

Dr J.A. (Lulu) Skidmore

Scientific Director of the Camel Reproduction Centre, Dubai

Dr Lulu Skidmore joined the Camel Reproduction Centre in 1991 as post-graduate research student, and successfully completed her PhD, "Reproduction in the dromedary camel," from *University of Cambridge*, UK in 1994. Subsequently, she has remained as Scientific Director of the *Camel Reproduction Centre* in Dubai, leading a team of scientists covering all aspects of camel reproduction including embryo transfer, AI and hybridization of New and Old World camelids.

Abstract**SELECTIVE BREEDING AND ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION FOR IMPROVED MILK PRODUCTION IN CAMELS**

J. A. Skidmore.

Camel Reproduction Centre, P.O. Box 79914, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Camels are very important animals for their ability to produce meat and milk in arid climates. Nowadays there is increasing interest in milk production from camels as its nutritional and health benefits become more apparent. High producing camels are therefore valuable to breed from however their reproductive efficiency is low. The techniques of artificial insemination and embryo transfer are therefore being used to increase production rate of genetically superior animals and therefore increase milk production. Reasonable pregnancy rates of 50-70% can be achieved after insemination of fresh semen or transfer of fresh embryos respectively. The challenges involved will be discussed.