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How Agro –ecological Transition Could Sustain Goat Keeping in Nomadic Systems of Iran

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Background and Objectives

Background

- Sheep and goat in Iran comprise 54 and 25 M head; rank 6th & 5th in the world, Nomads keep 59 % of sheep and 40 % of goat population (FAO, 2017).
- Dominant paradigm of agriculture has been based on specialization & intensification of production systems by maximizing of production factors higher yields & inputs(WDG,2017).
- Droughts and unfavourable macro-economic conditions making goat farming less profitable than ever. About 90% of Iran is classed as arid or semi-arid

Objectives

1. Overview of goat production in Iran; determinants for developments.
2. Outline sustainable goat keeping facing with agroecological challenges. for the main production systems.

Data and Methods

- Information was gathered primarily through;
 - In-depth interviews with goat producers,
 - Field expert observations.
- 5 years communication with different region farmers and experts using of social media tools and forums.
- Paper and PPT reviews from local & international researchers and workshops outlines.



Results & Discussions

Agro – ecological situation of Nomadic goat production sector

- 57% of the available animal units are sheep and goats, spread over 3 production systems; Nomadic, rural and indoor intensive production systems(Sofla,2017).
- 20% of goat population are in the Fars province and another 12% of it are in Kerman province, it means 80% of goat population are located in arid and harsh condition of the country (Statistical Centre of Iran, 2017).

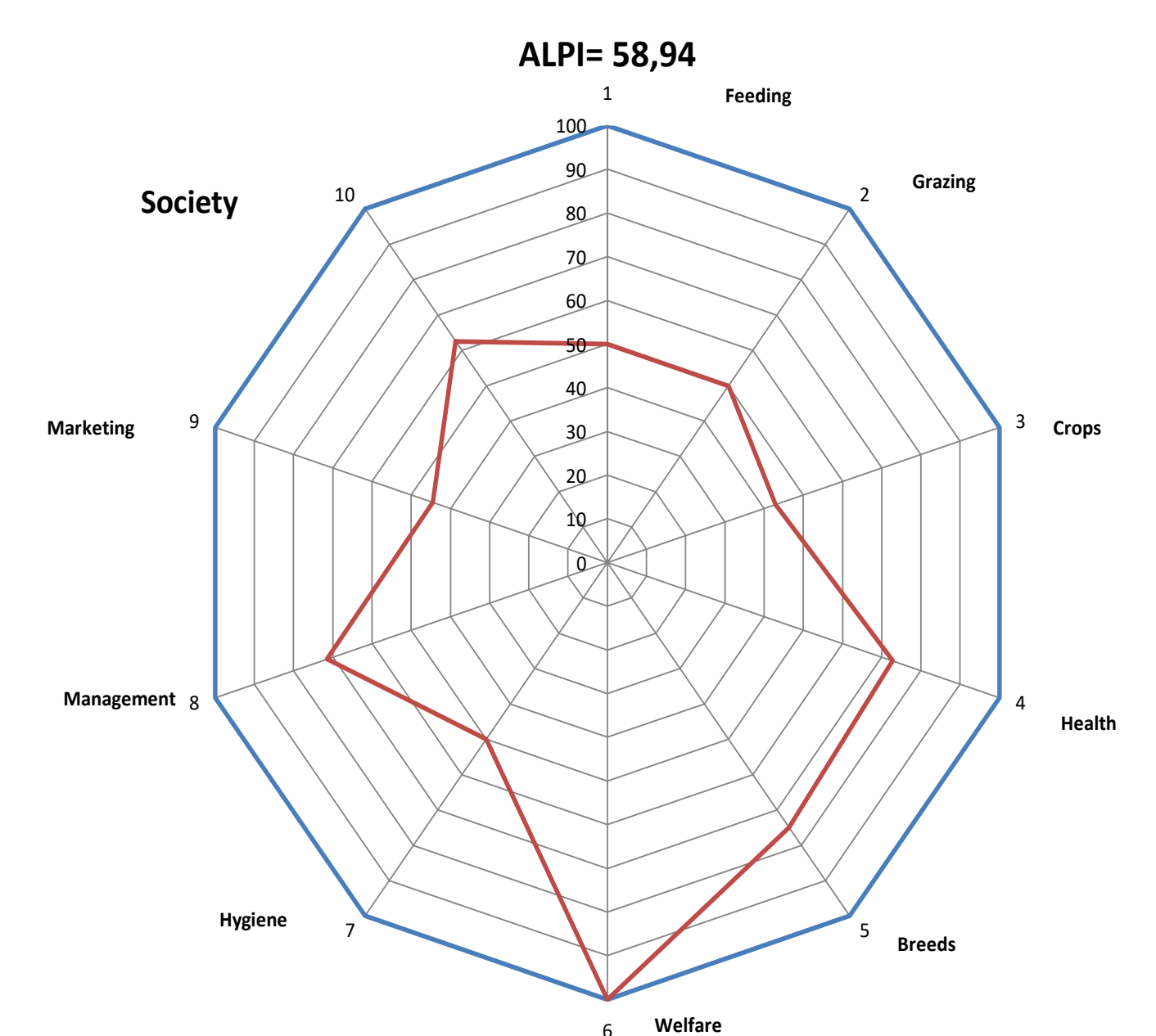
Sources of feed, type of grazing land and grazing system of goats(Ansari,2013)

| Grazing systems | % |
|-------------------|----|
| Range | 85 |
| Stubble | 15 |
| Open grass land | 38 |
| Tree covered | 23 |
| Bush/Shrub | 31 |
| Stone covered | 8 |
| Goats alone | 67 |
| with other specie | 33 |

Ranking of importance of keeping goats

| Reasons for keeping | Male animals | Female animals |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| | % of imp. | % imp. |
| Cashmere prod. | 33 | 25 |
| Milk prod. | - | 21 |
| Selling & meat cons. | 27 | 18 |
| Breeding purp. | 20 | 14 |
| Wealth & saving | 13 | 15 |
| Social acts | 7 | 7 |

- Continuous widespread droughts, sharp IRR devaluation and inflation affect motivation of farmers and investors in Nomads.



Definition of Agroecological system(Dubuef,World Goat Day.2017)

- Extraordinary hardiness and ability to adapt, as strength for nomadic.
- Productivity and household income of nomadic is highly influenced by environmental & cultural elements.
- The integrated management of animal health
- The reduction of inputs by using ecological processes & less pollutions by controlling the biological cycles
- Preserv. of biodiversity(pasture, lands., local) by adapting practices



Conclusions & recommendations

- ❖ Climate change and macro-economic conditions are pushing the compulsory transition in Iranian goat keeping.
- ❖ Redesign production systems with reference to mobilizing of local practices & organizational innovations.
- ❖ Sharing of expert knowledge and players/community experience helps to better understand what is happening and better predict the future.
- ❖ Agroecological benefits must be taken to account into sustainability.

