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

**Osmanabadi Goat Field Unit**

**Success stories**

1. **How Dattatray Jagtap of Wadgaon in Phaltan taluka, Satara district of Maharashtra finds Osmanabadi goat keeping profitable**

Dattatray Jagtap sold 32 kids of his 21 goat does between April and October 2014 and earned Rs.97,249, average price per kid being Rs.3039. **His daily wage from goat rearing for the whole year of 2013-14 works out to Rs.300 per day.** His father and wife help him with the goats from time to time. He also farms his 7 acre land and grows grain for the family, fodder for his goats and earns some additional income. When the Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute started a centre in 2009 in Wadgaon under their Osmanabadi goat field unit as a part of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Goat Improvement of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Dattatray Jagtap decided to participate in the project. He had 3 goats at that time and now has 21 goats including six that he purchased. These are worth approximately Rs.2.3 lakh. He also has a selected Osmanabadi breeding buck from the project in his flock. The buck was one of those selected by NARI from villages under the project as a fast-growing twin or triplet-born kid born to a doe giving 1-2 litres of milk per day,.

Table 1. Kid production by Dattatray Jagtap’s goats from April 2011 to March 2014

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Period (April to March every year) | Number of goats and kids at start of year + born during year | | Calculation of number of kids produced per doe per year | Sale during  the year | | Total income from sale of goats and kids  Rs. | Average price per kid  Rs. | Daily wage earned from goat keeping1  Rs. | Value of goats remaining after sale each year  Rs. |
|  | Does | Kids |  | Does | kids |  |  |  |  |
| 2011-12 | 11 | 29 | 1.5 | 1 | 16 | 41,700/- | 2,453/- | 114/- | 82,500/- |
| 2012-13 | 182 | 452 | 1.7 | 2 | 15 | 44,400/- | 2,611/- | 122/- | 1,50,000/- |
| 2013-14 | 24 | 66 | 1.9 | 5 | 27 | 1,09,600/- | 3,321/- | 300/- | 2,47,000/- |
| April-Oct. 2014 |  |  |  |  | 32 | 97,249/- | 3,039/- | 463/- | 2,28,000/- |

1The daily wage earned from goat keeping is calculated considering one person is occupied full time in looking after goats.

2Including 6 does and 4 kids purchased from a relative.

**The beginning:** In the 1980s, the Jagtap family was not able to earn much from their 7 acres agricultural land since it was rain-fed. So Dattatray’s father Lakshman Jagtap went to Mumbai in 1985 and started working there as a manual labourer. Dattatray and his older brother Shankar used to go to school and also help their mother on the farm. Shankar stopped going to school in the seventh standard and also went to Mumbai to work as a coolie. Unfortunately, one harvesting season, Datta got his hand caught in the thresher and lost all the fingers of that hand. This was a blow to the whole family. His father came back to Wadgaon. They had two cows and two goats at that time.

In 2000, Datta failed the tenth standard exam and didn’t do any work for one year. As the parents were after him to find work, he went to Kolhapur in 2001 and started working in a spinning mill. But didn’t go back after coming home for his brother’s wedding in 2002. He tried to get a job in Phaltan but couldn’t get one because of his handicap and inadequate education. His brother then advised him to keep goats and he accepted the advice. He did not sell any female kids until he had built up a flock of 20-25 goats. But he got fed up with the shortage of fodder and grazing due to the drought and heavy mortality among goats and kids due to his inexperience and sold all goats except two in 2005. NARI started a centre of the Osmanabadi goat field unit in Wadgaon in 2009. Datta then started to take better care of his two goats as per the advice of NARI’s extension officer Shri K.M. Chavan. NARI gave him training to do vaccination, deworming, tick control and first-aid treatment. He was also convinced about giving more and better feed to the goats and started increasing his flock again so that now he has 21 adult does. All treatment of his goats is done for free by NARI. In three years, only one adult doe and 4 kids died.

**Goat management:** Datta takes his goats for grazing on the waste lands and common pastures outside the village. He also gives home-grown wheat and maize (total 250 gm per doe per day) as supplementary feeding to does a month before and a month after kidding and to kids for two months before sale. The total cost of the supplementary feed would be about Rs.2500 to Rs.3000 per year. But this cost is covered totally by the trailor-load of manure he gets every year since the price of one trailor-load manure is Rs.4000.

Earlier the goats were kept in a thatch-roof shed near his house in the village. Now he has made a shed on his own land on the outskirts of the village, with a galvanized iron roof and open space enclosed by chain link fencing. He spent Rs.1,13,000 for the construction by borrowing Rs.50,000 from a rural credit cooperative, Rs.50,000 obtained from pawning some gold jewellery and Rs.13,000 earned from selling goat kids.

Datta’s wife and father help him with the goats. Datta gets up early, sweeps the goat shed and after having a bath, goes to their farm and works there until 10 a.m. The father feeds the goats in the pen in the morning. Datta comes home from the farm, has lunch and takes the goats for grazing at about 11 a.m. If there is more work to be done on the farm, his father or his wife take the goats for grazing. He calls his brother from Mumbai to help in the harvesting season. With the income from his goats, he has dug a well on his land.

With improved management, he has started to get heavier kids for sale which fetch higher prices. In fact, all the kids in the village are looked after better because of the project. Now butchers and traders have started coming to the village to buy goats and kids. This saves the goat keepers the time and expense of taking the goats to the market.

**Comparison of income from crop farming and goat rearing**

Wadgaon used to have permanent water shortage. But recently, a canal originating from the Dhom-Balkawdi dam has been dug through this region and water was let into it in 2013 for the first time. This helped the crops of all the farmers in the village. In 2013-14, Datta obtained a yield of 8 bags jowar, 5 bags bajra, 7.5 bags maize and 3 bags sunflower seed. He kept 3 bags jowar and 5 bags bajra for home consumption and 2.5 bags maize for the goats. He sold the remaining grain and the sunflower seed and got Rs.28,000. The expenditure for cultivation, seed and fertilizer was Rs.7,000. This means his net income from crop farming in money terms was Rs.21,000. The family also got grain for the home and for goats and fodder for the two cows. His income from goat rearing in 2013-14 was, however, Rs.1,09,600 after deducting Rs.2750 spent on supplementary feed, which means it was roughly 4 to 5 times that from crop farming.

**2. Mr. Dattatray Gulabrao Shinde, Wadgaon, Tal. Phaltan, Dist. Satara:** Mr. Shinde’s relative from Sakharwadi gave him an Osmanabadi cross goat to rear in 2011. He is also rearing the daughter and grand-daughter of that goat. All three does conceived within a couple of days of each other, all kidded on 4 January 2015 and all had twins. Mr. Shinde started to participate in the Osmanabadi goat field unit from July 2013. In the two years from February 2013, two of the does kidded three times and one doe kidded twice. He got 15 kids from these 8 kiddings. He retained only one female kid and sold 8 kids for Rs.22400, or for Rs.2800 per kid. The kids were 4.5 to 6 months old and weighed 13.8 kg on average, when they were sold. The price that he got works out to Rs.203 per kg live weight. It is safe to assume that he will get the same price for the remaining 6 kids, which will mean that his income from 3 does in two years would be Rs.39,200 or Rs.13,067 per doe or Rs.6533 per doe per year. Additionally, he has the young doe retained for breeding. All the kids born this year were sired by the high genetic merit Neknuri Osmanabadi buck kept for breeding in Wadgaon by NARI. The goats are tethered in front of the house and green fodder, grass and dried sorghum stalks are fed to them. The goats also get a handful of home-grown maize grain and wheat every day. Saleable kids are given 50 gm groundnut cake and 50 gm maize every day for about 2.5 months before sale. The cost of the groundnut cake is Rs.158 per kid.

The Shinde family owns 6.5 acres land. Dattatray, an only child, went to school until the 12th standard in the science stream but failed in the Board exam in 1996. He then left school and started helping the father on the farm. Unfortunately his father died in 2001 and he became the head of the family. He got married in 2009. Due to the drought and water shortage, he went to Mumbai in 2010 and worked in a courier company for a year for Rs.8000 per month. He, however, left that job and came back to Wadgaon in 2011 and started farming again. In 2013, the canal from the Dhom-Balkawdi reservoir started flowing for the first time and the water in his well increased. He is now growing half an acre of maize and lucerne for his goats and has also sown the seed of *Desmanthus virgatus* and COFS-29 multi-cut fodder sorghum and planted two plants of *Leucaena collinsii* given to him by NARI.

Dattatray wants to become a progressive farmer. He subscribes to the Agrowon Marathi agricultural daily newspaper and tries to follow the advice given in the articles.

**Table. Kidding records of Dattatray Shinde’s three goats**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Doe Tag No. | Date of kidding | Parity No. | Litter size |
| 1992 | 2 April 2013 | 5 | 3 |
| 27 February 2014 | 6 | 2 |
| 4 January 2015 | 7 | 2 |
| 1996 | 2 February 2013 | 3 | 1 |
| 28 February 2014 | 4 | 2 |
| 4 January 2015 | 5 | 2 |
| 1997 | 2 March 2014 | 1 | 1 |
| 4 January 2015 | 2 | 2 |