

Introduction

Quran attracts human attention to meditate in how the camel has been created. The camel has some special anatomical, physiological, morphological and behavioral characteristics unique to it and adaptive to adverse desert hard conditions of survival as reported by **Mohamed (2006)**.

This led **Kohler-Rellefson (1990)** to state that it might be decisive strategy in future to utilize the camel to transform and convert arid lands vegetation resources in to human food especially with the increasing consumption levels and decreasing food resource.

Sudan occupies about 2.5 million square kilometers as the largest country in Africa and the Arab world. It extends between latitudes 3-23 N and this falls in the warm areas of the world.

The natural grazing land, in the Sudan is estimated at about 230 million Feddans and supports about 40468 animal units of cattle, 6225 of sheep, 3544 of goat and 5583 of camels (Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (2005)).

Sudan come second to Somalia world wise in the total number of camels of about 3.5 million heads of which 25% are in the Eastern Region as a natural grazing area of about 43 million Feddans.

Many reviews studies have indicated the important role of the camel in the socio-economic life of the camel owners, raisers and herders in all regions of the Sudan and particularly the eastern region.

Various are as of scientific study and research have been covered but more in needed on management and production specially under settled conditions; more so, with decreasing grazing lands in the Eastern Region and increasing rainfed agriculture.

Thus study is an attempt to investigate possibility of camel-ranch establishment in Gedarif State being the main State in camel raising in the Region and having many favoring factors and conditions.

Study Justifications:-

- Sudan ranks second to Somalia in the world camel population but camels rank least as an animal production resource in the Sudan.

- The Butana area adjacent to Gedarif State maintains about 25% of the camel population in the Sudan.

- Gedarif State is the grain store of the Sudan, with huge agricultural by products potential that are not fully utilized. This is in addition to having El Showak camel market, the largest in the Sudan and El Showak Camel Research Center the first in camel research in the Sudan.

- The national government strategies are being directed to pastoralists and herders socioeconomic development and to involve them in the national economic-circle.

- Pasture and nomads grazing areas are dwindling due to the agricultural land encroachment on grazing areas which necessitates new approaches in animal production systems including camels.

Study objectives are to:-

- Assess and evaluate camel potentials and possible future development in Gedarif State.

- Expose limiting problems and difficulties handicapping camel development in Gedarif State.

- Use Geographic Information System (GIS) as a development tool for camel production and ranching system establishment.

- Attract and raise awareness for camel production and products consumption.

- Help the State authorities to incorporate camel production in the State development strategies and plans through ranching system establishment.