

Research
Paper

Promotion of goat rearer groups and study of its structure and function

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ABSTRACT

Goat rearer groups are the groups promoted in similar lines with that of self help groups (SHGs). The groups were promoted considering the problems of the farmers in goat rearing practice due to their scattered settlement in the villages. Groups promoted belonged to below poverty line (BPL) category, consisted members of all age group ranging from 24 -55 years, with 51 per cent illiterates. Majority had a medium family size of 4-7. Groups were conducting weekly meeting regularly with an attendance of 80-100 per cent.

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INTRODUCTION

The livelihood in rural India mainly depends on agriculture through crop farming. The constraints due to low or irregular monsoon and lack of irrigation facilities have compelled the farmers of semi arid region to diversify from crop to livestock production to counter the risk of crop failure. Thus livestock production has become a main source of livelihood for farmers because livestock are more tolerant to harsh climatic conditions. The goats among other livestock species possess inherent characteristics to adjust under different climatic conditions. However, the productivity of goat is generally very poor. This is due to poor management practices and poor nutrition in particular. Lack of awareness and poor rate of adoption of livestock related technologies could be the reason due to scattered living of goat farmers in the villages. Thus there is a need for creating awareness on improved and sustainable goat rearing practices. Such effort could be effective only if the farmers organize themselves and extend their active participation through community organization.

Community Organization - is the process by which the social system of a community provides for integration and adaptation within the community. This is a process

which continues regardless of the work of community organizer whose functions are to initiate, nourish and develop this process (Ross and Lappin, 1967). Community organization of goat farmers consists of any or all methods by which local community groups organize to promote and carry out any and all types of projects which will improve the life and work of goat farmers, families and the community as a whole. The objective of the present study is to motivate the goat farmers to organize themselves into livestock interest groups (LIGs) and adopt improved goat production practices and was conducted under the support and funding from NAIP through a project entitled '*Livelihood security through resource and entrepreneurship management in Bidar District*'.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was implemented in clusters of 3 villages each in 2 taluks (Aurad and Humnabad) of Bidar district in Karnataka *i.e.*, Ganganbeed, Ganeshpur and Aknapur of Aurad taluk and Alipur, Devgiri and Polakpalli of Humnabad taluk. The major livelihood activities of these villages were agriculture, livestock rearing and wage labour. The villages selected were remote villages, some do not