

المحافظة على استمرارية إنتاجية الأغنام

An approach to sustaining the viability of sheep production in the arid lands of Jordan.

JORDAN BADIA RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME LIBRARY
SAFAWI

K.E. JONES B.Vet.Med., M.Sc., MRCVS*
D.A. CAMPBELL B.Sc., M.Sc., PhD
Jordan Badia Research and Development Programme
c/o BIAAH, PO Box 519, Jubeiha, Amman 11941 Jordan



ABSTRACT

1998

An initial 2 year on-farm research programme was carried out with Bedouin sheep. The aims were to look at the current systems of sheep production in the area; measuring productivity, health indices, marketing strategies and investigating Bedouin socio-economics. The livestock research was carried out within the context of a larger programme, The Jordan Badia Research and Development Programme (BRDP). This is a collaborative multi-disciplinary project in Jordan's arid north-east Badia region. The BRDP's overall objective is the sustainable development of the region through the introduction of systems enabling local communities to manage and conserve the region's natural resources.

The integrated livestock research also took place in the context of a rapidly changing external economic picture with structural adjustment policies adversely affecting the Bedouin sheep production system. In order for them not to become a highly marginalised group with increasing poverty levels it was felt that their systems of production were also going to have to change.

Workshops, visits and training programmes for Bedouin sheep owners started in May 1997 as forum for suggesting various management, health, marketing improvements that could be made to increase productivity and cut costs. However, the activities go further by working in partnership with the farmers and with all those people having different roles in the chain of delivery of the animal health and extension services. Thus a key objective concerns methodology; to evolve a minimum cost but effective system to deliver health and production extension messages and services effectively and sustainably to the farmers and others centrally involved with stock management in the remote Badia regions. This work will have relevance to all other arid areas of Jordan and to similar areas in other countries in the region.

INTRODUCTION

The Jordan Badia Research and Development Programme (BRDP) programme is a collaborative multi-disciplinary project (managed by Jordan's Higher Council for Science and Technology and the UK's Royal Geographical Society) in Jordan's arid north-east Badia region. The BRDPs overall objective is the sustainable development of the region through the introduction of systems enabling local communities to manage and conserve the region's natural resources. The programme area extends over 11,210 km² and constitutes over 15% of the total Badia area of Jordan.

JORDAN BADIA RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME LIBRARY
SAFAWI