

Short Communication

Personal, social, economic and psychology characteristics of goat farmers and their relationship with the adoption of goat farming technology

P.G. KHALACHE*, C.B. UBALE AND M.C. AHIRE

Department of Extension Education, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, RAHURI (M.S.) INDIA

Goat farming is an enterprise which has been practiced by a large section of population in rural areas. Goat therefore, has been described as a Poor Man's Cow. Taking into considerations these aspects, interest has emerged out to investigate goat farmer's adoption of improved goat farming. By using random sampling method from four tahsils, Parner, Shrigonda Newasa & Pathardi, twenty villages were selected and from each village five respondents were selected and total 120 respondents personally interviewed with the help of interview schedule. The present study indicates that a majority of the goat farmers were from middle age group. Most of them completed education up to secondary level, having medium size of family and had medium use of sources of information. A majority of them had no social participation, having medium size of flocks of goats, medium level of annual gross income, having medium size of land holding, medium level of scientific orientation and also medium level of knowledge about goat farming technology.

The present study also concluded that, with the increased in level of education, size of family, sources of information, social participation, flock size, annual gross income, size of land holding, scientific orientation, knowledge, their adoption level of improved goat farming technology also increased. However, with increase in age there was a decrease in goat farmers' level of adoption.

Goat farming is an enterprise which has been practiced by a large section of population in rural areas. Goat is a multifunctional animal and plays a significant role in the economy and nutrition of landless, small and marginal farmers in the country. Goat population in the world is about 126 million which represent 23.00 per cent of the country's live-stock population. They produce about 0.48 million tones of meat, 1.68 million tones of milk, 0.085 million tones of pashmina and 0.109 million kg. Skin in addition to 390 thousand metric tones of manure. The estimated value of different types of produce from goat is about Rs. 2612.00 million per year and it also generates about 4.2 per cent rural employment.

Goat therefore, has been described as a Poor Man's Cow. Taking into considerations these aspects, interest

has emerged out to investigate goat farmer's adoption of improved goat farming- technology and problems faced by them in goat farming. An investigation entitled "Adoption of Goat Farmers from Ahmednagar district was carried out during the year February, 2005 with following specific objectives.

1. To study the personal, social, economic and psychological characteristics of the farmers.
2. To study the relationship between selected characteristics of the farmers with adoption of goat farming technology followed by them.

Three stages random sampling technique was used for selecting the respondents of the study. In the first stage four tahsils i.e. Parner, Shrigonda, Newasa and Pathardi were selected. In the second and third stage villages and respondents were selected for the study respectively. From the selected village, a list of goat farmers was prepared with the help of Live-tock Development Officer and village functionaries' viz. Talathi and Gramsevak on the population of goats they possessed. A standard of farmers with maintaining a unit of minimum twenty doe and one buck was observed and five respondents from each village were selected. Hence, in all four tahsils, twenty villages and 120 goat farmers were covered under the study.

An interview schedule based on the objectives of the study was prepared for data collection and pre-tested prior to its finalization. After making required changes in the interview schedule then it was finalized for data collection. The information were collected by the researcher by conducting personal interview of all the goat keepers preferably at the site of their goat rearing.

The collected information were tabulated into primary and secondary tables. The findings are presented herewith as under in the following heads.

Personal, Social, Economic and Psychological characteristics of the goat farmers :

Information pertaining to the selected personal, social,

* Author for correspondence.