



Why small ruminants breeding and meat production is a challenge for local farmers in Attock region of Pakistan

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Introduction

The Asian continent contributes 61% to the total mutton and goat meat produced in the world whereas China produces 54% and Pakistan ranks third in Asia for mutton and goat meat production, after India. Sheep and goat production is one of the major economic activities under the arid and semi-arid condition of Pakistan, with census: 53.8 million goats and 26.5 million sheep. Livestock sector provides employment to a large number of rural households and about 35 million people are engaged in livestock related activities, earning about 40% of their income from it (Government of Pakistan 2002). As population of Pakistan is increasing at a faster rate of 2.6% per year (Anonymous 2005) the potential of livestock sub-sector needs to be exploited for meeting the requirements of meat and milk in the country. It was estimated that gross profit averaged in Rs: 32,475 per buffalo, 3,320 per sheep and 5,314 per goat per year (Khan and Usmani 2005). Sheep and goats are reared as a subsidiary source of livelihood in Pakistan and utilized for milk, mutton, skin and wool production. The growth pattern of goat population in Pakistan shows an annual increase of 3.04% per year (Ishaq and Zahoor-ul-haq 2007)

Aims:

The research study deals with the assessment of factors affecting the sheep and goat production and health status, additionally, it evaluates the socio-economic characteristic of small-scale livestock farmers currently in Attock Pakistan.

Identification of local breeds of livestock species (diversity, numbers) and determination of production and health parameters for sheep and goats.

Socio-economic characteristic of the small-scale livestock farmers and their meat production (security and safety).

Material and Methods:

The data is collected through self-administrated consumer questionnaire survey in the particular area and experimental observation of goat species rear under control condition most importantly the cost analysis, husbandry practices, feeding and breeding of animals is recorded and the data is compared with survey conducted in selected areas. Total land area of district Attock is 6,858 km² and it has six tehsils in it named as: Attock, Jand, Fateh Jang, Hazro, Hassan Abdal and Pindi Ghaib. There are total 349 villages and seven towns in Attock district.

Results and Discussion

About 72% farmers are male and 28% are female as shown in fig.1. More than 46% of the farmers are old age that is (46-55) as shown in fig.2. One third of the population contact with veterinary once in a month that is 33% while 29% of the farmers do not contact any veterinary doctor at all rather they prefer cultural practices as shown in fig.3. Fair majority (56%) farmer's income per animal per annum is (10001-20000 pkr) while only (20%) of farmers earn (<10000) as shown in fig.4. Additionally, Fig 5 comprehensively illustrates the small ruminant production management practice where Vaccination is high (55%) Record keeping is low (80%) care of new born is high (72%) housing of animals is high (70%) identification of animals (82%) which draws the conclusion that most farmers take good care of their livestock.

Acknowledgement

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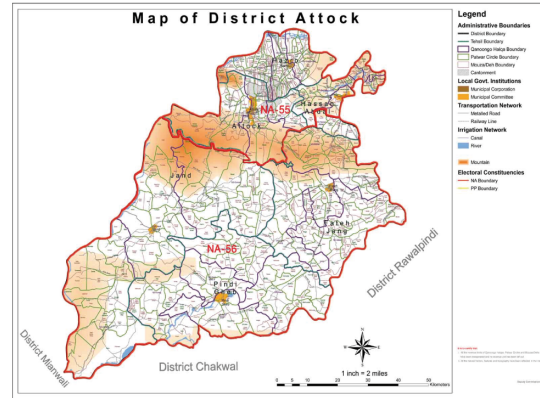


Fig 1 Gender



Fig 4 Income from small ruminant production in PKR (annual) per animal

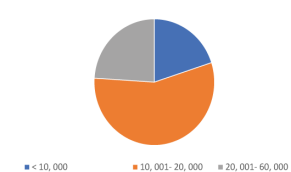


Fig 2 Age

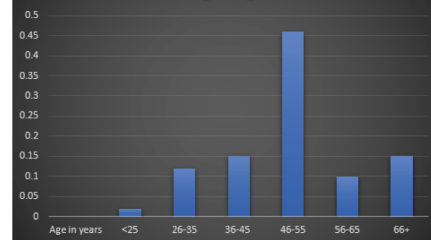


Fig 3 Contact with veterinary

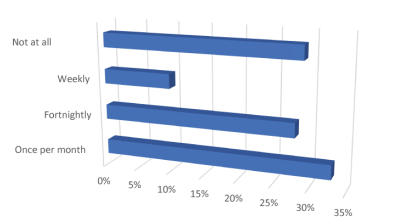


Fig 5 Knowledge

