Goat Farming Development Methodology

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Abstract. Goat production for milk and meat is an age old practice and goat is one of the first animals to be domesticated by men. In early biblical literature references are made regarding goat for milk, meat, hide and manure. Throughout the world goat is considered as 'poor man's cow'.

Keywords: Goat, method, husbandry, technology.

INTRODUCTION

In Switzerland goat is nicknamed as "Swiss baby's foster mother'. Central Institute for Research on Goats (CIRG) projected as 'Future Animal' for rural and urban prosperity. At present total goat population of the world is 861.9 million (FAO, 2008), in Asia 514.4 million, which is 59.7% of total population of the world. The total goat population in India is 125.7 million, which is 14.6% of total world's population. China ranks highest in number (149.4 million) followed by India. India produces 4.0 million MT goat milk by 30.2 million dairy goats. Milk production by per doe per year in India is 132.5 kg. India is the largest goat milk producer in the world, followed by Bangladesh (2.2 million MT) and Sudan (1.5 million MT). Total meat production in world is 280 million MT and goat produces 2% of the total production (4.9 million MT). China produces about 1.8 million MT (highest in world), followed by India (0.5 million MT) and third is Nigeria (0.3 million MT). In India yearly approximately 48 million goats is slaughtered and on an average 10 kg of meat is produced from each goat.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Why to go for goat farming?

- 1. There is no religious taboo attached with goat farming or with goat meat (chevon) and all sections of the society readily consume goat meat.
- 2. Chevon contains low cholesterol and a lean meat than red meat.
- 3. Comparatively low investment is required for starting a goat farm.
- 4. According to availability of land, labour and capital the goatery can be started with one unit of goat to a large commercial farm which suits a small marginal farmer or a big industrialist.
- 5. In small scale goatery family labour can be efficiently utilized who cannot go for other farming activity (e.g. Children or old member of the family).
- 6. Due to fastidious eating habit goat can thrive in all agro-climatic condition of the country.
- 7. Goat can consume all kinds of plant which are generally rejected by the other animals and also can withstand more bitter taste.
- 8. They are naturally browsing in nature and can easily pluck feed from trees, bushes and shrubs.
- 9. Due to small fat globule present in goat milk, it is easily digested and medically recommended for infants and aged people.
- 10. Goats are prolific breeder and mature at the age of 10 to 12 months. In small breeds like Black Bengal or Assam Hill it is only 6 to 7 months. By 16 to 17 months goats starts milking.
- 11. Three kidding in two years and twin birth is very common in goat, thus ensure more economic return in a short period.
- 12. Goat can thrive in almost all region of the country and generate employment for rural masses.
- 13. Goat manure is rich in nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and is excellent manure for agricultural production.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Goat production systems in Uzbekistan

- 1. Extensive production system
- 2. Stall-fed and intensive production system
- 3. Semi-intensive production system
- 4. Integration with cropping or fishery system

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Housing management

The goat house should always be protected from hot and cold wind, humidity, solar radiation and rain. The house should have east-west orientation. Shed should be constructed on elevated land and free from water logging or marshy areas. For small unit goat farming no elaborate housing is necessary. Locally available material like bamboo, wood, elephant grasses, paddy straw etc may be utilized to reduce the cost for construction. The goat house should be well ventilated well-drained and easily cleaned. The bucks should be individually housed with floor space of 2.4 x 1.8 sq mt. Group housing for does may be provided with at least 1.8 sq mt/ doe and in group housing 60 does may be placed in a single pen. For 10 kids 1.8 x 1.8 sq mt is sufficient. Crowding or overstocking may be avoided. Elevated wooden or concrete floor with 1.2 mt height sidewall and wire/ bamboo netting may be provided for well ventilation and direct sun light. The sick animal should be housed separately with at least 3 x 2 sq mt floor space.

Feeding management

Goats are having fastidious eating and browsing habit. They can thrive on a variety of feed including agricultural by-products or wastes which are generally avoided by other livestock. Goat can withstand more bitter taste than the other animals. That is why they can thrive in all weather conditions prevailing in the country. Due to prehensile tongue and mobile upper lip goat can graze on very short grasses and also can browse in trees, bushes or shrubs. For yielding more milk and high quality meat, the goat should be provided concentrate mixture and leguminous fodder in their diet. On an average a goat can consume 5 to 7 kg of green fodder per day. Fodder like maize, jower, oat Lucerne, berseem, cowpea, pea and grasses like hybrid napier, paragrass, dub etc and tree leaves viz. jackfruit, mango, subabool, banyan, mulberry, neem etc. Agricultural by-products as cabbage, cauliflower, carrot, radish etc also can be fed to the goats without any adverse effect. At least ½ of the energy should come from roughages and half of the roughages should be leguminous fodder. Concentrate mixture should have minimum 14 to 16% crude protein with sufficient energy, minerals like calcium, phosphorus etc and vitamins.

- Immediately after birth kid should get colostrums and thereafter up to 5 days to develop better immunity.
- Up to 2 months kids may be provided does milk @ 1/10th of their body weight.
- For growers concentrate mixture should be given @100 gm/ day.
- For an adult doe or buck the ration should be 200 to 250 gm/day.
- Before giving birth a pregnant doe must get concentrate mixture 250 to 300 gm/ day and before 7 to 10 days of parturition concentrate mixture may be gradually reduced and fodder increased for easy delivery.

CONCLUSION

Immediately after birth the mucus may be cleaned with a cloth from nose, mouth etc for easy respiration. Kids may be allowed to lick by doe for future identification by mother and to develop mother- offspring instinct. Naval cord should be severed at 2.5 cm away from kids' body and antiseptic like Tincture of Iodine may be applied to prevent naval ill. After successful delivery the udder of the doe may be cleaned with antiseptic lotion and immediately after birth kids should be provided colostrums and may be continued for 4 to 5 days. Overfeeding must be avoided to prevent kid scour.

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