

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAMELIDS 2024

DECLARED BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[The United Nations General Assembly declared 2024 the International Year of Camelids IYC2024.](#) The 4th of December 2024 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) officially launched the International Year IYC 2024 through an opening Ceremony aiming at raising awareness and create momentum for the International Year by engaging Members of United Nations, intergovernmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.



[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.

[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 International Year of Camelids 2024 aims to build awareness of the untapped potential of camelids and to call for increased investment in the camelid sector, advocating for greater research, capacity development and the use of innovative practices and technologies.

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 United Nations General Assembly, on 17th October, 2017 Declared the 2024 International Year of Camelids to encourage all Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to promote awareness among the public of the economic and cultural importance of camelids and to foster the consumption of their goods to contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition;

[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.

In particular the initiative wants to achieve the following results during the IYC and beyond:

- Achieve a better understanding of problems/potential of camelid keeping as experienced at community-level;
- Identify research needs by engaging with communities;



- Enable communities to raise and make their voices heard
- Educate camel scientists to adopt holistic perspective and reflect on implications of their research;
- Facilitate interaction between communities and policy makers;
- Encourage social business models;
- Avoid the mistakes of the cow dairy sector and carve out a more compassionate way of livestock keeping.

The website of the [International Year IYC 2024](#) presents materials, documents and information useful to organize events and activities for the *International Year of Camelids 2024*. 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 [International 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](#)

[News in FAO website](#)

[Article in FAO website](#)

[International Year o Camelids document](#)

[Article in ArabNews.com](#)

[Article in noaclab.com](#)

[Article in iyrc2026 website](#)

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

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

[Article in diainternacionalde.com](#)

