**All-India Co-Ordinated Research Project on Goat Improvement**

**Osmanabadi Goat Field Unit**

**Success stories**

**Goat rearing became source of financial stability for two successful goat keepers in Alkud taluka of Sangli district in Maharashtra**.

A new centre was started at Alkud village in Sangli district under the Osmanabadi Field Unit in June 2015. Alkud (M) village in taluka Kavathemahankal in Sangli district is located on Miraj-Solapur Highway, 23 kilometers east of Miraj. The population of the village is 1500 and total cultivable land is about 800 hectares. Forest and pasture (common grazing) area is about 124 hectares. Mhaisal canal passes 5 km to the east of the village but the village is on higher ground and so the canal water is of no use to the village. Since crops are mainly rain-fed, livestock are reared as a supplementary occupation. These include primarily buffaloes, followed by goats. Goats are taken for grazing and browsing on grass and shrubs on private and government-owned barren lands, hills and plateaus.

1. **Goat rearing of Mrs. Vijaya Dadaso Mandale**

Mrs. Vijaya Dadaso Mandale of Alkud is an excellent goat keeper and is helping her family by earning about 75% of the family income through Osmanabadi goat keeping for the last 20 years. She has always kept 10-12 adult goats in her flock and earned good income by selling their kids.

* **The beginning:** As the family has only 5 Are land, Mrs. Vijaya Mandale decided to do goat rearing full time. Her husband Mr. Dadaso Mandale works as a labourer on constructions or other farmers’ farms. But, there is no surety of getting this work. Therefore, income from goat rearing is the main source of income for them.
* **Goat management:** Goats of Mrs.Mandale are completely dependent for grazing on nearby wastelands, hills, plateaus and crop residues. Every morning at 10 am she takes her goats for grazing and till 6.00 pm she tries to source maximum and good fodder for goats. Before the goats are taken for grazing and after they return, the whole family helps with suckling of kids to their dams, administering home remedies to sick animals and giving fodder and water to the young kids that are kept at home. Kidded goats are given supplementary feed till kids become 4 months of age. Their annual expenditure on supplementary feed is as given in the table below.
* **Annual expenditure on supplementary feed**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * **Supplementary feed type** | **Rate per Kg (Rs.)** | **Quantity used per year (Kg.)** | **Total expenses**  **(Rs.)** |
| Maize | * 15/- | 200 | 3000/- |
| Wheat from the Public Distribution System (under Food Security Scheme) | * 2/- | 100 | 200/- |
| Total | | | 3200/- |

* Due to supplementary feed given to kidded goats, they have abundant milk resulting in rapid growth of kids and hence she can sell the kids early.
* The total cost of supplementary feed for about 10 goats is Rs.3,200/-, which means Rs.320/- per doe per year and 90 paise daily per doe. According to Mrs. Mandale, these expenses are negligible and this also helps in a reduction in the kidding interval of goats.
* She maintains only regularly kidding does and their female kids for further breeding and culls the rest.
* **Sales management:** Miraj is a good market for goat keepers of Alkud (M) and nearby villages to get good rates for their goats. Every Wednesday local traders from Miraj as well as from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh come for purchase. Plenty of vehicles are available in Miraj therefore the cost of taking a goat to the market is the same as the ticket for a person (Rs.25).

**Details of kids sold by Mrs. Mandale for the last two years**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Total kids sold** | **Price per kid (Rs.)** | **Total sale proceeds (Rs.)** |
| 2013-14 | 15 | 4000/- to 5000/- | 70,000/- |
| 2014-15 | 16 | 2000/- to 2500/- | 35,000/- |
| 2015-16 | 18 | 4000/- to 5000/- | 81,000/- |

* In 2014-15, 20 kids were born but 4 died and remaining 16 were sold. The Osmanabadi Field Unit had not adopted this village at that time and there was no good breeding buck in the village. Three goat keepers brought a buck from a nearby village, as it was available for free. The buck was of poor quality (mixed in colour, poor health, junglee). Hence the majority of kids born during that time were tiny, unhealthy and poor quality and fetched a much lower price. In 2015, the Osmanabadi Unit has given four excellent Osmanabadi bucks to the village and as a result, this year’s kid crop is excellent.
* The Mandale family has built a house of two rooms and a good quality pen for goats. Her children are obtaining higher education. Her elder daughter completed education and got married, younger daughter is studying in B.Sc. (Agri) and her son is in class 12(Science). Most importantly, she has improved her financial status without receiving any government help for goat rearing.

Her annual income from goat rearing in 2015-16 after deducting the cost of Rs.3200/- spent on supplementary feed and medications is Rs.77,800/-. It means she earns Rs.6483/- per month i.e. Rs.213/- per day. This is 60% more than the daily wage rate for women labourers. As NARIis providing good quality bucks for breeding and medication in time, she hopes to earn an income up to one lakh rupees annually.

1. **Goat rearing of Mr. Narayan Shivaji Bhore:** Mr. Narayan Bhore is now 60 years old. He has been rearing goats as his primary occupation in Alkud (M) for the last 20 years. To fulfill the needs of the family, he sometimes has to work as a farm labourer on other farmers’ fields and then his wife Mrs. Shanta Bhore looks after the goats.

* **The beginning:** Mr. Narayan Bhore is from a big joint family of mother, father, four brothers and their families. But 25 years ago, the brothers started living separately. Mr. Bhore used to work as a labourer. He brought a female goat kid from his in-laws as a companion. The female gave birth to four kids in two kiddings. He earned a good amount from selling those and developed an interest in keeping goats. To increase the number of goats, he took a loan of Rs.30,000/- from the Annabhau Sathe Finance Corporation. He added some money of his own to that and purchased 10 goats and 1 buck from Miraj market.
* **Goat Management:** Goats of Mr. Bhore are always taken for grazing. Mr. Bhore has studied only up to class 3 but he has profound knowledge about feed available in the surrounding areas for goats. He uses different herbs from the forest to cure diseases of goats. He is also skilled broken or dislocated legs of goats and expert in relieving dystocia in goats. Mr.Bhore feeds his goats with 250 gms of jaggery for 3-4 days after kidding. He also gives a handful of maize and wheat distributed by the government under the Food Security Scheme to does for four months after kidding. This results in good health of goats as well as kids.

**Mr. Bhore’s annual expenditure on supplementary feed for kids**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Supplementary feed** | **Rate per kilogram**  **(Rs.)** | **Quantity used (Kg.)** | **Total expenses (Rs.)** |
| Maize | 15/- | 500-550 | 8500/- |
| Wheat (under Food Security Scheme) | 15/- | 300 | 4500/- |
| Katyal ( grain like khapli wheat) | 36/- | 25 | 900/- |
| Black Jaggery after kidding | 30/- | 12-13 | 400/- |
| Total | | | 14,300/- |

His expenditure for 15 goats is Rs.14,300/- on supplementary feed which means Rs.953/- per doe and approximately Rs.2.50/- per doe per day. Katyal is a grain which is costly but is very nutritious, which increases milk yield and prevents sick animals from getting debilitated, according to Mr. Bhore.

* **Sales management:** Mr. Bhore is very expert in animal sales. Though sometimes he does not have his own goats for sale, he does business of purchase and sales of goats in Miraj market. He earns a commission of Rs.400-500 in a day from such sales. As he has acquaintance with the traders in the market, he doesn’t spend much time doing this and even gets good rates for goats.

According to Mr**.** Bhore, information of sales of kids of last two years and other earning apart from it is given below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Total kids sold | Cost per kids (Rs.) | Total Cost (Rs.) |
| 2013-14 | 16 (4 retained) | 4000/- to 5000/- | 72,000/- |
| 2014-15 | 10 | 4000/- to 5000/- | 40,000/- |

* Every year he gets around 3 trailer-loads of manure. As he does not have land, he earns Rs.10,000/- per year from its sale.
* 28 kids were born in 2014-15 but 18 weak and tiny kids of 15-21 days died as the Osmanabadi Field Unit had not adopted this village at that time. Mr. Bhore had also brought a buck from a nearby village for breeding. The kids born from this buck were tiny and weak and there was high mortality among them.
* Mr. Bhore built a house for his family and a good pen for goats from money earned from goat rearing. He earns income of one lakh rupees from sales of 25-30 kids and manure annually. He got his 3 daughters and a son married from the income earned from goat rearing. His son has completed education up to class 12 and is permanently working in a gear manufacturing company at Kupwad, taluka Miraj.
* The total annual expenditure on supplementary feed, medications and transportation of animals for sales is up to Rs.15,000/- . Therefore, Rs.85,000/- is net profit.
* The monthly earning is Rs.7,000/-.
* Around 7 to 8 months Mr. Bhore looks after the goats. Mrs. Bhore looks after them in monsoon because in monsoon goats have enough fodder and Mr. Bhore works on daily wages of Rs.300 per day on other farmers’ land and hence earns more income.