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ARE SMALLHOLDERS GETTING A REMUNERATIVE PRICE FOR THEIR GOATS?  
A STUDY IN FIVE VILLAGES FROM FOUR DISTRICTS IN WESTERN  
MAHARASHTRA STATE OF INDIA

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Sale records of 1196 male and 913 female Osmanabadi goats aged 19 to 366 days, collected from 2013 to 2016 in five villages from four districts of Maharashtra under the Osmanabadi Field Unit of the ICAR-All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Goat Improvement were used in this study. The prices received by the owners per kg live weight were analyzed using the ASReml programme. Village of the goat owner, year of sale, season of sale and sex of the goat sold were fitted as fixed effects while age of the goat sold was fitted as a covariable. Village, year of sale and age of the goat sold were highly significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) while season of sale and sex of the goat sold were not significant. The price received for females was marginally higher, due to the higher price received for older does that were sold for breeding. The regression coefficient for age at sale was negative indicating that as age increased, the price received per kg was lower. The least squares mean of the price per kg live weight was Rs.190.2 $\pm$ 2.9 in 2013, Rs.200.6 $\pm$ 2.2 in 2014, Rs.209.5 $\pm$ 2.2 in 2015 and Rs.231.6 $\pm$ 2.1 in 2016. The increase in this mean price received per kg live weight by the goat owners was thus 5.5% from 2013 to 2014; 4.4% from 2014 to 2015 and 10.5% from 2015 to 2016. The mean prices received in 2013, 2014 and 2015 were found to be 54% of the local per kg price of goat meat in each respective year and 56% in 2016. Considering the dressing percentage of Osmanabadi goats of around 54 to 59%, it was concluded that goat owners got a fair return for the goats sold by them.