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Constraints faced by goat-owners in Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan

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Abstract

A study was conducted in order to recognize the major constraints faced were collected with the well structured interview schedule after ensuring its reliability and validity of goat keepers of Pratapgarh district. The main constraint, at 71.39 MPS, was the high cost of concentrate feed. While, with 69.44 MPS, indicated that a lack of credit was the second-most serious constraint. Lack of grazing area came in third with 67.44 MPS. With 49.44 MPS, the lack of green fodder is another restriction. Breeding restrictions came in fifth place. The lack of veterinary services and medications at the village level is the second-most significant constraint, with 53.89 MPS ranking at position six. The next significant barrier is the high cost of veterinary care, which ranks seventh and has 51.39 MPS. With an MPS of 50.56, the eighth most serious constraint was a lack of improved breeding bucks.

Keywords: Goat, MPS, grazing, interview, credit facility, feeding, concentrate, rural

Introduction

India is primarily an agricultural nation, with 70% of its people making a living from agriculture. The need of providing a balanced diet for India's growing population is one of its greatest challenges. Because of its low investment requirements, high adaptability, high fertility and fecundity, low feed and management requirements, high feed conversion efficiency, quick payoff, and low risk, goat farming has been suggested as the best option for rural people in developing countries. Goats serve a vital role for generating income, storing capital, creating jobs, and enhancing household nutrition. The main source of income for India's small, landless farmers is goat farming. It offers farmers throughout the year alternate sources of income and serves as insurance against crop failure. Millions of poor, small families in India engage in the tradition of goat husbandry by raising animals on "Crop Residues" and Common Property Resources. In the study area, there were 20.84 million goats in Rajasthan state. Goat keeping requires a strong foundation in education, family educational status, and exposure to communication sources (Chandra *et al.*, 2005) ^[4].

The majority of rural households fall below the poverty line, and the majority of these households are made up of landless agricultural labourers, marginal, small farmers, and rural artisans. In areas with rain-fed agriculture, poverty and unemployment rates are comparatively more severe. The rural poor with limited access to land could start and expand a goat-rearing business in these areas. Due to shorter breeding intervals and high prolificacy, the capital investment is relatively low, the amount of land required is minimal, and the reproductive rates are higher.

The farmers mainly improve goats using a comprehensive management system and conventional management techniques, relying on communal land for grazing. The adoption of better management techniques is anticipated to boost farmers' income. Even so, livestock has a sizable economic impact on both the agricultural sector and the overall economy. The goat farmers are still unaware of modern scientific management techniques. Achieving the desired level of goat production would be possible with better feeding, breeding, and other management practices. (Dudi and Meena, 2013) ^[7]. To increase goat production, the keepers of goats required more training in breeding and health care. Consequently, extension agencies should disseminate information based on training requirements at the field level to ensure the farmers' livelihood security.

Method and Materials

The current investigation was conducted in Rajasthan's Pratapgarh district in 2019. Using a multistage random sampling technique, 120 goat owners were chosen from 12 villages across

four tehisils (Pratapgarh, Pipalkhunt, Dhariyawad, and Chhotisadri). With the aid of a carefully planned interview schedule and personal contact, the data were gathered through in-person interviews. Using common statistical software, the data were tabulated and examined. The main restrictions taken into account had to do with breeding, housing, feeding, and marketing for health care.

Result and Discussion

Table 1 lists the challenges that goat owners must overcome. It demonstrated how different constraints related to various aspects.

Concentrate

According to the data in Table 1, the most significant constraint, with an MPS of 71.39, was the high cost of concentrate feed. There were many factors constraints related to high cost of concentrate then not enough knowledge of the importance of mineral mixtures and high cost of concentrate. Goat owners were facing this problem due to the high cost of concentrate feed they are unable to purchase and feed to goats. The present findings are partial agreement with findings of According to Mohan *et al.* (2009)^[15] and Thorat *et al.* (2012)^[18], 60.31% and 70.67% of respondents, respectively, cited a lack of land for grazing as a major constraint. Similarly, Gopala *et al.* (2010)^[10] found that 90% of respondents experienced difficulties finding fodder during the summer, and Tanwar (2011)^[16] noted that goat rearers in their study areas faced challenges due to a lack of knowledge regarding healthy feeding (94.17%), high feed and fodder costs (82.08%), a lack of green fodder availability (74.58%), and a lack of understanding of the significance of mineral mixtures.

Lack of credit facility

Data presented in table 1 indicated that with 69.44 MPS, a lack of credit was the second-most serious constraint.

Lack of grazing

Lack of grazing area, the next most significant constraint, came in third with 67.44 MPS. While the non availability of green fodder is also a constraint with 49.44 MPS.

Breeding Constraints

The breeding constraint's outcome came in fifth place. The lack of veterinary services and medications at the village level is the second-most significant constraint, with 53.89 MPS ranking at position six. The next significant barrier is the high cost of veterinary care, which ranks seventh and has 51.39 MPS. With an MPS of 50.56, the eighth most serious constraint was a lack of improved breeding bucks. The most significant restriction is the "lack of green fodder," with 49.44 MPS coming in ninth. These results support those made earlier by Gujar and Pathodiya (2008)^[11], who noted that a major obstacle was the lack of improved breeding bucks (81.66%). Similarly According to Wani *et al.* (2009)^[19] and Tanwar (2011)^[16], indiscriminate breeding (61.67%), insufficient availability of breeding bucks (73.75%), and lack of understanding of breeding practises (71.67) were the main constraints for goat owners. Wani *et al.* (2009)^[19] also found that 90.45% of the respondents had these problems.

Knowledge gap regarding the scientific rearing of goats

Lack of vaccination and a lack of understanding regarding

scientific goat rearing are the two biggest obstacles, both ranking tenth with 48.89 each.

Other constraints

Data from Table 1 reveals that there were additional constraints on goat rearing, including a 48.89 mean percent score for lack of vaccination. The results are consistent with Koli and Koli (2016), who stated that the main issues faced by farmers were a lack of knowledge about improved breeds, a lack of improved bucks, a lack of training facilities, a lack of grazing land, high infant mortality, an are lacking of marketplaces and seasonally variation in goat prices, a high cost and lack of concentrate mixture availability, and a lack of veterinary medicine hospitals and doctors close to villages. The study also showed that most of the respondents who kept goats adopted particular goat farming practises to a medium level. Similarly to Tanwar (2011)^[16], who identified a lack of marketing resources (80.83%), middlemen who don't pay male kids the best price (79.71%), and disorganized goat owners (75.42%) as significant obstacles for goat owners. These results concur with those of Gopala *et al.* (2010)^[10], who found that disease issues accounted for the majority of constraints (88.57%). According to Thormbre *et al.* (2010), 76.38% of the respondents were constrained by the cost of veterinary care. Similar to this, Tanwar (2011)^[16] found that goat owners faced challenges due to high treatment costs (74.58) and ignorance of common diseases (68.75%). The results of the current study were higher than those of Gopala *et al.* (2010)^[10] and Thoat *et al.* (2012)^[18], who found that 37.14 and 43.33% of respondents had kid mortality constraints in their study, respectively.

Table 1: Constraints faced by goat farmers in Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan

S. No.	Constraints	MPS	Rank
1.	High Cost of concentrate feed	71.39	I
2.	Lack of credit facility	69.44	II
3.	Lack of grazing area	67.44	III
4.	Illiteracy	66.94	IV
5.	In Breeding	65.28	V
6.	Non availability of veterinary services and medicines at village level	53.89	VI
7.	High cost of veterinary aid	51.39	VII
8.	Lack of improved breeding bucks	50.56	VIII
9.	Non availability of green fodder	49.44	IX
10.	Lack of vaccination	48.89	X
11.	Lack of knowledge about scientific goat rearing	48.89	X

MSP (Mean per cent score)

Conclusion

According to goat keepers, the following factors were major barriers to adopting better goat rearing practices: costly concentrate feed; lack of credit facility; lack of grazing area; illiteracy; non-availability of veterinary services as well as medicines at the village level; and lack of scientific breeding. To overcome the challenges of feeding, breeding, and housing, goat keepers should be trained through a variety of training programmers offered by State Agricultural Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, and other non-governmental organizations.

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