

MANAGEMENTAL PRACTICES FOLLOWED BY GOAT KEEPERS OF ATTUR BLOCK, SALEM DISTRICT

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Abstract: A study was conducted to identify the managemental practices followed by goat keepers of Attur Block; Salem district by collecting the data from sample goat keepers of four villages randomly selected villages. The data were analysed statistically and discussed. The study revealed that majority of the goat keepers are not following the scientific practices of cutting and disinfecting navel cord of kids. Majority of the goat keepers surveyed are not providing concentrates to their goats and are using their farm by- products as the feed. From the study it was clear that there is the knowledge gap among the goat keepers about scientific managemental practices of goats. Majority of the farmers are not following the practice of deworming and vaccination. Majority of the farmers are not availing any health care and preventive services for their goats No goat keepers approached SDAH for availing extension services for better rearing of goats. So, there is an urgent need to create awareness about the scientific management of goats so that the goat keepers can enhance their productivity and achieve maximum return from this enterprise to improve their socio-economic status. State animal husbandry department may need to play a pro-active role making the extension services available to them.

Keywords: Managemental practices, Goat keepers, SDAH.

Introduction

Goat occupies the special place in the Indian agricultural system as it is the better converter of poor quality roughage into good and high quality skin, milk and meat. India has vast resources of small ruminants and it is presently ranked second in the world. Goat husbandry is popular enterprise among the farming communities of Tamil Nadu. An attempt was made to study the management practices followed in the regions of Attur taluk, Salem district. Among the small ruminants goats are better placed due its higher reproductive efficiency and good mothering ability. Understanding the livestock management practices followed by farmers is necessary to identify the strengths and weakness of the rearing systems and to formulate the suitable intervention policies (Gupta *et al.*, 2008). Livestock plays an important role in the economy of India in general and sustainable livelihood of poor people of rain fed agrosystem in particular, because of inherent risk involved in the crop farming due to

uncertainty of rainfall and recurrent droughts (Mishra *et al.*, 2005). Health care management like preventive measures, Vaccination, Deworming and timely treatments ensure proper health of animals that promote their productivity (Singh *et al.*, 2007). There is ample scope for assurance of livelihood security and poverty alleviation of small and landless farmers engaged in small ruminant rearing in the country (Karim *et al.*,)

Methodology

A field study was conducted to document the information on the managerial practices followed by goat keepers of Attur region of Salem district. Attur region comprises of about nine villages out of which 4 villages were selected purposively for the study. 15 respondents from Sokkanathapuram, Keeripatty, Paithur were selected for the study and seven from Attur. Snow ball sampling was used to select the respondents for the study. Unstructured interview schedule was used to interview the respondents and the due care was taken to collect the managerial practices followed by them.

Demographic characteristics of the respondents

52 respondents surveyed the majority (75%) of them were of middle age (30-56 years) similar to the findings of Dhaka *et al* (2011), followed by 13.46% of the old age (>56 years) people (Table 1). Majority (67.7 %) of the respondents' occupation is agriculture followed by agriculture labour (12%). There were only 2% of the respondents surveyed were solely involved in goat rearing (Table2). Majority of the respondents (52%) had no formal education and 40.34 % of the respondents had the secondary school of education. About 86% of the respondents were rearing their own bucks for breeding purposes. There were only seven respondents who had no bucks. On an average the respondents were rearing more than one buck (Table3), which is similar to the findings of Verma *et al.* (2010) in the study of phenotypic and genetic characterization of Sangamneri goat breed. The present study revealed that the average number of three Does and two kids are owned by every respondent. The average flock size of the respondents was about 7 which includes two bucks, three does and two kids (Table 6). For majority (86.54%) of the respondents the mode of acquisition of goats is own farm and the remaining are purchasing their goats from different modes. 11.54% of the respondents acquire the animals from the neighbours and 3% of them are acquiring goats from the shandy (Table).

Table1: Demographic profile of goat rearers

S.No	Categories	f	%
Age			
1	Young(<30)	6	11.54
2	Middle(30-56)	39	75.00
3	Old(>56)	7	13.46
Occupation			
1	Agriculture	35	67.31
2	Labourer	12	23.08
3	Goat keeper	2	3.85
4	Butcher	1	1.92
5	Carpenter	1	1.92
6	Unemployed	1	1.92
Buck			
1	1	19	36.54
2	2	18	34.62
3	3	4	7.69
4	4	4	7.69
Does			
1	0	6	11.54
2	1-3	33	63.46
3	4-7	10	19.23
4	8 and above	3	5.77
Kids			
1	0	6	11.54
2	1-3	31	59.62
3	4-7	4	7.69
4	8 and above	2	3.85
Total number of goats			
1	0-5	26	50.00
2	6-10	17	32.69
3	11-15	5	9.62
4	16-20	1	1.92
5	>20	2	3.85
Mode of acquisition			
1	Purchase	7	13.46
2	Home born	45	86.54

Table 2: Scientific management practices followed by goat rearers

	Scientific management Practices	f	%
Assistance during kidding			
1	Yes	50	96.15
2	No	2	3.85
Trimming of hooves			
1	Yes	50	96.15

2	No	2	3.85
Cutting of naval cord			
1	No	49	94.23
2	Yes	3	5.77
Colostrum feeding			
1	Immediately after birth-	49	94.23
2	No	3	5.77
Constraints perceived by the farmers			
1	GNC	3	5.77
2	GNC+Tapiocca thippi	2	3.85
3	Un-conventional feeds	4	7.69
4	No concentrate feeding	43	82.69
Place of grazing			
1	Farm land	16	30.77
2	Hillocks	7	13.46
4	Stream and hillock	3	5.77
5	Farm land and hillock and stream	7	13.46
Stall feeding			
1	Bund grass	18	34.62
2	Fodder grass	2	3.85
3	Leguminous fodder	3	5.77
Traditional medicines followed			
1	Yes	2	3.85
2	No	50	96.15
Vaccination			
1	yes	9	17.31
2	No	43	82.69
Aids from veterinary dispensary			
1	Treatment and deworming	4	7.69
2	Deworming	1	1.92
3	Vaccination ,Treatment and Deworming	1	1.92
4	Health Camp	1	1.92
Constraints perceived by the farmers			
1	Inadequate fodder	5	9.62
2	Inadequate labour	3	5.77
3	Inadequate fodder and labour	3	5.77
4	Inadequate labour	3	5.77
5	Inadequate fodder and grazing area	1	3.84

Scientific management practices

Majority (96.15%) of the respondents are involved in assisting the Does while kidding and also following the practice of trimming of hooves of the new born kids (Table 8 and 9). Only 5.77% of the respondents surveyed are not providing the colostrum to the kids after born (Table 2). About 94 % of the respondents surveyed are not following the practice of cutting the naval cord (Table 2). Most of the respondents (72%) are practicing both grazing and stall feeding of their animals. 13.46% of the respondents surveyed are rearing their goats mainly on stall feeding with the bund grass, leguminous fodder and also with unconventional feeds. Some of the respondents (15.38%) are practicing grazing of their animals. The average grazing time followed by the respondents is 4.2 hours. Majority of the respondents (82.69%) are not providing the concentrates to their goats which is similar to the findings of Singh *et al* (2009) in the breeding tract of Zalawadi goats. These are contradiction to the findings of Sabapara *et al* (2010) in the feeding managemental practices in south Gujarat and Jana *et al* (2014) in the feeding practices in West Bengal. On the other hand 7% of the respondents are providing the non-conventional feeds (tapioca thippi) to their goats. Majority (96.15%) of the respondents are not following the traditional practices for treating their goats (Table 2). Only 3.85 % of the respondents are following the ethno-veterinary medicine for treating their goats viz., a bamboo leaves for treating diarrhoea.

Health care managemental practices:

No regular vaccination was practiced by most of the respondents (83 %), others are vaccinating their animals against anthrax, FMD and PPR (Table 2). About 87% of the respondents responded that they are not availing any veterinary services from the state animal husbandry department. The palausible reason was teh distant location of veterinary institutions from their farm. However finding of Deshpande *et al.*, (2009) reported that the Surti goat keepers were availing services provided by AHD. About 60% of the respondents are following the regular Deworming of their animals, out of which 42.31% are getting their deworming drug from pharmacy and remaining (15.38%) from veterinary dispensary. A good number (36.6%) of the respondents are not following the practice of deworming.

Mortality of goats:

About two bucks, 20 does and 18 kids were died during the last one year .As many as 33 respondents lost about 1-2 kids and ten respondents lost about 3-5 kids (table 3 & 4). The main reason of the mortality of the goats are bloat, hydrogen cyanide poisoning and pregnancy toxemia.

Table 3. Distribution of the respondents based on mortality

Number of goats died	Buck	Doe	Kid
0	52	43	6
1-2	2	6	33
3-5	0	2	10
>5	0	1	3

Table 4. Total number of goats died

S.No	Died	In numbers
1	Buck	2
2	Doe	20
3	Kids	18
4	Total	40

Constraints perceived by the goat keepers:

52 respondents surveyed, Majority (69%) of the respondents are not facing any constraints in rearing the goats. About 10% of the respondents perceived that inadequate fodder as the main constraint which was contradict to the findings of Gujar *et al.*, (2008). The other constraints were inadequate labour and grazing area (Table 2).

Conclusion

A field study was conducted to document the information on the managerial practices followed by goat keepers of Attur region, Salem district. The required information was collected through semi-structured interview schedule by interviewing 52 goat keepers spread in four village of Attur region. The salient findings of the study were the average flock size was seven mainly consisting of Doe. Almost all the respondents provide colostrum to the new born kids but do not follow the practice of cutting the naval cord. Most of the respondents are practising both grazing and stall feeding of goats but they were not providing the concentrates. Vaccination against diseases was neither practised by most of the goat keepers nor did they avail services of AHD. All these respondents put together lost 40 goats including kids mostly due to bloat and HCN poisoning. Results of the study indicates that there is an urgent need to create awareness about the scientific feeding practices as well as housing so that the goat keepers can achieve maximum return from this enterprise to improve their socio-economic status. State animal husbandry department may need to play a protective role to

help these poor goat keepers in minimising their loss through goat mortality by making the making the AH services accessible to them and delivering training on Ethno-veterinary medicine practices.

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