

Session 8: Adaptation, resilience and agroecological transition in small ruminants and camelids.

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THE POTENTIAL OF BREEDING CASHMERE GOATS IN EUROPE

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ABSTRACT:

Worldwide cashmere sources are politically and environmentally insecure. Reliable, sustainable, and ethically sourced Cashmere fiber is essential to successfully supply a European market. Thirty years of genetic selection within a diverse population of cashmere goats raised in Tuscany, Italy, have given satisfactory results.

Fiber testing and specific genetic improvement is easily provided in a European context, and fiber quality, animal welfare, and ethical work conditions can be guaranteed when breeding cashmere goats in Europe. The possibility of producing traceable raw material while interacting to solve environmental issues such as abandoned and marginal farmland is of fundamental importance in the fiber sector.

