



SURVEY OF IMPROVED GOAT REARING ADOPTION PRACTICES IN TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT OF TAMILNADU

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ABSTRACT

A study was undertaken to assess the adoption level of improved goat rearing practices among goat farmers in Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu. The study revealed that high adoption was noticed in feeding colostrum to new born kids, identifying the animals in heat, deworming of young kids, Feeding tree leaves and low adoption was in feeding neem leaves, providing mineral blocks and feeding crushed prosopsis and tamarind seeds, artificial insemination in goats, insurance of animals and maintenance of records.

KEY WORDS: Adoption, Goat farming, Management practices.

INTRODUCTION

Goat has short generation interval, high prolificacy. It is one of the most important livestock species in India, capable of surviving on sparse vegetation and is easily adaptable to a wide range of climatic conditions. India has 124.36 million goats, which account for more than 25 % of the country's total livestock and contribute more than Rs.106 billion annually to the national economy, providing food and nutritional security to millions of marginal and small farmers and agricultural labourers (Kumar 2007). In order to make the goat rearing a profitable enterprise, technologies have been developed by the research institutions both at national and international level. Such improved practices developed have not been adopted by the farmers so far. Therefore, proper adoption of these improved practices by the goat farmers will be the only means to hasten further development in this sector. Hence the study was taken up with the objective to ascertain the adoption level encountered in improved goat rearing practices by the farmers.

MATERIALS & METHODS

The study was conducted in Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu. The 10 blocks of Tiruvallur district, were selected for this study. From each selected block, one village with maximum goat population was selected and 20 goat farmers from each selected village were selected randomly and thus, a total sample of 200 goat farmers were constituted.

A list of improved goat farming practices were collected from the available literature and by consulting experts in goat farming. The items collected were categorised under four major division's viz., breeding, feeding, management and health. The respondents were requested to indicate the adoption level separately for each practice. If they adopt the particular practice score one was given, and zero score was given for non adoption. The total frequency score was

calculated and percentage was obtained for each practice. Based on the total score the practices were ranked.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The overall adoption level of improved goat rearing practices by the farmers were analyzed and presented in Table I. Among all the four domains, adoption was high in health domain and it was ranked first followed by management domain ranked second, breeding domain ranked third and the feeding domain ranked last. Similar findings were reported, that low level of adoption was noticed in feeding practices by goat keepers (Lohati and Chole, 2010).

The item-wise adoption level of improved goat rearing practices under each domain was presented in Table II. Of all the five practices in the health domain, high adoption level was noticed in deworming of kids (87.20 per cent) and it ranked first, providing extra care to sick animals (85.00 percent) was ranked second and deworming of adults (81.40 per cent) was ranked third. The practices having lowest adoption rate were deticking the animals (40.50 per cent) ranked fourth and vaccination against contagious diseases (25.00 per cent) ranked fifth.

Regarding breeding practices, identifying the animals in heat (88.00 per cent) ranked first while the artificial insemination in goats (3.2 per cent) was ranked last. In management practices the adoption was high in feeding colostrum to new born kids (96.50 per cent) ranked first and maintenance of records (0.90 per cent) ranked last (Mohan et al., 2008). Under feeding practices, high adoption was noticed in feeding tree leaves (79.00 per cent) which ranked first while low level of adoption was noticed in feeding neem leaves (4.40 per cent), providing mineral blocks and feeding crushed prosopsis and tamarind seeds (4.00 percent).

Non-availability of artificial insemination service for goats in rural areas might be the reason for low level of adoption. Most of the farmers are rearing goats by

utilizing the locally available resources and family labour in a small scale might be the reason for low number of the farmers is maintaining records. Most of the farmers are not aware of the importance of using mineral block and utilization of unconventional feeds might be the reason for low level of adoption in these aspects (Manivannan, 2008).

The adoption is low in important scientific practices due to lack of exposure. Training programmes should be

organised to impart knowledge and skills on scientific goat farming, disease management, first aid, ethnoveterinary practices and factors affecting conception in ewes. Developing public private partnership model to supply good breeding stock to farmers will enhance commercial goat farming. Marketing by collective bargaining methods and formation of farmer interest groups will enhance the profit margin of the goat farmers.

TABLE I. Overall adoption level of improved goat farming practices

| Category | Percentage | Rank |
|------------|------------|------|
| Health | 53.18 | I |
| Management | 49.80 | II |
| Breeding | 31.05 | III |
| Feeding | 18.42 | IV |

TABLE II. Adoption level of improved goat farming practices

| Improved goat farming practices | Adoption | | |
|--|-----------|------------|-------|
| | Frequency | Percentage | Rank |
| Health | | | |
| Deworming of kids | 174 | 87.20 | I |
| Providing extra care to sick animals | 170 | 85.00 | II |
| Deworming of adults | 163 | 81.40 | III |
| Deticking the animals | 81 | 40.50 | IV |
| Vaccination against contagious diseases | 50 | 25.00 | V |
| Breeding | | | |
| Identifying the animals in heat | 176 | 88.00 | I |
| Selection and purchase of quality animals | 97 | 48.50 | II |
| Castration of male animals | 74 | 36.80 | III |
| Pregnancy verification | 20 | 9.80 | IV |
| Artificial insemination in goats | 6 | 3.20 | V |
| Management | | | |
| Feeding colostrum to new born kids | 193 | 96.50 | I |
| Preference towards the does giving twin births | 183 | 91.35 | II |
| Utilisation of manure | 175 | 87.50 | III |
| Provision of housing for animals | 152 | 76.12 | IV |
| Provision of optimum floor space for animals | 146 | 73.00 | V |
| Age at weaning of young ones | 23 | 11.50 | V I |
| Marketing of male animals at 6 months of age | 20 | 10.00 | VII |
| Insurance of animals | 3 | 1.31 | V III |
| Maintenance of records | 2 | 0.90 | IX |
| Feeding | | | |
| Feeding tree leaves | 158 | 79.00 | I |
| Providing concentrate prior to kidding | 20 | 9.90 | II |
| Providing concentrate feed to adults | 19 | 9.61 | III |
| Feeding neem leaves | 9 | 4.40 | IV |
| Providing mineral blocks | 8 | 4.00 | V |
| Feeding crushed prosopsis and tamarind seeds | 8 | 4.00 | V |

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