

Research Article

Extent of knowledge of goat keepers about recommended goat rearing practices

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ARTICLE CHRONICLE :

Received :

01.08.2013;

Revised :

19.10.2013;

Accepted :

23.10.2013

SUMMARY : The study was conducted in 12 adopted villages. A total of 120 respondents were randomly selected for the study. This study aims to assess information on knowledge level of recommended goat rearing practices by goat keepers. The findings revealed that 77.50 per cent of the respondents had low level of knowledge regarding improved feeding followed by 63.34 per cent had high level of knowledge regarding improved breeding, 72.50 per cent had high level of knowledge regarding improved management and 52.50 per cent had medium level of knowledge about improved health care practices and on the overall basis the level of knowledge regarding improved management was 69.20 per cent followed by improved breeding (67.46%), improved health care practices (58%) and improved feeding (34.16%). Knowledge gap was highest in improved feeding (65.84%) overall knowledge was noted to be 60.32 per cent and knowledge gap was 39.67 per cent. In case of correlation co-efficient variables *i.e.* annual income, land holdings, cosmopolitanness, source of information, extension contact, number of animals and housing pattern were found to be significantly correlated with knowledge of recommended goat rearing practice of the respondents. In the case of multiple regression analysis, only 2 variables *i.e.* extension contact and number of animals showed the significant contribution in the knowledge of recommended goat rearing practices.

How to cite this article : Yadaw, K.N. and Sharma, M.L. (2013). Extent of knowledge of goat keepers about recommended goat rearing practices. *Agric. Update*, 8(4): 642-644.

KEY WORDS :

Knowledge level,

Knowledge gap,

Goat rearing

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Goat rearing is an important subsidiary occupation of Indian agriculture. It provides employments to small and marginal farmers. Goat rearing is easier than other animal rearing. Goats supply milk, meat, fibre etc. and are resistance to various diseases (Gaikwad *et al.*, 2003). India ranks first in world's use of shrubs, herbs and tree as fodder as it contributes more than 60 per cent of the feed. Goats consume even scrap and weeds which is not generally preferred by other livestock like cattle. They consume one fifth of fodder required by cow, hence production cost of goats milk remains lower compared to cow and buffalo (Galkate and Gajbhiye, 2002). The wealth of indigenous knowledge, traditional practices regarding indigenous breeds and

local plant is hardly realized nowadays. This knowledge, practices, breeds of animals and local plants are highly adoptive and available at low cost. A year of experience gained enriches local knowledge (Behera *et al.*, 2004). Rogers and Shoemakers (1971) recognized knowledge as a function and stage in the innovation-decision process. It influences overt and covert behaviour of an individual. The knowledge act as precursors of adoption and play an important role in adoption of improved practices. Keeping the above facts in view, the present study was undertaken according to the current rural conditions and was related to the following objective:

To assess the level of knowledge and knowledge gap towards recommended goat rearing practices and their associations with selected characteristics of goat rearing.

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RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted in 12 adopted villages namely, Thakurdiya, Bagarpali, Chaukbeda, Durugpali, Bhukel, Bitangipali, Chhuhpali, Barpeladih, Harratar, Sahajpani, Dudumchuaan (Mauhadiya), and Mohanmuda situated in the blocks Pithora, Basana, Saraypali of Mahasamund district in Chhattisgarh. The goat population was the second largest livestock population in those villages. Four villages from each block and 10 respondents from each village were selected. Thus, the total number of respondents was 120 from 12 selected villages. The data were collected by a personal interview schedule which contained 51 statements related to improved feeding, breeding, management as well as to improved health care practices. Collected data were statistically analyzed with the help of frequency, percentage, correlation co-efficient and regression of knowledge three points continuum score was adopted *i.e.* complete, incomplete and nil for knowledge with scores 2, 1 and 0, respectively. Attending to the total scores obtained, three categories were established *i.e.* low (>33.33%), medium (33.33 to 66.66%) and high (<66.66%). Socio-personal, socio-economic, psychological, communi-cational and technological characteristics were selected for the study.

Knowledge level was determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Knowledge level} = \frac{\text{Total obtained score}}{\text{Maximum obtainable score}} \times 100$$

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The analyses revealed that among the 120 respondents, most of them had low level of knowledge about improved feeding while around 7 per cent had a high level of knowledge, (Table 1).

Table 1 : Percentage distribution of respondents according to their level of knowledge about recommended goat rearing practices

Practices	Level of knowledge		
	Low (0 - 33.33%)	Medium (33.34 - 66.66%)	High (> 66.66%)
Improved feeding	77.50	15.83	06.67
Improved breeding	03.33	33.33	63.34
Improved management	00	27.50	72.50
Improved health care	0.83	52.50	46.67

Most of the correspondents had a high level of knowledge of improved breeding and improved management. Around half of them showed a high level of knowledge of improved health-care while the rest mostly had a high level (Table 1).

On the overall basis, the level of knowledge regarding improved feeding was 34.16 per cent, followed by improved breeding (67.46%), improved management (69.20%) and

improved healthcare practices (58%). The overall level of knowledge regarding goat rearing was 60.32 per cent.

The per cent knowledge gap indicates that highest knowledge gap was related to improved feeding (65.84%) followed by improved healthcare practices (42%), improved breeding (32.53%) and improved management (30.80%). The overall knowledge gap was noted to be 39.67 per cent (Fig. 1). Tiwari (1997), Wadkar *et al.* (2009) and Thombre *et al.* (2010) had also found similar findings in their study on adoption of goat rearing practices.

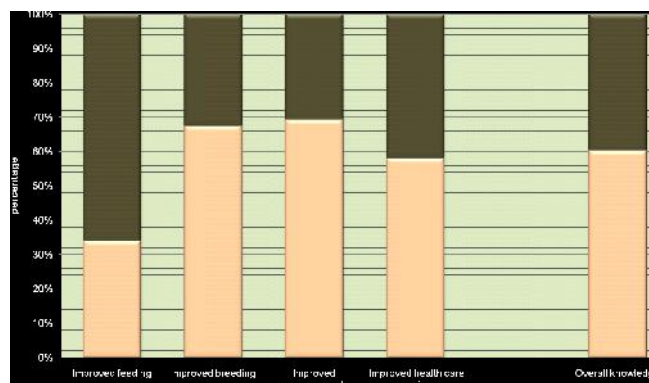


Fig. 1: Over all knowledge and knowledge gap among the respondents about recommended goat rearing practices

To determine the correlation and regression analysis of selected variables with knowledge of recommended goat rearing practices, the analysis was done and results are given in Table 2. The finding revealed that out of 16 independent

Table 2 : Correlation co-efficient and multiple regression analysis of independent variables with the adoption of recommended goat rearing practices followed by goat keepers

Independent variables	Correlation co-efficient 'r' value
X ₁ Age	-0.0794
X ₂ Education	0.1470
X ₃ Caste	-0.0759
X ₄ Family size	0.0315
X ₅ Social participation	0.0118
X ₆ Experience of goat rearing	0.1554
X ₇ Occupation	0.1442
X ₈ Annual income	0.2764**
X ₉ Land holding	0.2487**
X ₁₀ Credit acquisition	0.0368
X ₁₁ Cosmopolitaness	0.2189*
X ₁₂ Source of information	0.1886*
X ₁₃ Extension contact	0.2906**
X ₁₄ Number of animals	0.3690**
X ₁₅ Housing pattern	0.1965*
X ₁₆ Marketing pattern	0.0339

* and ** Indicate significance of value at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

variables, only 7 of them, *i.e.* annual income, land holdings, cosmopolitaness, source of information, extension contact, number of animals and housing pattern were found to be significantly correlated with the knowledge of recommended goat rearing practice.

Conclusion :

The findings revealed that most of the respondents had a low level of knowledge about improved feeding while they had a high level of knowledge about improved breeding, high level of knowledge about improved management and medium level of knowledge about improved health care practices. As regards to the extent of knowledge and knowledge gap, the data revealed that half of the respondents had an extent of knowledge about improved management and a high knowledge gap (65.84%) about improved feeding and overall extent of knowledge was noted to be 60.32 per cent and knowledge gap was 39.67 per cent.

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