

Gaukhar Konuspayeva

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Biochemist, MSci, Doctor in food sciences (Montpellier University, France)

Current position, Experience and Research Interests

Vice-dean for scientific affairs at the Faculty of biology and biotechnology and Professor of biochemistry and biotechnology since 2007 at Al-Farabi University, Almaty (Kazakhstan)
Leader of “Food security” laboratory in Ltd Antigen, Almaty (Kazakhstan) and local expert 2010-2011 for FAO project in Camel and Range Research Center of Ministry of Agriculture, Al-Jouf (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). Research interests mainly on camel milk composition and biochemistry, camel milk processing and biotechnology, impact of pollutants on camel milk quality, impact of feeding on camel milk composition

Project experience

- 2008: Leader of project “Improvement of the technology and development of the rules for national products from the camel milk according to FAO and FIL/IDF requirements” for 2008-2010 from Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan
- 2009: Leader of project “Development and creation of new dietetic fermented -milk drinks on the basis of camel milk” from Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan
Leader of project “Developing the Scientific and Methodological bases of evaluation of Heavy Metals, pesticides and Radio-nuclides in the chain of Soil-Water-Pasture Plants-Camel Milk of different regions of Kazakhstan” for 2009-2011 (Ministry of Education and Science). Lecture for FAO workshop on “Transboundary diseases in camel” with topic “Camel applied immunology”, Djerba (Tunisia), March 9-11.
- 2009: Teaching at SupAGRO, November, Montpellier (France)
- 2010: Expertise of lab activities in veterinarian laboratory of Camel and Range Research Center – Al-Jouf (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).
- 2011: Research activities at the Camel and Range Research Center – Al-Jouf (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) as FAO expert: implementation of biochemist lab, feed experiment on camel, camel milk protein purification, camel milk composition, cheese making
- 2011: Leader of the World Bank project on “starters for manufacturers of camel and horse fermented milk products”

Reason to be candidate at ISOCARD-EC

First, I’m working on camel milk since my master in 2002. I was interested by the camel milk composition, its variability according to farming systems, the impact of pollution on the camel milk quality, the camel milk processing and biotechnology (fermentation, cheese making), the impact of feeding on the fine composition of the camel milk (fatty acids,

lactoprotein as immunoglobulins or lactoferrine). So, the camel becomes my main study object.

Second, I contributed already to the dissemination of the ISOCARD activities through my network in Central Asia and I wrote a paper in the journal "Veterinariya" about the last ISOCARD conference in order to inform the Kazakh vet community about this world camel association. I submitted also a project to the Ministry of Agriculture for creating a Kazakh camel association.

Third, I'm living in a country where the 2 species of large camelids are cohabiting: dromedary and Bactrian camel. I'm member of ISOCARD since the beginning in 2006 and I participated to all conferences, but I was the only representative of Central Asia countries and the only scientist speaking about Bactrian camel. Moreover, if two ladies were elected at the first EC in 2006, there was no female camel scientist elected at Djerba in 2009. For gender balance, the presence of a lady must be considered.

What I can bring to ISOCARD?

As I underlined above, at the former ISOCARD conference, I was the only representative of Central Asian camel scientist, especially speaking about Bactrian camel. For the next conference at Muscat, I encourage many colleagues to participate and probably several Kazakh scientists and doctorates will attempt the meeting. Thus, I can enlarge the base of ISOCARD memberships by including my colleagues working on Bactrian camel.

I expect also to organize on camel meeting (the Silk Road camel) in my country under the umbrella of ISOCARD. Among the camel, the Bactrian is really in decline (except in my country), contrary to dromedary. So, it is important to get an international support within the ISOCARD organization to disseminate proper informations for a future development and to encourage scientists of Central Asia to implement innovative research on this species.

Positions held on other advisory Councils/Committees

I was responsible for Kazakh part of the ECONET project (French-Kazakh research project): "the properties of non-conventional milk". I was also:

- Co-coordinator of the NATO-CIRAD-Academy of Nutrition-Al-Farabi University international workshop on "Impact of pollution on animal products" at Almaty (Kazakhstan),
- Responsible of the organization of the International conference on "Biotechnology, nanotechnology and physico-chemical biology" for granting of 70th anniversary of department of biotechnology, biochemistry, plant physiology of Kazakh National University Al-Farabi
- Responsible of the organization of the First international school on food safety at Al-Farabi University on December 2011.