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**Non-Osmanabadi and non-true-to-type Osmanabadi does**

**had a higher milk yield than true-to-type Osmanabadi does**

**in six villages in Maharashtra**

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Under the All India Coordinated Research Project on goat improvement of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (Osmanabadi field unit), performance of 814 does belonging to village smallholders in six villages from Phaltan, Kalamb, Karmala and Jamkhed talukas in Satara, Osmanabad, Solapur and Ahmednagar districts respectively in Maharashtra is recorded. Performance of most of the village goats irrespective of their breed is recorded. This paper compares the 100-day milk yield of true-to-type Osmanabadi (TTT) does with that of non-true-to-type Osmanabadi (NTT) and non-Osmanabadi (NO) does in project villages.

Does that kidded from October 2009 to July 2011 were classified in three breed types based on their colour and physical characters. TTT does (92 records), were completely black with backward and downward oriented horns (does with white spots on ears also included), NTT does conformed partially to recognized breed characters (169 records) and NO were local goats (186 records). The 447 records were from Phaltan (274), Kalamb (46) and Karmala (127) talukas. Milk was measured 3 to 5 times in the first 100 days from kidding by adding the difference in weight of the kid/s before and after suckling in the morning and evening on the test day to the milk remaining in the udder after suckling. 100-day lactation yield was estimated by multiplying the number of days between two milk recordings with the average of the milk yield recorded on those two days. Records were analyzed statistically using the ASReml programme and fitting the fixed effects taluka, year and season of kidding, litter size, parity and breed type, the weight of the doe as a covariable and a random effect of the doe in the model of analysis.

The least squares means of 100 day milk yield were 79.9±4.7 kg for TTT, 87.1±4.1 kg for NTT and 87.4±3.8 kg for NO does. Milk yield of TTT does was thus found to be significantly less than NTT and NO does.

Milk yield is an important trait because goat milk is used for home consumption and a higher yield leads to better kid growth and more income. Results of this study indicate that performance records should be given more importance when selecting goats rather than their breed purity decided by physical appearance.