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The Pharma Innovation



ISSN (E): 2277-7695 ISSN (P): 2349-8242 NAAS Rating: 5.23 TPI 2022; SP-11(7): 2627-2628 © 2022 TPI

www.thepharmajournal.com Received: 04-05-2022 Accepted: 08-06-2022

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Constraints perceived by goat keepers in Dungarpur District of Rajasthan

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Abstract

An ex-post facto study was conducted in purposively selected Dungarpur district of Rajasthan to find out the constraints perceived by goat keepers in goat rearing. A total of 120 goat keepers were selected as respondents from randomly selected four tehsils of the districts. Data were collected through structured interview schedule and analyzed through different statistical tools. The study revealed that availability of improved breeds (61.67%), lack of knowledge about scientific goat rearing (60.83%), lack of credit facility (56.67%) and availability of veterinary services (49.17%) were perceived as 'most serious constraints' by goat keepers and their the 'serious constraints' were high cost of concentrate feed (45.00%), lack of extension support (44.17%), feeds and fodder (40.00%), lack of knowledge of disease (39.17%) and lack of knowledge of vaccination (35.33%) respectively. Lack of grazing area (43.33%) and market facility (38.33) were perceived as 'not a constraint' by goat keepers.

Keywords: Breeds, Constraints, Credit facility, Goat farming

1. Introduction

Goat farming has a significant role in the economy and nutrition of landless, small and marginal farmers in the country. They contribute greatly to the agrarian economy, especially in areas where crop and dairy farming are not economical, and play an important role in the livelihood of a large proportion of landless as well as small and marginal farmers. Goat population in India is 148.88 million, the country stands first in the world in goat population. Goat milk shares a contribution of 3% in the total milk production across the country (Anonymous, 2022) [1]. Goat farming is a low-cost operation due to the goat's unique characteristics, such as its tiny size, high feed conversion efficiency, wide adaptability, short gestation period and ability to subsist on tree leaves, grasses, and other plants.

Goats are known as the "Poor Man's Cow" in India because of their low maintenance costs, short-term returns on money, and low risk capital investment They are an integral part of the dry land agricultural system (Thaware, 2010) [8]. They can thrive well in adverse climatic conditions using sparse vegetation. Goats are producing milk, meat, skin and fiber for human use as well as manure for agriculture. The rural poor who cannot afford to maintain a cow or a buffalo find goat as the best alternative source of supplementary income and milk. The adoption of improved management practices specially improved feeding, breeding and other management practices not only help to achieve the desired level of goat production but also increase income of farmers (Dudi and Meena, 2013) [2]. The goat keepers needed training on breeding and health care to a greater extent to improve the production from goats. Hence, extension agencies should disseminate information based on training needs at the field conditions for livelihood security of the farmers (Meena and Singh, 2015) [5].

The present study was carried out in purposively selected Dungarpur district of Rajasthan to evaluate constraints perceived by goat keepers. A sample size of 120 respondents was randomly selected for study. The data were collected through structured interview schedule. Hence, to study the problems faced by the goat keeper's, this research work was taken up with the objective to delineate the various constraints perceived by the goat keepers.

2. Material and Methods

An ex-post facto research design was used to conduct the present study in purposively selected Dungarpur district of Rajasthan. Four tehsils viz. Dungarpur, Sagwara, Simalwada and Aspur were selected randomly from Dungarpur district. From each tehsil, 30 respondents were selected randomly who owned at least 5 goats. Thus, total 120 respondents were selected for the study. Data related to constraints were collected from the respondents by interviewing

individually. The identified constraints were measured on a four point continuum viz. most serious constraint, serious constraint, less serious constraint and not a constraint respectively. The Statistical measures such as percentage and frequency were used.

3. Results and Discussion

Constraints perceived by goat keepers in goat rearing

Table 1 shows that availability of improved breeds, lack of knowledge about scientific goat rearing were perceived as

'most serious constraints' by 61.67 and 60.83, per cent respondents, respectively while 'serious constraints' by 23.33, and 26.67 per cent respondents, respectively. This finding is in line with Koli and Koli (2016) [4] who revealed that lack of knowledge regarding improved breeds. Lack of credit facility and availability of veterinary services were perceived as 'most serious constraints' by 56.67 and 49.17 per cent respondents, respectively while 'serious constraints' by 23.33, and 23.33 per cent respondents, respectively. This finding is agreement with Gill *et al.* (2020) [3].

Table 1: Constraints perceived by goat keepers in goat rearing (n=120)

| S. No. | Constraints | MSC | | SC | | LSC | | NC | |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|----|-------|-----|-------|----|-------|
| | | f | % | f | % | f | % | f | % |
| I. | Lack of grazing area | 7 | 5.83 | 29 | 24.17 | 52 | 43.33 | 32 | 26.67 |
| II. | Feeds and fodder | 12 | 10.00 | 48 | 40.00 | 31 | 25.53 | 29 | 24.17 |
| III. | High cost of concentrate feed | 17 | 14.17 | 54 | 45.00 | 40 | 33.33 | 9 | 7.50 |
| IV. | Availability of improved breeds | 74 | 61.67 | 28 | 23.33 | 14 | 11.67 | 4 | 3.33 |
| V. | Lack of knowledge of vaccination | 37 | 30.83 | 43 | 35.83 | 35 | 29.17 | 5 | 4.17 |
| VI. | Lack of knowledge of disease | 39 | 32.50 | 47 | 39.17 | 24 | 20.00 | 10 | 8.33 |
| VII. | Lack of credit facility | 68 | 56.67 | 28 | 23.33 | 18 | 15.00 | 6 | 5.00 |
| VIII. | Lack of knowledge about scientific goat rearing | 73 | 60.83 | 32 | 26.67 | 14 | 11.67 | 1 | 0.83 |
| IX. | Availability of veterinary services | 59 | 49.17 | 28 | 23.33 | 26 | 21.67 | 7 | 5.83 |
| X. | Lack of extension support | 35 | 29.17 | 53 | 44.17 | 28 | 23.33 | 4 | 3.33 |
| XI. | Market facility | 9 | 7.50 | 29 | 24.17 | 46 | 38.33 | 36 | 30.00 |

f - Frequency, % - Per cent, MSC: Most Serious Constraint, SC: Serious Constraint, LSC: Less Serious Constraint, NC: Not a Constraint

High cost of concentrate feed, lack of extension support and feeds and fodder as 'serious' constraints' by 45.00, 44.17 and 40.00 percent respondents, respectively while 'less serious constraints' by 33.33, 23.33 and 25.53 per cent respondents, respectively. This finding is agreement with Mohan et al. (2009) [6] and Thorat et al. (2012) [9] who reported lack of fodder is the major constraint faced by goat keepers in India. Lack of knowledge of disease and lack of knowledge of vaccination were perceived as 'serious constraints' by 39.17 and 35.33 percent respondents, respectively while 'less serious constraints' by 20.00, 23.33 and 29.17 per cent respondents, respectively. This finding is agreement with Singh et al. (2020) [7]. Lack of grazing area (43.33%) and market facility (38.33) were perceived as 'not a constraint' by goat keepers. This finding is agreement with Singh et al. $(2020)^{[7]}$.

4. Conclusion

Goat farming has a significant role in the economy and nutrition of farmers in the country. The study revealed that availability of improved breeds, lack of knowledge about scientific goat rearing, lack of credit facility and availability of veterinary services were perceived as 'most serious constraints' by goat keepers and their the 'serious constraints' were high cost of concentrate feed, lack of extension support, feeds and fodder, lack of knowledge of disease and lack of knowledge of vaccination.

5. Acknowledge Emends

We are grateful to the goat keepers for their time, cooperation and valuable information.

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