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

**Osmanabadi Goat Field Unit**

**Success stories**

2011 and 2012 were years of severe drought in the Osmanabadi unit field areas. We feared that goat owners might sell their goats as there were hardly any grazing resources, crop residues or tree leaves for them. However, most goat owners managed their goats well and earned an income for their families in a situation when they had no income from their land as there was no rain or irrigation water to grow any crops. The success stories given below are of two such goat keepers.

**1.** **Mrs. Pushpa Balasaheb Demunde and Mr. Balasaheb Uddhav Demunde of Kamone in Taluka Karmala, Dist. Solapur**: The Demundes have two children; one is in the first grade and one in kindergarten. They own 6 acres land but 2 acres out of that is uncultivable and the remaining 4 acres is rain-fed. They used to grow jowar (sorghum) for home

consumption, pigeon pea (lentils) and onion but the income was inadequate to feed the family. There was no employment available in the village. From 2002 to 2004, both of them migrated to the Patas sugar factory to work as sugarcane harvesters. As this work was seasonal, they worked as construction labourers in Pune for three years. Finally, they came back to the village and started farming again but because of the paucity of rain, couldn’t even produce enough grain to last the family for a year. Their first child was born in 2007; so Pushpabai could not go and work on other people’s farms. She therefore decided to start keeping goats for a livelihood.

In 2008, she bought two does on credit from a trader in the village and subsequently her father loaned two more does to her. She kept adding to her flock and now she has 14 Osmanabadi goats and 16 kids. She does all the housework, looks after the children and also takes the goats for grazing. Now they get 75% of their income from goat keeping and 25% from farming. The Demunde family participated in the Osmanabadi project implemented by NARI, from 2010. Under the guidance of NARI’s extension officer Mr. K.M. Chavan and Mr. Haribhau Thombare of the Mahatma Phule Samaj Seva Mandal, Karmala, Mrs. Pushpa Demunde started giving supplementary feed to her pregnant goats, her goats were vaccinated regularly and kid and adult mortality was almost eliminated. A superior buck was kept by NARI on their hamlet for mating of goats. She also started earning more from the sale of kids as now she knew the weights of the kids. She looked after the goats well in the drought from 2011 to 2013.

The Demundes dug a well on their land with Rs.50,000 they received from selling their goat kids. This year they are growing Lucerne on 0.25 acres for their goats along with grain crops. The money they needed for cultivating their land also came from the sale of kids. They were also able to pay off a loan of Rs.40,000 from the sale proceeds of goat kids.

**Table 1. Mrs. Pushpa Demunde’s income and expenditure from goat rearing from Nov. 2010 to Sept. 2013.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Period | Number of goats | | Sold during the year | | Total sale proceeds | Average price earned per kid sold  Rs. | Net annual income (gross income – expenditure2)  Rs. | Daily wage earned3 from goat rearing  Rs. |
|  | adult does | kids | adult does | kids1 |  |  |  |  |
| Nov. 2010 to Oct. 2011 | 17 | 12 | None | 25 | 52,000/- | 2,080/- | 42,335/- | 116/- |
| Nov. 2011 to Oct. 2012 | 15 | 29 | 4 | 15 | 55,500/- | 2,780/- | 44,394/- | 122/- |
| Nov. 2012 to Sept. 2013 | 14 | 16 | 2 | 28 | 91,298/- | 3,010/- | 88,298/- | 242/- |

1The kids sold in each year comprise of some kids born that year and some born in the previous year.

2During the first two years in the above table, Mrs. Demunde spent money on supplementary concentrate feed for does and kids while in the third year, she got 20 kg maize grain for free from the Mahatma Phule Samaj Seva Mandal under the drought alleviation programme of the Jamshetji Tata Trust.

3The daily wage earned is worked out by assuming that one person is involved full-time in goat-rearing.

Mr. Balasaheb Demunde works on their own land and also works as a labourer whenever he can get work. His average daily wage (total annual wage earned divided by 365 days) during 2011-12 and 2012-13 was Rs.61 and Rs.88 respectively while his wife’s wage from goat rearing was Rs.122 and Rs.242 per day as shown in the table above. During the drought, Mrs. Demunde used to take her goats for grazing 6-7 km every day to the banks of the Seena river. She would graze them over a 3-4 km distance in the river bed. Thus every day she and the goats would end up walking 10-12 km. For the goats to drink water, they had to be taken 2 km from the river to a tank which was filled by government water tankers. The Tata Trust had given her a 500 litre barrel which she used to fill with water along with lots of buckets and pots in the house, every morning when the tanker came to the village. She used to use this water for the goats and kids that were kept at home.

**2. Mr. Dnyandev Shankar Shinde, Wadgaon, Tal. Phaltan, Dist. Satara**: Mr. and Mrs. Shinde have 6 acres rain-fed poor quality land. They grow crops such as sorghum, pearl millet, mung beans and other legumes and feed the crop residues to goats. Mr. Shinde used to work as a farm labourer on other farmers’ land. About 12 years ago, he realized that he would not be able to work as a daily-wage labourer due to his advancing age. He liked goats and used to keep one or two goats. So he decided to upscale that enterprise. He bought 5 goats from the market in 2003 and started to do goat-rearing full-time. Since then, he has maintained a core flock of 20 goats. Now he has 21 does, 36 kids and a breeding buck. He has made a chain-link fenced pen for goats near his house. He grazes his goats on the common grazing lands on the outskirts of the village. He had to buy fodder during the severe drought. He has participated in the Osmanabadi field unit since 2009 and has benefited from the regular vaccination, deworming and spraying against ectoparasites. He now uses small quantities of jowar (sorghum), bajra and wheat distributed by the government under the rationing system (PDS) as supplementary feed for his goats. He has some goats that give 1 to 1.5 litres milk every day.

He has been able to fulfill the requirements of his family with the income from the goats and also educated his children. Three of his children are married now and the family has purchased a motor bike. One of his sons now works in a private company and another works as a driver. Through NARI’s efforts, Mr. Shinde received a ‘Breed Saviour award’ of Rs.10,000 and a certificate during the function on 10 January 2012, organized at Chennai by the NGO ‘Seva’ from Tamil Nadu and the LIFE network (Local Livestock for Empowerment of Rural People) and funded by the Biodiversity Authority of India.

**Table 2. Mr. Dnyandev Shinde’s income and expenditure from goat rearing for the last four years from Oct. 2009 to Sept. 2013**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Period | Number of goats | | Sold during the year | | Total sale proceeds | Average price earned per kid sold Rs. | Net annual income (gross income – expenditure2) Rs. | Daily wage earned3 from goat rearing Rs. |
|  | adult does | kids | adult does | kids1 |  |  |  |  |
| Oct. 2009 to Sep. 2010 | 23 | 5 | 3 | 22 | 44,000/- | 1,681/- | 42,500/- | 116/- |
| Oct. 2010 to Sep. 2011 | 22 | 22 | 3 | 30 | 64,300/- | 1,943/- | 60,220/- | 165/- |
| Oct. 2011 to Sep. 2012 | 20 | 28 | 2 | 38 | 1,09,950/- | 2,748/- | 1,06,410/- | 291/- |
| Oct. 2012 to Sep. 2013 | 21 | 21 | 1 | 18 | 55,500/- | 2,911/- | 48,495/- | 133/- |

On 29 July 2012, two of Mr. Shinde’s goats were killed and eaten on his own land by wolves. The Forest Dept. denied compensation to him because there was no evidence. Eight days later, wolves again attacked and killed two goat kids that Mr. Shinde was going to sell. NARI then helped him to apply to the Phaltan Forest Officer giving the ear tags of the kids and the remains of their bodies eaten by the wolves. Mr. Shinde and one of his sons kept following up the matter and finally a sum of Rs.3,000 was credited to his account on 1 December 2012 as compensation.

One has to appreciate the hard work and persistence of these goat keepers. The drought was severe during 2011 and 2012. In 2013, there was very little rain until August. It was widely feared that the drought would continue in 2013 as well. The resolve and strength of character showed by these goat keepers in the face of such adverse circumstances is unparalleled. They have thus shown that goat rearing can be an effective path out of poverty.