**RESEARCH PAPER** 

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## Costs, returns and profitability of goat rearing business in Maharashtra

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**ABSTRACT :** Investigation was carried out during the year 2010-11. About 60 goat rearers were randomly selected from ten villages of two Tehsils of Osmanabad district of Maharashtra. Cross sectional data were collected from goat rearers with the help of pre-tested schedule by personal interview method. Cost concept of variable cost and fixed cost were used for evaluation of total cost. The results revealed that, average size of goat unit was 13.75 invested goats. Use of human labour was 352.55 man days. It implied that goat rearing could create sufficient employment in rural area. Annual production of young goats was 29.15 produced goats. In short young goats, milk and manure were sources of income in goat rearing business. Total cost per farm was Rs. 68149.68 while, that of per goat was Rs. 4955.62. Among individual items of expenditure, the share of human labour was) 1.73 per cent followed that of by depreciation on invested goat (14.40 %) and interest on fixed capital (13.95 per cent) and so on. Thus, goat rearing business was labour intensive. Gross retul11 per farm and per goat was Rs. 95566.05 and Rs. 6950.26, respectively. Per farm net profit was Rs. 27429.74 while, per goat net profit was Rs. 1994.69. Output-Input ratio was found to be 1.40.

KEY WORDS: Invested goat, Produced goat, Total cost, Gross return, Net profit

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## INTRODUCTION

In India, goat is an imp0l1ant part of rural economy. In the country goat is reared for milk in addition to meat. The country ranks second in goat meat production in the World. Goat provides meat, milk and manure which aspects are helping to improve the economic contribution of goat rearers. Goat creates employment to the rural poor besides effectively utilizing unpaid family labour. Goat has religious importance in many societies. Due to small size of body and domicile nature, housing requirements and managerial problems with goat are less. Goat is prolific breeder and achieve sexual maturity at the age of 10-12 months; gestation period in goat is short (150 days) and at the age of 16-17 months it starts giving milk. Twinning is very common and triplet and quadruplets are rare. The animal can thrive well on wide variety of thorny bushes, weeds, agricultural

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by-products unsuitable for human consumption. Osmanabadi goat is major breed in Marathwada region. Osmanabadi goat is multifunctional animal and plays a significant role in the region. Goat rearing is an enterprise which has been practiced by a large section of population in the study area. By keeping in view, the above aspect, the present sludy has been undertaken.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Multistage sampling design was adopted for the selection of district, Tehsils, villages and goat rearers. In first stage, Osmanabad district was purposely selected because of more goat population. In second stage, Tu]japur and Osmanabad Tehsils of Osmanaoad dIstrict were selected on the basis of highest goat population. In third stage,from each selected tehsil, five villages were selected on the basis of highest number of goat rearers in villages. The villages were like Bembali, Dhuta, Kangara, Palaswadi and Sarola from Osmanabad Tehsil. Five villages namely, Ganjewadi, Jalkotwadi, Kati, Kemwadi and Savargaon were selected from Tuljapur Tehsil. In fourth stage, from each village, six goat rearers were selected randomly. In this way, from 10 villages of two Tehsils. 60 goat rearers were selected. Then cross section all data were collected with the help of pre-tested schedule by personal interview method. The