

Goatary: A Gateway of Success for Resource Poor Farmers

Pankaj Lavania¹ and Kailash Chand Bairwa²

¹College of Agriculture, Jodhpur- (Agriculture University, Jodhpur), Rajasthan

²College of Agriculture, Baytu-Barmer-(Agriculture University, Jodhpur), Rajasthan

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Abstract

With in animal husbandry, goat farming plays an important role in livelihood security and economic sustenance of rural people by providing regular employment and income generation throughout the year and also provides security against risk in agriculture. The present study was conducted to empowerment of schedule cast farmers through goat husbandry as an economic Venture for poor families of faster body weight gain and higher milk producing goat breed “*Sirohi*” under ICAR, New-Delhi sponsored SC-SP project for “Entrepreneurship and to strengthen their livelihood and economic improvement of Schedule cast youth” in the year 2019-2020, in Jodhpur district of western Rajasthan. Ten Sirohi goat units were demonstrated to each identified schedule cast respondents. Each unit comprised of ten females and one buck. The results revealed that the improved sirohi goat has an immense production potential in arid region under traditional low input production system. The average expenditure and income on rearing of animals was calculated Rs 26,576 and Rs 60,174 respectively. The benefit cost ratio was recorded 1:2.26 which appears to be very much economical and viable. It is a profitable and economic venture for resource poor families in terms of livelihood and entrepreneurship.

Keywords: Goat, Entrepreneurship, Arid ecosystem and Economics.

Introduction

Development of livestock sector has a significant beneficial impact in a generating employment and reducing poverty in rural areas. More than 80% rural families keep livestock in their households. This sector is considered as engine of social & economic growth, especially in rural areas. Contribution of Animal husbandry sector to the GDP of the state has been estimated to be around 9.16%. About 35% of the income to small and marginal farmers



comes from dairy and animal husbandry. Rajasthan has multiple policies in place to facilitate animal husbandry in state like; Bhamasha Pashu Bima Youjana, Livestock Development policy 2010, Pashudhan Niti, Free Medicines Program etc. (Kumar *et al.* 2018)). The socio-economic value of goat rearing as compared to other livestock species, for poor farmers is immense. The lower input, high fecundity, easy marketing and unprejudiced social acceptance of their products are of few many advantages of this enterprise that provides assured higher income. Therefore, the present study was undertaken to analyze the economic viability from goat rearing under traditional low input production system in Jodhpur district of western Rajasthan.

Materials and Methods

The locale of the study is characterized by scanty and erratic annual precipitation (100-400mm), high evaporation rate (1500-2000mm), high temperature and poor fertility of the soil. In addition to this frequent draught, extreme events triggered by climatic change may pose serious threat to survival of living being in arid region (Patidar *et al.* 2014). College of Agriculture, Jodhpur has demonstrated Sirohi goat procured from Livestock Research Station (LRS), Chittodgarh, RAJUVAS, Bikaner under ICAR, New-Delhi sponsored SC-SP project for Entrepreneurship and to strengthen their livelihood and economic improvement of Schedule cast youth through goat husbandry among in rural households of Keru village of Jodhpur District. The participants were trained on all aspects of goat husbandry farming including animal Nutrition, Breeding, health and Heading practices before the distribution of 10 Sirohi goat units (Comprising 10 females and 1 male) to each selected schedule cast respondents. Close monitoring by regular field visits of project staff member for technical backstopping. The performance of goats at farmer's level was assessed by collecting data on the basis of body weight of kids at three months interval, Milk yield at fortnightly, kidding percentage, mortality and income from sale of goats and their products. Heritability, genetic and phenotypic correlation for milk production traits were estimate through paternal half-sib correlation method Robertson (1959).

Results and Discussion

Sh. Prakash S/o Duda Ram is educated non-metric SC Youth from Keru village of Jodhpur district of Western Rajasthan. He is traditional farmer engaged in animal husbandry and also keeping some non descript goats and could not succeed due to lack of scientific

awareness towards the improved goat husbandry practices and low genetic quality animals. He was received 11 goats (10 females and 1 breeding male) of sirohi breed and started a semi intensive goatry unit with technical help of project staff of College of Agriculture, Jodhpur (Figure-1&2).



Figure:-1&2: Goat rearing management practices farmer house

He reported that the 23 kids born in two successive kidding. He reared the kids under semi intensive system supplemented them concentrate ration along with feed supplements according to their body weight and also followed prophylactic health measurement practices to curtail the mortality and morbidity among the animals. The performance of Sirohi goats were recorded on growth for different physiological stage, milk yield, and reproduction traits. The body weight at different stage of growth 2.98 ± 0.31 kg at birth, 14.34 ± 1.68 kg at 90 days, 18.39 ± 0.45 kg at 180 days, 21.68 ± 0.59 kg at 270 days, 24.28 ± 0.68 kg at one year old. Male kids were heavier than female kids and sex ratio near about 50 percent. The average milk yield was 53.11 ± 16.18 kg for 30 days, 99.22 ± 21.81 kg for 60 days and 110.58 ± 32.51 kg for 90 days of lactation. The reproductive performance of Sirohi goats

240.54 ± 11.61 days kidding interval and 15 Percent of twinning. These findings are in consonance of Shinde and Khan (2002), Pathodiya (2003) and Kumar *et al.* (2014) for different reproductive and productive traits of goat.

Table 1: Economics of goat rearing under farmer's management system

Particulars	Cost/Returns involved (₹)
Expenditure	
Feed & fodder	2657.6
Imputed value of family labor	21260.8
Health & Prophylaxis	1328.8
Tool & Equipment	797.8
Unforeseen expenses	531.52
Total Cost	26576.0
Income	
After home consumption, Sale of milk @ ₹ 20/lit.	5500
Total kids born in year	23
Total male kids born	12
Total female kids born	11
Number of kids died	03
Number of female animals culled from foundation stock (05) and sold @ ₹ 4000/animal	20,000
Number of male kids sold @ ₹ 6000/- per animal	60,000
Income from sale of manure	1250
Total Gross income	86,750
Total Net Income	60,174
B:C Ratio	2.26:1

According to him the recurring cost *i.e.* cost of feed and feeding, Imputed value of family labor, tool and equipment and medicines and income from sale of animals, manure and milk are presented in Table-1. The major investment was found on family labor cost, which accounted alone 79.99 per cent followed by Feed and feeding cost ten per cent and veterinary medicines cost five per cent of the total recurring cost. Goat provided an

opportunity for efficient utilization of family labor (Kumar and Deoghare, 2003). The total expenditure on rearing of goats was calculated Rs. 26,576. The total gross and net income earned was Rs. 86,750 and Rs. 60,174 respectively. The benefit cost ratio was recorded at 2.26:1, which appears to be economical and viable. The income from goat rearing not only contributes in ensuring the food and nutrition security of the family but also provides a crucial support to meet out the expenditure on treatment of sick in the family, studies of children and social obligations. These findings are in line with findings of Mishra *et al.* (2004), Kumar and Sagar (2005), Singh *et al.* (1995), Lavania (2006) and Sharma *et al.* (2009). Presently Sh. Prakash, champion farmer in the field of goat farming and he is become free launcher for advocating the importance of goat farming in the rural communities of adjoining areas. His activeness, Sincerity, hard working nature contributed in his success in addition to technical guidance from institute, with those his qualities and timely technical advice and properly timely implemented has transformed his life which he never thought. These observations are in close proximity to the findings reported by Moreover the adoption of improved technologies and innovative marketing strategy has been considered the key drivers for success of small ruminants rearing (Tanwar and Rohilla, 2012).Pioneering efforts would go a long way in driving their sistren towards sustainable growth.

Conclusion

Based on the facts, it is concluded that goat farming has an immense potential even in arid climatic conditions and rural goat farming is not only meets the nutritional security but also economic venture for resource poor farm families in terms of livelihood and economic security and help in checking the people migration to urban/semi-urban areas. The Government is making concerted efforts to create an ecosystem to support their hard work so that the farmers get optimum returns on a sustainable basis. It would go a long way encourage farmer across India to follow the recommended practices and enhance their income. Thus, paving a way of sustainable livestock production for doubling of farmers' income in arid eco system.

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