**Morphometric Characterization of Andaman Local goat (*Capra Hircus*) of A & N Islands, India**

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Goat constitutes the largest population (42.21%) among the livestock in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Andaman Local Goats (ALG) is an indigenous goat of this islands and are usually reared by the settlers under extensive/semi intensive system. With the main objective to characterization and conservation of this particular germplams, the study on characterization of the ALG goat for its phenotypic characters, feeding and management system and population status was carried out. These goats are mainly distributed in the Andaman Islands. They are medium to short stature with colour combination of black, brown and white. They are short to medium sized leg with compact body. Ears are flat and leaf-like, medium-sized and drooping; ear length (cm):2.36±0.03 (n=20). Both sexes have small horns, curved upward and backward; horn length: 12.53±2.65 (n=20) and 4.2±0.58 (n=20): (male) and (female). Tail is medium in length and curved upward; tail length (cm): 5.35±1.05.They are preferred for its excellent chevon eequality and black colour is mostly preferred by the people for religious functions. As per the 19th Livestock census (2012) the population of the Andaman local goat is approximately 57480. Of which, population of breedable male is 9995 and breedable female is approximately 25523. The average flock size is 8.38.Flock size ranges from 5 to 35. The percentage of singles, twins and triplets were 57.14, 75.71 and 4.28 respectively in the present population under study. Age at first mating, weight at first mating, age at first kidding, weight at first kidding, service period, kidding interval and gestation period was 260 ±15.0 days, 8.49±0.89 kg, 420.0 ±12.0 days, 13.26±1.61kg, 101.20±11.23 days, 300.0 ± 20.0 days and 147.0± 2.0 days respectively .The common disease observed in the goats is contagious ecthyma (orf), tetanus, coccidiosis, pox etc. Mortality rate is generally high in kids compared to the adult. Mortality of kids is high during the weaning period. Mortality % ranged from 2.28 % to 10.06 % . Normally in the islands natural breeding is done. Generally September- October and May-June are reported to be the breeding seasons. Good ales are selected on the basis of size and body weight within flocks. Selective breeding and up gradation of Andaman local goat breeds for higher body weight is being done in the project area. Possible efforts are made to avoid inbreeding in the flocks. The risk of extinction of the breed is increasing in these islands due to decrease in the number of breedable male and reduction in the total population. Generally, farmers are selling goats (irrespective of male and female) at the age of 7 months onwards due to which there is lack of superior breeding animals for improvement in the breed status. Lack of grazing lands, feed and fodder scarcity are some of the constraints which limits the goat production in this islands. During the religious ceremony in the temples, male goats are sacrificed in the early age which also led to the risk status of the breed. For conservation of this germplasm, selection ojn the basis of 6 months body weight is the criteria for genetic upgradation and development. From the study results is tis concluded that Andaman Local goat is a precious germplams of the A & N Islands, and efforts for conservation of the indigenous breed should be strengthened by the CIARI and local Animal Husbandry Department.