

for breeding purpose which tends to inbreeding resulting poor performance of the breed. Natural breeding (100%) of goat is practiced in the entire breeding tracts. The results revealed that crossbreeding programme with Beetal or Sirohi bucks may be practiced to increase the body weight of Black Bengal goats for better economic returns of the farmers.

SS6-17

SOCIO-PERSONAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF SHEEP OWNERS IN PALI DISTRICT OF RAJASTHAN

Aishwarya Dudi*, M L Meena and Dheeraj Singh
Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ICAR-CAZRI, Pali-Marwar (Rajasthan) 306401
*Email:aishwaryadudi@rediffmail.com

Sheep plays an important role and livestock production is an instrument for socio-economic change, improved income and quality of life. The role of sheep farming in the upliftment of small, marginal farmers including landless agricultural labours in India is well recognized. The study was carried out with the objective to determine the socio-economic characteristic of the sheep owners of rainfed condition of Rajasthan. The study was purposively conducted in Pali district of Rajasthan due to its highest sheep population. The results of the study revealed that majority of the sheep farmers had no participation (72.97%) followed by member in one organization (20.23%), member in more than one organization (4.55%) and office bearer of any organization (3.22%). The socio-economic study shows that the mean age of the sheep owners was around 41 years; they mostly illiterates with medium family education status, low social participation but had high experience in sheep farming. Agriculture was the main occupation of the sheep owners' annual family income was about 0.67 lakh where in 0.17 lakh came from sheep farming. Average flock size was about 16 sheep and they mainly reared it for meat purpose but there was big difference in flock size between the two districts. The sheep owners possess negligible numbers of other large animals too. A universal policy and plan may not work for all the sheep owners in the state. Hence, while planning project aiming at the enhancement of the production potential of the animals for improvement of the small scale sheep farming the difference in socio-economic and financial aspects of the sheep owners need to be kept in mind by policy makers and researchers.

SS6-18

A STUDY ON KNOWLEDGE LEVEL OF MALABARI GOAT KEEPERS ON SCIENTIFIC GOAT REARING PRACTICES IN KERALA

Bimal P Bashir*, Thirupathy Venkatachalapathy R, Jamuna Valsalan and P. K. Rout
Centre for Advanced Studies in Animal Genetics and Breeding,
College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Mannuthy, Thrissur, Kerala, India. Pin- 680651

The study was conducted in 15 selected villages of one block each from three districts, viz., Malappuram, Kozhikode and Kannur district of Kerala. A total of 300 respondents (15 X 20 respondents) were randomly selected from the selected villages for the study. This study aims to assess the knowledge level of Malabari goat keepers on scientific goat rearing practices. The data collection was done by the use of pre-tested structured interview schedule and through personal interview. The knowledge level regarding improved care and management of goats was 64.54 per cent, followed by feeding management (56.92%), breeding management (53.18%), health care and disease control (64.72%) and marketing and record keeping (51.39%). The highest adoption gap (48.61%) was reported for marketing and record keeping. The overall adoption was noted to be 58.15 per cent and adoption gap was 41.85 per cent. In correlation coefficient of selected 19 independent variables, age, education, family size, flock size, mass media contacts, extension agency contacts and organizational participation showed significant contribution to knowledge level on scientific goat rearing practices.