

Research Note:

## A study on availability of underutilized animal fibre resource in different zones of Rajasthan

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Zone I and Zone II of Rajasthan state were selected to collect data on animal based fibres, as in these zones, goat and sheep rearing are the main occupation of respondents along with farming of staple crops. The results revealed that Goat and sheep rearing is main occupation of the rebari community. Shearing was done twice in a year. The fibres were sold at the rate of Rs. 5-10/- per kg of goat fibers and Rs. 10-20/- per kg. of sheep fibers. All the respondents did spinning with traditional method. The wool is mainly utilized in the carpet manufacturing units, felt making units and a large quantity of wool produced is supplied to other states. Assan/Mats, Hand bag, Carpet, Cart bag, Ropes and Cot-weaving were the common products made by the respondents

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Rajasthan, the state of deserts is in the west part of India. Areawise, Rajasthan is the second largest state of India with an area of 3,42,239 sq. km. In India, Rajasthan stands first in wool production. Besides Kashmir, India's Best wool is provided by sheep breed like-Chokhla, Magra, Marwari, Sonadi, Jaisalmeri, etc. sheep rearing practice is more common in Jaiselmar, Jodhpur, Barmer, Nagore, Pali, Jalore and Bikaner district of state.

Sheep plays a crucial role in economical infrastructure of Rajasthan. Asia's largest wool market contributing to the spinning of wool worth Rs. 40 lakhs per day and that of one Arab per year, is situated in the Bikaner city of Rajasthan.

Sheep population in Rajasthan is 23 per cent of overall India, Goat population in Rajasthan is 17 per cent of population in India. Sirohi breed is the best breed of Rajasthan and is found in Sirohi, Pali, Jodhpur, Udaipur and Chittorgarh areas of Rajasthan.

With such resources available at present in rural areas, the farm families can produce many varieties of eco-friendly products that have potential market. Sustainability in production of these products is ensured as the products can be made utilizing animal based resources and can become the potential source if technologies for proper extraction and processing are

developed. Value addition to the products that have potential market will help not only to provide livelihood security to the rural people but also improve exports from the country. With the above concept, the present study was carried out.

Keeping in view the utility of animal based fibers, the survey was conducted by pre tested interview schedule to generate gender based data on availability of underutilized animal fibre resource and prevalence of technologies of fibre processing and product development in the Rajasthan state. Total sample size of the survey was 100 respondents. The sample distribution comprised of 35 subjects of rearing animals, 30 for spinning of fibres and 35 for product making.

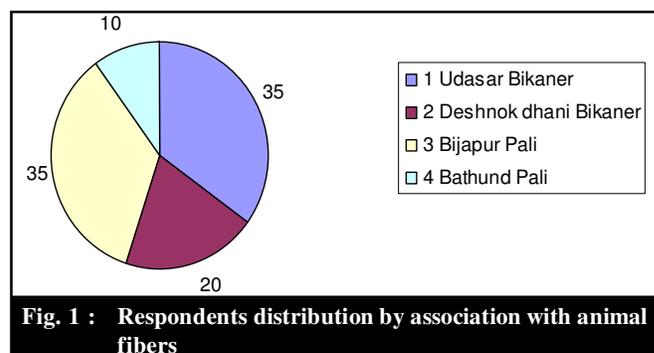


Fig. 1 : Respondents distribution by association with animal fibers