

CELEBRATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAMELIDS 2024 DECLARED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The [Celebrations for the International Year of Camelids 2024](#) are underway in all the countries of the world involved. The International Year was Launched in December 2023 by the by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through an opening Ceremony engaging Members of United Nations, organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

The Year will highlight how camelids are key to the livelihoods of millions of households across over 90 countries. From alpacas to Bactrian camels, dromedaries, guanacos, llamas, and vicuñas, camelids contribute to food security, nutrition and economic growth as well as holding a strong cultural significance for communities across the world.

[The International Year of Camelids 2024 was declared by the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution A/RES/72/210](#), upon the initiative of Bolivia, to recognize the economic and cultural importance of these animals. The launch event was held within the framework of the 174th FAO Executive Council, where the Bolivian delegation led by the Vice President of the State, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs participated. Bolivia co-chaired the Steering Committee of the International Year of Camelids together with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The General Assembly also Invited FAO to facilitate the organization and implementation of the International Year, in collaboration with Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and all other relevant stakeholders; all invited were intended to provide voluntary contributions and other forms of support for the International Year.

Hundreds of activities and events are being organized worldwide to promote the International Year of Camelids. [The website of the Year presents the news about these events and a map](#) to find and participate in an activity or event.

[In the section Stories of the website](#) interesting articles are published presenting practices ongoing in China, Mongolia, in



the Plurinational State of Bolivia, in Italy and Mauritania, exploring different aspects and ways related with the increased value of camelids by protecting them and increasing the income of camelids herders.

In the section *Take Action*, the website encourages the different actors involved by the Year of Camelids to develop specific actions to reach the objectives of the Year. In particular:

The governments and policy makers have to:

- Develop tailored camelid development policies that recognize the role of camelids as a way to fight hunger, build resilience to climate change, and conserving biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Develop policies and take actions that support livelihoods of communities that depend on camelids, by developing and implementing policies to increase their access to markets, resources and services, emphasizing the role of youth and women.
- Develop campaigns to build public awareness about the importance of camelids.
- Protect traditional knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities that depend on camelids.
- Promote camelid products to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable rural populations, create decent jobs and greater equality.
- Engage actively young people to work in the camelid sector.
- Empower camelid producers. Strengthen the organizational and leadership capacities of camelid producers.



Camelid producers have to:

- build their skills base. Learn about good practices for producing and processing camelid products to ensure the highest quality, and increase income derived from production and processing, and from the marketing of fibres, meat and hides.
- Learn about sustainable practices. Strengthen and promote the conservation and sustainable management of camelids and natural pastures, including biodiversity, considering the reduced feed and water availability due to the deterioration of natural resources and climate change.
- Form producer organizations. Join forces and form producer organizations to have more of a say in government policies; gain better access to markets, resources and services; and add value to your products.



No governmental organizations NGOs have to:

- Connect producers to markets. Provide producers with practical support, training and ways of adding value to their products, connecting them to traditional and alternative markets.
- Promote camelids. Share information related to camelids with a broad range of audiences, including through the organization of events and campaigns.
- Form camelid action groups and networks to promote the availability, accessibility and affordability of camelid products.



- Leave no one behind. Strengthen negotiating capacities of producers and sensitize value chain actors in a win-win culture that leaves no one behind, and considers the rights, culture and traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Support the review and documentation of indigenous and local practices for camel breeding, husbandry, disease control, and marketing, among others.
- Drive climate adaptation. Develop the capacities of camelid producers in climate change adaptation.



The research and academic institutions have to:

- Innovate the camelid sector. Dedicate resources to researching camelids, the nutritional benefits, properties and characteristics of camelid products, as well as to practices and innovations that can make camelid production more sustainable.
 - Gather and disseminate evidence Gather and disseminate evidence related to camelids that can inform relevant management and development approaches, including for climate change adaptation and improved contributions to nutrition, food security and environmental sustainability in a participatory manner, taking into account traditional knowledge.



The development partners have to:

- Integrate camelid production in development projects. Develop and implement programmes and projects that include camelid-related activities to improve food security and nutrition, eradicate poverty and enhance the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Support fair and equitable value chains. Support the development of fair and equitable value chains that enable camelid producers to benefit from markets by addressing limitations in processing and marketing, including a lack of access to financial services.



The Year IYC 2024 will highlight how camelids are key to the livelihoods of millions of households in hostile environments across 90 countries particularly among Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Camelids include Bactrian camels, dromedary camels, and wild camels as well as domesticated llamas and alpacas, wild vicuñas and guanacos. All these camelids contribute to food security, nutrition and economic growth as well as contribute to hold a strong cultural and social significance for communities across the world.



Camelids play an important role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to the fight against hunger, the eradication of extreme poverty, the empowerment of women and the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. From providing milk, meat and fibre for communities to provide transport for products and people, and organic fertilizer, camelids thrive where other livestock species cannot survive.



Camelids play a key role in the culture, economy, food security and livelihoods of communities in Andean highlands and in the arid and semi-arid lands in Africa and Asia, including Indigenous Peoples. Even in extreme climatic conditions they continue to produce fibre and nutritious food. Indeed, the



International Year of Camelids presents a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the role of camelids in building resilience to climate change – particularly in mountains and arid and semi-arid lands.

The aim of an International Year is to educate public opinion and governments on the importance of recognizing and valuing the economic and social importance of camelids in the lives of communities that are highly susceptible and vulnerable to extreme poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. The huge potential of camelids would help to reduce levels of extreme poverty, given that by optimizing their multiple qualities (meat, milk, fibre, means of transport) would help increase income and resources as well as guarantee sustainable livelihoods and reduce hunger and malnutrition. In summary, the integrated management of camelid products will promote community inclusion and help to create sustainable employment as well as promote equality.

[The website of the International Year IYC 2024 presents the following Key Messages of the Year](#) and the main objectives to reach through the activities that can be carried out internationally and in countries:

- Greater support to the camelid sector can accelerate progress towards achieving Zero Hunger and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- The livelihoods of many communities around the world depend on camelid products and services
- We need to invest in capacity development, research and outreach to develop the camelid sector
- Camelids are of strong social and cultural importance
- Camelids contribute to the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and build resilience to climate change.

The website of the [International Year IYC 2024](#) presents materials, documents and information useful to organize events and activities for the *International Year*. From cultural performances, panel discussions or lectures, there are many ways to promote camelids and initiatives to spread the messages to participate. The website invites all interested actors to use their influence and networks to make the Year IYC 2024 an international success by spreading the word through media outlets, public events and campaigns on the importance of Camelids for their contribute to the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and in building resilience to climate change.

To know more and participate

[International Year IYC 2024 website](#)

[Celebrations, events and news of the IYC Year](#)

[News in FAO website](#)

[Article in FAO website](#)

[Section Stories of the website](#)

[International Year o Camelids document](#)

[Article in ArabNews.com](#)

[Article in noaclab.com](#)



[Article in iyrp2026 website](#)

[Article in Embajada de Bolivia.mx](#)

[Article in Ministerio de Desarrollo Bolivia website](#)

[Article in diainternacionalde.com](#)

