

HUNGARIAN KNOW-HOW TRANSFER TO NORTH AFRICA AND MIDDLE EAST – THE ROLE OF HUNGARIAN DAIRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN INNOVATIVE CAMEL MILK PROCESSING TECHNOLOGIES

Kocsis Róbert¹, Nagy Péter²

¹Hungarian Dairy Research Institute Ltd., Mosonmagyaróvár, Hungary

²Emirates Industries for Camel Milk & Products, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

The Middle East and North Africa are home to the dromedary, a one-humped camel (*Camelus dromedarius*), a species adapted successfully to the hot, dry, arid and semi-arid environment. As a farm animal, for millennia camels played a central role in contributing to the sustenance and survival of the locals as well as to the development of societies. Following the urbanisation of recent decades, camel farming has somewhat lost its appeal. But as the population grows rapidly, climate change exerts its negative impacts, and water resources are becoming more and more limited, this milk and meat-producing species comes into the spotlight again. No less because research into camel milk has shown that it has considerable health benefits.

The Hungarian Dairy Research Institute Ltd. has been doing research and development activities together with the Dubai-based Emirates Industries for Camel Milk & Products and its head researcher since 2012 to ensure a constant supply of high-quality raw camel milk, on the one hand, and to tailor state-of-the-art dairy production technologies to camel milk, on the other.

Since our work with camel milk has proven highly successful, we wish to enter into and engage in a dialogue with experts of countries in the Middle East and North Africa who, relying on Hungarian expertise and being familiar with local conditions, would cooperate in establishing long-term camel milk production.