The Role Of The Camel In The Economy Of The Desert

(Case Study: Reza-Abad Village Of Shahrood)

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Abstract

A camel is an animal that can be raised in a desert state of life. The camel is of special importance due to its ability to withstand dehydration in arid areas, and therefore, it is called " the ship of the desert and the arid areas" . In the desert areas where the distance between villages is high and the water resources are scarce, and other livestock, such as horses, mules and donkeys, have not the ability to handle these distances without water, they have been used camels to carry goods. Breeding and keeping the camel as a multipurpose animal has long been popular among the villages of the desert margin. Recognizing the existing climate constraints and camel abilities to adapt to the dry climate, people in the region, from the past, provided part of the protein needs of the country through camel breeding. The growing need for protein in the world due to population growth, the issue of food security is one of the main concerns of the present. To solve this problem, man needs to search for new sources. A camel is a multipurpose animal that has been used by human beings for many centuries. Due to the vast areas of the desert region, Iran has a great potential for camel breeding , the ecosystem of overburden, dry and semi-arid areas, covers about two thirds of the area of Iran and covers an area of one million two hundred thousand square kilometers (Rasekhafshar, 2015: 34), these are good conditions for breeding camels; camel is an healthy-meat producing animal as well . Therefore, its development contributes significantly to the food security of the country. The camel has a unique ability to convert small plant deserts into meat and milk; but little paid attention to it, despite the active role of camels in livestock feed production.