**Dressing percentage of Osmanabadi goat kids slaughtered at village fairs**

**and income earned by goat owners in two villages in Phaltan taluka, Maharashtra**

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Under the Osmanabadi goat field unit of the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Goat Improvement of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, performance recording of village goats is carried out since 2009. According to the AICRP technical programme, marketing aspects of live goats and goat products such as meat are to be studied. In Bibi and Wadgaon villages under the project in Phaltan taluka, fairs dedicated to the village deity are held once a year. At these fairs, sacrificial slaughter of 50-100 young bucks is carried out. At the fairs in 2010 and 2011, we weighed 27 and 9 goat kids respectively that were to be slaughtered and after slaughter weighed the carcasses (meat and bones, edible organs and washed stomach and intestines).

Two types of dressing percentages were calculated using the following formulae.

1. **Standard dressing percentage**:

Weight in kg. of meat and bones + fat + heart + liver + spleen

Live weight of kid before slaughter (kg.)

1. **Village dressing percentage**:

[Weight in kg. of meat and bones + fat + heart + liver + spleen + other edible organs such as kidneys and lungs + Washed intestines + Washed stomach]\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Live weight of kid before slaughter (kg.)

Usually when a goat is slaughtered in the village, the meat together with bones, all edible organs and offal is divided into portions of 1–5 kg as per the buyers’ requirement. Each portion contains a share of meat, each edible organ and offals. All edible organs and offal are sold at the same price as meat.

The average live weight of 4-7 months old goat kids that were slaughtered was 20.6±3.0 kg in 2010 and 18.1±4.1 kg in 2011. The average standard dressing percentage was 59% and 54.8% in the two years respectively while the average village dressing percentage was 64.1% and 62.3% respectively. The variation in live weight accounted for more of the variation in standard than village dressing percentage. The regression coefficient of standard dressing percentage on live weight was 0.60 and of village dressing percentage on live weight was 0.33.

The average price paid by the butchers to goat owners per kg. live weight was Rs.108 (range Rs.81 to Rs.126.3) in 2010 and Rs.146.5 (range Rs.114.8 to Rs.174.1) in 2011, an increase of 36% while the retail price of meat was Rs.200 and Rs.260 in the two years respectively, an increase of 30%. The owners knew the weight of their goat kids as they are weighed by project personnel. They therefore demanded a higher price and benefited more. The butchers’ profit margin, however, did not change much despite the rise in the price of meat. Their profit margin depended on the accuracy of their assessment of the weight of the goat kids.