



Asociación
Internacional
de la Alpaca
International Alpaca Association



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EDITORIAL

THE ALPACA AND OTHER CAMELIDS

The alpaca is a South American camelid recognized worldwide for its fiber, domesticated for approximately 5 thousand years, and considered an essential part of the high Andean culture. In Peru, the raising of alpacas is the main agricultural activity and of vital importance for the Andean population, so in 2012 the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation established August 1 of each year as National Alpaca Day.

However, in addition to the alpaca, there are other species of camelids such as llamas, vicuñas, guanacos, Bactrian camels and dromedaries, whose importance lies in their contribution to the survival of populations that inhabit inhospitable ecosystems, as it contributes to the family economy and food security.

In that context, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 2024 as the International Year of Camelids (IYC), and FAO will lead its implementation. The International Alpaca Association has been invited to be part of the IYC Steering Committee, so we will actively participate as this represents a great opportunity to give greater visibility to the alpaca and generate new initiatives.

Finally, once again, we invite you to participate in Natural Fibre Connect 2023, a conference that will take place this September 28 and 29 in Biella, Italy; and also online with live streaming. Likewise, we are waiting for you at Peru Moda Deco 2023, an event that will be held at the end of October in Lima, Peru.



Chairman at International Alpaca Association





SUSTAINABLE ELEGANCE: EXPLORING THE FINENESS OF ALPACA FIBER IN ANDEAN BIODIVERSITY

By PhD Rosa Patricia Larios-Francia

The alpaca (*Vicugna pacos*) is the main species of South American camelids that inhabits the high Andean areas, being in Peru 87% of the world population (MIDAGRI, 2022), with a population of alpacas in 2022 is 4 533 922, of which 80.4% are of the Huacaya race and the Suri race 12.2%. They are mainly concentrated in Puno (45.68%) Cusco (14.85%), Arequipa (10.55%) (Ministry of Agrarian Development Irrigation, 2023). Alpaca fiber is currently well recognized internationally for its fineness, softness, length and natural colors, which make it an excellent raw material for the textile and fashion industry. According to a study by (Huanca et al., 2011) of the 23 colors that have been identified in alpacas, the colors that currently predominate are seven phenotypes, white 88.71%, LF 4.83%, light coffee 2.68%, coffee 1.78%, black 0.94%, reddish brown 0.64% and dark brown 0.48% in Huacaya alpacas; for Suri white 85.10%, reddish coffee 6.69%, light coffee 3.59%, dark brown 1.56% LF 1.53%, coffee 0.55% and black 0.98%, constituting a valuable variety of our genetic resource in the Andean region.

The high Andean producers have a great predominance for the breeding of white alpacas, this due to the demand by the textile industry to give a dyeing process to different colors; This bleaching of herds has also resulted in an improvement in the genetic processes and care of the herds, resulting in an improvement in the quality of the fiber.



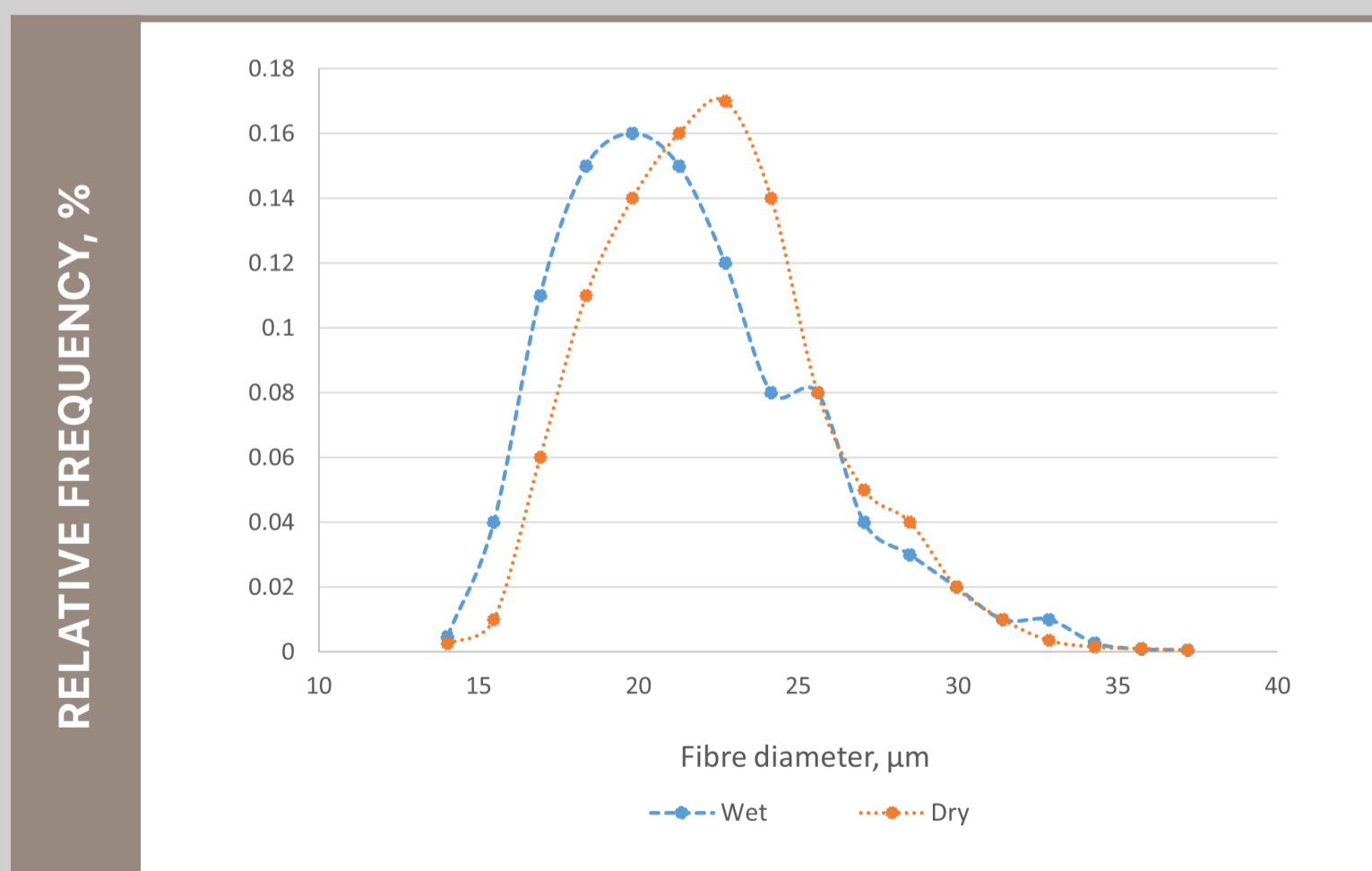
Photo: Larios-Francia, Rosa Patricia Puno, Perú



With respect to fineness, specimens have been found whose fiber diameter values are in the range of 13.3 to 34.5 μ m with an average value of 20.32 μ m in the humid Puna and in the range of 13.6 to 37.9 μ m in the Dry Puna of the Puno region (Larios-Francia et al., 2023). Similar results were identified by (Huanca et al., 2007) finding in Puna Húmeda values between 15.6 to 31.18 μ m and in Puna Seca values of 16.86 to 28.12 μ m. This shows the great potential of our fiber for increasingly demanding and sophisticated markets. Becoming a raw material for the sustainable luxury segment.

However, in the national and international market it is not well known the high degree of fineness of our alpaca fiber, and its potential in the use of garments or deco-home pieces with high added value. The NTP 231.301: 2022 presents a new classification by quality group, where the quality "Ultrafine" is considered for ranges "Equal to or less than 18 microns"; "Superfine", between 18.1 to 20 microns, "Extrafine" between 20.1 to 23 microns, among the groups with less fineness (INACAL, 2022). This will generate a better opportunity for the alpaquero producer, who will receive a better price for the finest fiber in a differentiated way, likewise it will result in a greater concern for the breeder for the genetic improvement, feeding and good breeding and shearing practices of their alpacas, obtaining better income that will serve to ensure the sustainability of the camelid production chain, whereas camelid farming families are currently in extreme poverty (Escobar, 2023; MIDAGRI, 2022).

The care and preservation of the largest genetic reserve in the world is in charge of the researchers of the CIP Quimsachata of the National Institute of Agrarian Innovation (INIA), where the insemination and transfer of embryos is carried out to obtain genetically improved camelids, in order to optimize the production of fiber and meat, as an alternative of sustainable economic development for alpaca breeders (Huanca, 2020; National Institute of Agrarian Innovation, 2020). However, it is up to all of us involved in the camelid value chain to develop proposals for actions to sustain the beginning of this legacy, improving the conditions of camelid breeding families, with training, technical support, infrastructure support, feed development, improvements in fiber income and other derived products.



Source: (Larios-Francia et al., 2023)



Photo: Larios-Francia, Rosa Patricia Puno, Perú

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAMELIDS - 2024

By Daniel Arestegui

Old and New World camelids are crucial to the food security of millions of people, either as a primary source of protein or as a basis for their economic security.

Both the Bactrian and dromedary camels, as well as the four South American species: the domestic (alpaca and llama) and the wild (vicuña and guanaco); They are of vital importance to guarantee food security and reduce levels of extreme poverty, by efficiently providing multiple products (meat, milk, fiber, skins, means of transport and tourism services) to vulnerable populations that historically inhabit inhospitable ecosystems of the South American Andes, Asian steppes and African deserts.

Camels and dromedaries are a fundamental part of the nomadic life system, in their natural ecosystems they are used as pack animals due to their hardiness, ability to survive and travel long distances in arid ecosystems.

In South America, camelids arrived 3 million years ago, evolving into the four current species. The alpaca and the llama were domesticated 5 thousand years ago by the high Andean populations and together with vicuñas and guanacos, they constituted the main source of protein and clothing of animal origin in the continent in pre-Columbian times.

Nowadays the breeding and the management of this domestic and wild species involves approximately 200 thousand families that lives in the Andes Mountains, from Ecuador, to Tierra de Fuego.





On the other hand, in the high Andean lands and in the arid and semi-arid lands of Africa and Asia, camelids actively contribute to the creation and validity of ancestral practices and the socio-cultural vision of indigenous peoples. In addition, they constitute an important social base of the traditional and contemporary knowledge of these peoples, which have maintained, preserved and protected genetic biodiversity.

In 2017, the United Nations established 2024 as the International Year of Camelids and commissioned the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to facilitate its implementation in collaboration with governments, the organizations involved, non-governmental organizations and all other stakeholders.

The International Year of Camelids (IYC 2024) presents a unique opportunity to raise awareness of the role of camelids in contributing to poverty reduction through livelihood generation and sustainable food production for food security and nutrition.

The main objectives of the International Year of Camelids are:



Make visible the role of camelids for food security and nutrition and adaptation to climate change.



Encourage actors and governments to recognize and value the economic, social and cultural importance of camelids.



Highlight the need to promote responsible investment for the development of the sector.

The International Year of Camelids is an opportunity to work together to promote the sustainable development of camelid management and livestock, which is key to the food security, nutrition and well-being of millions of people around the world. The integrated management of camelid products will promote the inclusion of the societies involved and contribute to creating sustainable employment, as well as promoting equality and equity.

The International Alpaca Association (IAA) has been invited to be part of the Steering Committee of the International Year of Camelids, which has been installed in Rome since June 2023. Juan Pepper, President of the AIA, actively participates in the meetings of this committee as a representative of our organization. In the following editions we will continue to inform about the progress and news of the IYC 2024.





NEWS

By Erika Flores

ALPACA DAY 2023

On August 1 in Arequipa-Peru, the International Alpaca Association (AIA) commissioned by the Technological Institute of Production (ITP) of the Ministry of Production (PRODUCE) in coordination with the CITE Textil Camélidos Arequipa and the Regional Alpaca Board led to various activities within the framework of ALPACA DAY 2023, as established by the Ministry of Agriculture of Peru through Ministerial Resolution No. 429-2012-AG.

On this occasion, an academic forum was held with national exhibitors who addressed relevant issues for the sector such as regenerative livestock, the sustainability strategy of the alpaca textile sector, the RAS in Peru, the challenges of alpaca producers and public interventions in the sector.

In addition to a discussion panel that allowed to generate consensus among all those involved in the alpaca value chain. Likewise, an exhibition of alpacas was held; awards to breeders, artisans and MSMEs for their great work and dedication; and fashion shows in various categories, among other activities.

Finally, it is important to indicate that the breeding of alpacas is the main agricultural activity in the high Andean areas of Peru, and the Peruvian alpaquero textile cluster involves more than 100 companies dedicated to industrial transformation, garment and decoration items, craft workshops and micro-entrepreneurs linked to the alpaquera textile activity.





PERÚ MODA DECO 2023

The Commission for the Promotion of Peru's Exports and Tourism (PROMPERU) will hold Peru Moda Deco 2023, the global showcase of Peruvian fashion and decoration that this year celebrates its 25th anniversary. This sector-leading trade event has brought together Peruvian industry professionals from all regions with global buyers in a scenario of innovation, quality, design and sustainability.

This especial edition of Peru Moda Deco will be held on October 19 and 20 at the Lima Convention Center. For two days, specialized attendees from Peru and countries such as the United States, Brazil, Canada, Italy, Germany, Chile, Mexico, France, the United Kingdom and China, among others, will be able to participate in business meetings, international forums, fashion shows, the Young Creators Contest and much more.

It should be noted that, within PROMPERÚ's commercial strategy, the promotion of national fibers is a fundamental factor. Alpaca del Perú and Perú Textiles, are two of the sectorial brands that since 2014 and 2016 respectively, are used and recognized to position the country in the most prestigious international markets.

In this context, the International Alpaca Association will be present at this event, and you will find our institutional stand on the 7th floor. We are waiting for you!



Learn more about the event [here](#)



JOIN THE NATURAL FIBRE CONNECT SECOND EDITION

The start of this year's Natural Fibre Connect conference is just a few days away, so we invite you to participate in this industry-leading event, which connects all actors in the supply chain of the wool, alpaca, mohair and cashmere industries and explores the future of natural fibers. Don't miss this opportunity!

NFC includes live presentations with expert speakers from around the world, panel discussions and working group sessions to address issues related to the animal fiber textile industries.

Factory tours and pre-conference tours begin on September 25 and the main conference will take place on September 28 and 29 in person in Biella, Italy and also online with live streaming.

Learn more on the official event website:
www.naturalfibreconnect.com

Register now and buy your ticket online [here](#).

FOR A WORLD WITH MORE NATURAL FIBERS BY 2030!





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