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Constraints faced by goat farmers in Puducherry

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Abstract

The present study was conducted to identify the various constraints faced by the goat farmers in goat rearing in Puducherry. A sample size of 206 goat farmers who were actively involved in goat rearing were randomly selected for the study. The major constraints faced by goat farmers were high cost of concentrates, shortage in green fodder, high cost of construction of shed, lack of land, no credit facilities from government institution and high cost of veterinary treatment.

Keywords: goat farmers, constraints, concentrates, veterinary treatment

Introduction

Goats play a significant role in the economy and nutrition of landless, small and marginal farmers in India. Around 80 per cent of global goat population is found in developing countries. Among them, India has second largest population of goats (148.9 millions) in the world. In a country, where human population is very high and land available for farming is less, goat farming is the suitable option for small farmers. Goat rearing is an enterprise which has been practiced by a large section of population in rural areas. Goat rearing has considerable potential as a sustainable income generating activity for the rural women as the management of goats is less expensive and requires less labour.

Goats can efficiently survive on available shrubs and trees in adverse harsh environment in low fertile lands where no other crops can be grown. In pastoral and agricultural subsistence societies in India, goats are kept as a source of additional income and as an insurance against disasters. Because of these characteristics, goat farming is carried out as a traditional business by majority of small and marginal farmers in India.

Materials and Methods

The Union Territory of Pondicherry has a total area of 480 sq.km comprising four geographically discontinuous regions viz. Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. The region of Puducherry is administratively divided into two urban municipalities (Puducherry and Ozhukarai) and five rural communes (Ariyankuppam, Bahour, Mannadipet, Nettapakkam and Villianur). The sampling procedure followed for this study was stratified proportionate random sampling (Kothari, 2004). The sample size of 206 was randomly distributed based on the population of goat farmers in each of the communes and municipalities. The constraints faced by the respondents were enumerated by means of a survey using pre-tested questionnaire.

Results and Discussion

Feeding constraints

On perusal of data, it is found that all the goat farmers were facing constraints of high cost of concentrates and shortage in green fodder, followed by non-availability of grazing land (81%). This finding is in line with the findings of Koli *et al.*, (2012) [3] and Rajkumar and Kavitha (2014) [7] who also reported similar constraints.

Housing constraints

From the data, it is found that all the goat farmers were facing constraints of high cost of construction and lack of availability of land, followed by 76.7 % of the goat farmers facing inadequate knowledge on scientific housing and poor housing facilities because of their poor economic status (table 1). This finding is similar with Rai and Singh (2004) and Sabapara *et al.*, (2014) [9].

Breeding constraints

Almost 80% the goat farmers were facing reproduction problem of abortion as constraints. This findings is in line with Purohit *et al.*, (2006).

Health constraints

All the goat farmers were facing the constraint of high cost of veterinary services. About 46.1% of the goat farmers were facing reduced accessibility of veterinary hospitals and lack of timely availability of veterinary services respectively (table

1). This finding is similar to the observation of Rashmi *et al.*, (2010)^[6] and Vidyasagar *et al.*, (2012)^[10].

Organisational constraints

All the goat farmers were facing constraints of no credit facilities from government institution and lack of loan facility respectively. This finding is in line with Gurjar and Pathodiya (2008)^[1], Meganathan *et al.*, (2010)^[4] and Ravi Kumar and Kumaravel (2017)^[8].

Table 1: Constraints faced by goat farmers in Puducherry

Particulars	Communes		Municipalities		Total (206)		
	n	%	n	%	N	%	
Feeding constraints	High cost of concentrates	141	100	65	100	206	100
	Shortage of green fodder	141	100	65	100	206	100
	No common grazing land	115	81.5	52	80	167	81
Housing constraints	High cost of construction	141	100	65	100	206	100
	Lack of land	141	100	65	100	206	100
	Inadequate knowledge on scientific housing	120	85.1	38	58.4	158	76.7
	Poor economic status to build sheds	124	88	40	61.5	164	79.6
Health constraints	High cost of veterinary services	141	100	65	100	206	100
	Reduced accessibility of veterinary hospitals	65	46	30	46.1	95	46.1
	Lack of timely availability of veterinary services	65	46	30	46.1	95	46.1
Organisational constraints	No credit facilities from government	141	100	65	100	206	100
	Lack of loan facility	141	100	65	100	206	100

Conclusion

From the present study, it was concluded that

1. With respect to feeding constraints, it is found that all the goat farmers were facing constraints of high cost of concentrates and shortage in green fodder followed by non-availability of grazing land (81 %).
2. With respect to housing constraints, it is recorded that all the goat farmers were facing high cost of construction and lack of availability of land followed by 76.7 % of the goat farmers facing inadequate knowledge on scientific housing and poor housing facilities because of their poor economic status.
3. Referring to health constraints, it is recorded all the goat farmers were facing high cost of veterinary services. About 46.1% of the goat farmers were facing reduced accessibility of veterinary hospitals and timely veterinary services respectively.
4. With respect to organisational constraints, it is recorded that all the goat farmers were facing constraints of no credit facilities from government institution and lack of loan facility respectively.

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