

Role of Yak for the Livelihood of People in Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan

Asif Hameed¹, Muhammad Tariq², Eva Schlecht¹

¹University of Kassel / Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Animal Husbandry in the Tropics and Subtropics, Germany

²University of Agriculture, Dept. of Livestock Management, Sub-Campus Toba Tek Singh, Pakistan

tropanimals@uni-kassel.de

Introduction

- Yaks utilise harsh high mountain areas (Fig. 1) of northern Pakistan.
 - They are traditionally reared by subsistence-level agricultural households in Gilgit-Baltistan.
- We analysed social, economic and management-related aspects of yak husbandry.



Fig. 1: Yak herd on winter pasture of Shimshal valley.

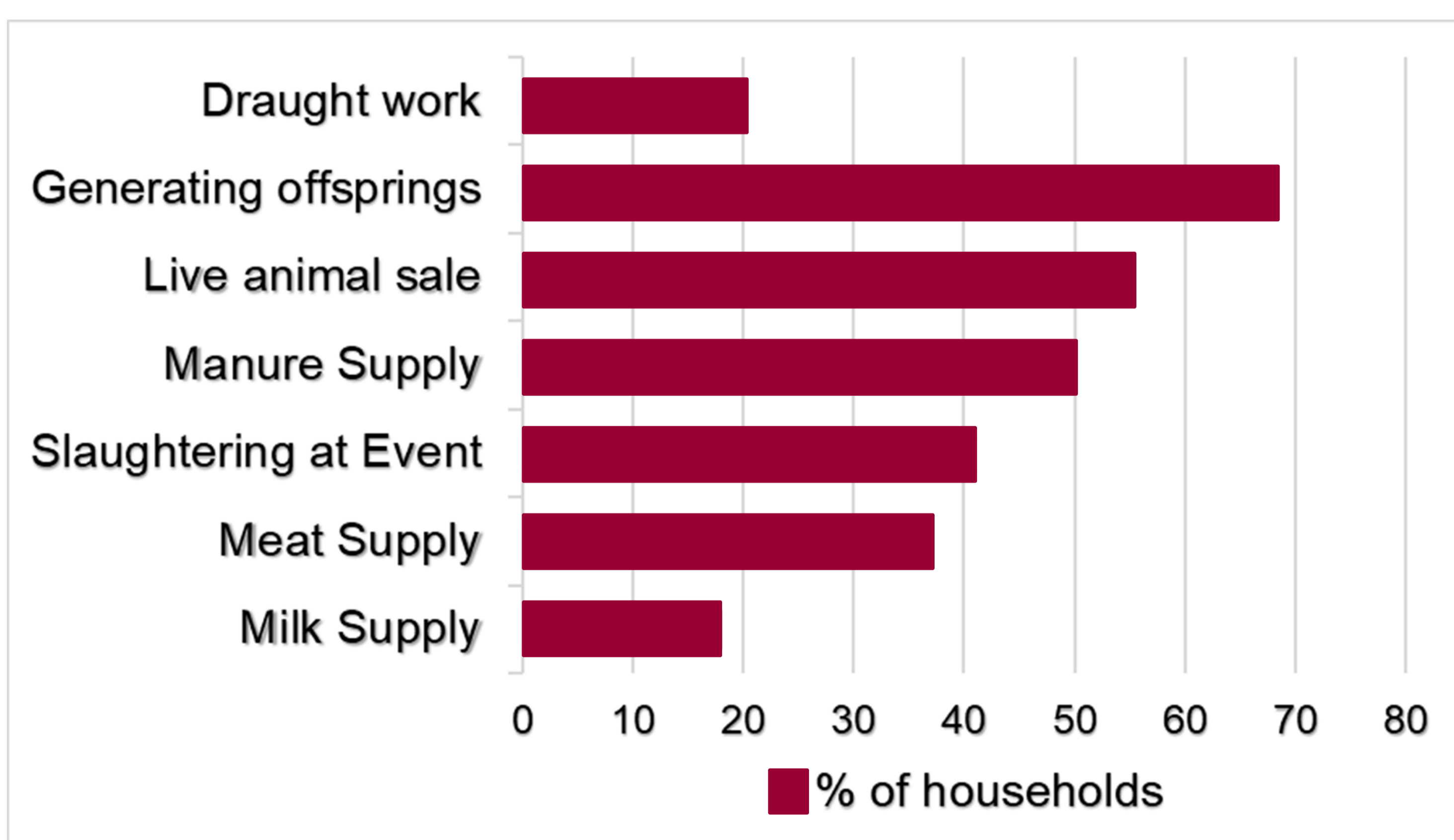


Fig. 2: Adult yak utilization for different purposes.

Material and Methods

- Survey conducted during 09/2016 – 11/2017.
- Semi-structured questionnaire used in face-to-face interviews of 200 yak farmers in 8 valleys.

Conclusions

- Low overall productivity of yak husbandry systems.
- Better feeding and breeding strategies needed; these are currently investigated.

Results

- Yak keeping serves various purposes (Fig. 2).
- Herds comprise of 9.7 ± 10.0 yaks, thereof 3.6 adult females.
- Only 17.5% of farmers milk female yaks (Fig.3), average daily yield is 1.36 liter/cow.



Fig 3. Milking of yak at high altitude summer pasture.

- Yak sale serves cash purposes (95.2% of all cases).
- Selling own yaks provides an average annual revenue (AAR) of 577€ per household.
- Purchasing plus reselling of yaks yields 140€ of AAR, with differences between valleys ($p < 0.01$).
- Only 12.5% of farmers sell milk products, yielding 57€ of AAR.
- Surplus crop sales contribute 70€ of AAR.