

Registration Fees

500 Rs (Indian participants)

100 Euro (international participants)

Accommodation

A range of accommodation including romantic luxury hotels, retreats, mid-range hotels and simple hostels is available.

Bookings can be made through the conference organizers.

Pre-Conference Workshop

A pre-conference workshop devoted towards in-depth discussion of the grazing problem for large camel herds will be held from 17 to 19 November. The outcome of this workshop will provide an important input to the conference.

Visit to Pushkar

There will be opportunity to visit the Pushkar Camel Fair from 20 to 22 November.

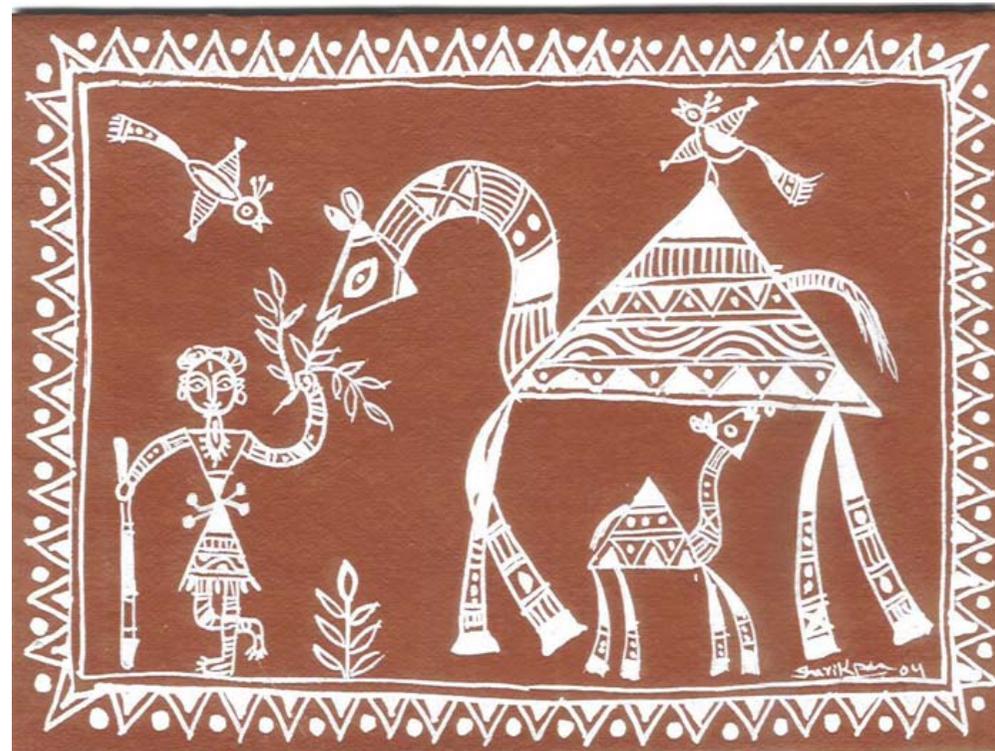
Venue

The training centre of Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan, situated at the foot of the Aravalli hills and the edge of the Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary, makes for a unique and memorable conference experience. LCD projector, overhead projector, and slide projector will be available.

Contact Addresses

For enquiries, registration and submission of abstracts please contact

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Saving the Camel and Peoples' Livelihoods:

**Building a Multi-Stakeholder Platform
for the Conservation of the Camel in
Rajasthan**

International Conference

23-25 November, 2004 in
Sadri, Rajasthan (India)

Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan has the pleasure to invite policy makers, camel scientists, and professionals from relevant fields (animal husbandry, development studies, ecology, etc) to an international conference that aims to build a multi-stakeholder platform for the conservation and development of the camel in Rajasthan.

The one-humped camel is almost symbolic for Rajasthan. But in recent years it has experienced a population decline so rapid that it raises the threat of near-extinction for this important part of local agricultural biodiversity. This development has grave implications for the sustainable utilization of Rajasthan's arid lands as well as for the State's estimated 300,000 families below the poverty line who depend on camels for their living.

Rationale for the Conference

If the camel is to be saved, the crisis needs to be acknowledged and acted upon and become a priority issue for the government. A multi-pronged approach involving various government and non-government institutions, combined with policy changes, is needed to address the following issues:

- Shrinking grazing resources are the most significant problem. Lack of food undermines the nutritional status of camel herds, making them vulnerable to disease and undercutting reproductive rates.
- Lack of economic returns, low status and backward image of camel breeding.
- Lack of prophylactic camel health care.

Objectives of the Conference

- Raise awareness and mobilise policy makers, relevant institutions, donor organizations, and the public.
- Share the results of relevant camel research from around the world.

- Identify promising options and strategies for making camel breeding economically viable.
- Discuss the need for including camels in land-use plans and the possibilities for reserving camel grazing areas throughout the State.
- Create political will for the implementation of policies that support camel breeding.

Sessions

The following sessions are anticipated:

- Improving camel husbandry and disease management in Rajasthan: What can we learn from other countries?
- Improving the economics of camel breeding: Potential for value-addition to camel products.
- Improving the fodder base for camel pastoralism: Are there realistic options?
- Policy changes and development interventions necessary to make camel breeding sustainable.
- Development of a joint strategy for saving the camel in Rajasthan.

Papers

All papers must address the basic issue. The relevance of the research to the situation of the camel and camel breeders in India must be made clear. Abstracts of not more than one page and listing the contact address of the authors have to be submitted by 15 October, 2004, preferably as an email attachment, otherwise as hard copy. Full papers must be submitted by the beginning of the workshop.

Languages

English, Hindi, Marwari