – <i>Jouany J.P., Yiannikouris A., Bertin G.</i>	205
Rumen microbial ecology: Helping to change landscapes – <i>Vercoe P.E., Durmic Z., Revell D.K.</i>	225

Short papers

Analysis of microbial communities in Rusitec and single-flow continuous culture fermenters by PCR-SSCP: Effects of basal diet – <i>Ranilla M.J., Martín García A.I., Molina Alcaide E., Carro M.D.</i>	239
Saltbush (<i>Atriplex nummularia</i> L.) reduces efficiency of rumen fermentation in sheep – <i>Mayberry D.E., Masters D.G., Vercoe P.E.</i>	245
Cellulolytic activity in the rumen of lambs fed a high concentrate diet is not affected by the removal of protozoa – <i>Yáñez-Ruiz D.R., Martín García A.I., Hart K.J., Molina-Alcaide E., Newbold C.J.</i>	251
Investigation of potential new opportunities for plant extracts on rumen microbial fermentation <i>in vitro</i> – <i>Sallam S.M.A., Bueno I.C.S., Brigide P., Godoy P.B., Vitti D.M.S.S., Abdalla A.L.</i>	255
<i>In vitro</i> gas production measurements and estimated energy value and microbial protein to investigate associative effects of untreated or biological treated linen straw and berseem hay – <i>Nasser M.E.A., El-Waziry A.M., Sallam S.M.A.</i>	261
Efficacy of eucalyptus oil on <i>in vitro</i> ruminal fermentation and methane production – <i>Sallam S.M.A., Bueno I.C.S., Brigide P., Godoy P.B., Vitti D.M.S.S., Abdalla A.L.</i>	267
Ruminal degradation evaluation of different feedstuffs by using single-flow continuous culture fermenters – <i>Yáñez-Ruiz D.R., Moumen A., Molina-Alcaide E.</i>	273
Phylogenetic additives to decrease <i>in vitro</i> ruminal methanogenesis – <i>Bodas R., López S., Fernández M., García-González R., Wallace R.J., González J.S.</i>	279
Changes in ruminal fermentation in sheep fed either alfalfa hay or grass hay after changing to a high-concentrate diet – <i>Ramos S., Tejido M.L., Martínez M.E., Ranilla M.J., Carro M.D.</i>	285
<i>In vitro</i> forage digestibility under suboptimal microbial inoculum and culture media pH conditions – <i>Vargas J.E., López S., Giráldez F.J., González J.S.</i>	291
Influence of direct-fed exogenous fibrolytic enzymes on ruminal fibrolytic activity in sheep – <i>Giraldo L.A., Tejido M.L., Ranilla M.J., Ramos S., Mantecón A.R., Carro M.D.</i>	297
Protozoa evolution in single-flow continuous culture and Rusitec fermenters fed high-forage diets – <i>Moumen A., Yáñez-Ruiz D.R., Carro M.D., Molina-Alcaide E.</i>	303
Effect of slow nitrogen intake supplementation with or without a lactic probiotic on Pelibuey lamb growth – <i>Ortiz-Rubio M.A., Galina M.A., Pineda L.J.</i>	309
Goat kid's growth improvement with a lactic probiotic fed on a standard base diet – <i>Galina M.A., Ortiz-Rubio M.A., Delgado-Pertiñez M., Pineda L.J.</i>	315
Effect of live yeast supplementation on ruminal polysaccharidase activities in goats fed a high concentrate diet – <i>Desnoyers M., Martin C., Duvaux-Ponter C., Morgavi D.P., Jouany J.P., Sauvant D., Bertin G., Giger-Reverdin S.</i>	323
Phosphorus kinetics in tissues of young Santa Ines sheep – <i>Louvandini H., Vitti D.M.S.S., Bueno I.C.S., Portilho F.P., McManus C.M.</i>	329

Session 3 – Targeted feeding to improve performances of sheep and goats at different physiological stages

Main papers

The impact of <i>in utero</i> nutritional programming on small ruminant performances – <i>Ashworth C.J., Dwyer C.M., McEvoy T.G., Rooke J.A., Robinson J.J.</i>	337
Focus feeding to improve reproductive performance in male and female sheep and goats. How it works and strategies for using it – <i>Blache D., Martin G.B.</i>	351

Short papers

Effect of goat's alpha-s1 casein genotype on diet selection in a free choice feeding system – <i>Avondo M., Pagano R.I., Guastella A.M., Criscione A., Di Gloria M., Valenti B., Lutri L., Pennisi P.</i>	367
Weaner lambs perform better on saltbush if their mothers grazed saltbush while pregnant – <i>Chadwick M.A., Vercoe P.E., Williams I.H., Revell D.K.</i>	373

Comparison of the performance of Shami (Damascus) and Saanen goats raised under similar environmental conditions in Lebanon – Khazaal K.	379
Grazing management systems: Creep grazing for suckling goat kids – Yiakoulaki M.D., Goetsch A.L., Sahlou T.	387
Effects of management system on performances of the Sicilo-Sarde ewes farmed in Northern Tunisia – Moujahed N., Jounaidi A., Kayouli Ch., Damergi C.	393
Effects of different dietary energy contents on milk urea concentration in stall-fed dairy sheep – Giovanetti V., Decandia M., Boe F., Zerbini E., Cannas A., Molle G.	399
Influence of supplementary feeding and the ram effect on conception rate of Barbarine ewes during spring mating – Lassoued N., Rekik M., Ben Salem H.	405
Status of sheep and goat farming in Lagkada Province of Thessalonika prefecture, in Central Macedonia, Greece – Katanos J., Karabalis K., Papadopoulou Sm.	411

Round Table 1 – Strategies that use plant secondary compounds to improve the efficiency and profitability of small ruminant agriculture

Consequences of protein supplementation on anorexia and expression of immunity in two parasitized sheep breeds – Zaralis K., Tolkamp B.J., Houdijk J.G.M., Kyriazakis I.	419
Effects of heather (Ericaceae) supplementation on gastrointestinal nematodes and live weight changes in naturally-infected Cashmere goats managed under two different stocking rates – Moreno-Gonzalo J., Osoro K., Mateos-Sanz A., García U., Frutos P., Celaya R., Ferreira L.M.M., Hervás G., Ortega-Mora L.M., Ferré I.	425
Compared <i>in vitro</i> anthelmintic effects of eight tannin-rich plants browsed by goats in the southern part of France – Hoste H., Brunet S., Paolini V., Bahuaud D., Chauveau S., Fouraste I., Lefrileux Y.	431

Round Table 2 – Quality products of sheep and goats for human nutrition and health

Effect of supplementation of grazing dairy ewes with a cereal concentrate on milk fatty acid profile – Hervás G., Gómez-Cortés P., de la Fuente M.A., Mantecón A.R., Juárez M., Giráldez F.J., Frutos P.	439
An oleaginous supplement to improve the nutritional quality of goat's milk and cheese (whole or extruded linseed, rapeseed cake) – Delmotte C., Rondia P., Dehareng F., Laloux J., Famerée J.	445
Characterisation of "Sicilian Cheese" made from the milk of Sicilo-Sarde breed ewes in the North West of Tunisia – Damergi C., Moujahed N., Ben Sid Elhaj S., Kayouli Ch.	453
Effect of substitution of barley and tickbean to maize and extruded soybean in the diet on milk and cheese from ewes grazing under two different stocking rates – Di Grigoli A., Pollicardo A., Mele M., Bonanno A., Tornambè G., Vargetto D.	459
Performance, carcass characteristics and meat quality of Timahdite-breed lambs finished on pasture or on hay and concentrate – Araba A., Bouarour M., Bas P., Morand-Fehr P., El Aich A., Kabbali A.	465

Main conclusions and recommendations

Main conclusions and recommendations	473
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List of participants

List of participants	481
-----------------------------------	-----