

Livestock within SAFBIN project - goat feeding in project areas in Nepal – Christina Gerl

Short introduction

Christina Gerl is 26 years old and lives in Vienna. After finishing her bachelor in equine sciences at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, she is now enrolled in livestock sciences at BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna.



All around the world she has worked with horses and in animal assisted therapy. Through the therapy - and of course her studies- she started to learn a lot about small ruminants, especially goats. She was very excited to hear about the possibility to do research within the SAF-BIN project and to have been given the opportunity to visit such an interesting country as Nepal.

Research Topic

The topics of Christina's research is feeding strategies of Nepalese goat farmers. More specifically farmers keeping goats in SAFBIN project locations. She will determine which fodder plants are available, how they are cultivated, what their nutritional values are and of which feeding management are applied.

Her database will be 30 farmer interviews and visits to Nepalese goat research institutions. Together with the farmers she will prepare

feeding calendars and collect samples of the fodder plants used at farm level.

Progress

By June 2014 Christina has finished her data collection in the field. Fodder sample are currently being analyzed by NARC in Kathmandu, Nepal and she has returned to Vienna for data analysis and write-up of her master thesis.

Link to SAFBIN-project

The research done by Christina will add a livestock component to the ongoing SAF-BIN project activities in Nepal and broaden the knowledge base on goat breeding in the region.

Supervision

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Project applicant

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