



Socio-economic profile of goat farmers in Puducherry

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Abstract

Majority of the goat farmers in Puducherry were women(60.2 %), aged(60.6 %) and illiterate (53 %) owning an average flock size of 16 numbers of goat with a mean annual income of Rs. 34,990, with 87.9 per cent of the farmers being landless. The major primary and secondary occupation of the respondents were goat farming with an average of 12 years of experience in goat farming.

Keywords: Goat farmers, puducherry, women, illiterate.

Introduction

Livestock production is an important source of income for rural poor in India. About 70 per cent of the livestock production is in the hands of small and marginal farmers and landless labourers who own less than 30 per cent of the land area. Animal husbandry sector has a huge potential for providing gainful employment to rural women.

Goat rearing is one of the most remunerative farming enterprises in India, providing income, employment and nutritional security to millions of marginal, small farmers and agricultural labourers. India has a goat population of 148.9 millions in which puducherry is having 73,630 goats according to the 20th Livestock census. Goats are popularly known as 'Poor man's cow' and they are mostly associated with poor, landless and marginal farmers.

Materials and Methods

The Union Territory of Puducherry has a total area of 480 sq.km comprising four geographically discontinuous regions viz. Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. The region of Puducherry is administratively divided into two urban municipalities (Puducherry and Ozhukarai) and five rural communes (Ariyankuppam, Bahour, Mannadipet, Nettapakkam and Villianur). The sampling procedure followed for this study was stratified proportionate random sampling (Kothari, 2004). The sample size of 206 was randomly distributed based on the population of goat farmers in each of the communes and municipalities. The socio economic profile of the respondents was enumerated by means of a survey using pre-tested questionnaire.

Results and Discussion

Gender

The results on the gender of the farmers involved in goat farming activities are presented in Table 1. From the table it is observed that majority of the goat farmers, are women (60.2 %) followed by men (39.8 %). Similar findings were recorded in communes and municipalities with minor numerical variations. This finding is in agreement with Misra *et al.*, (2006) and Tanwar *et al.*, (2008) who found that rural women played an important and substantial role in goat farming.

Age

The results on the age of the goat farmers are presented in Table 1. From the data it is recorded that majority of goat farmers (60.06 %) belonged to the old age group. The young and middle age group comprised 35 and 4.4 per cent respectively. The old age group (60.06 %) dominated in goat farming activity in the study area. The similar trend was observed in communes and municipalities with minor numerical variations. This finding is in accordance with the observations of Deshpande (2010) who noted that majority of the goat farmers in south Gujarat were in the higher age group.

Education

From the research data in the study, 53 per cent were illiterate, whereas only 21 per cent of goat farmers were educated up to secondary level. It also showed that 13.5 per cent of the goat farmers studied primary level and meagre numbers of graduates were involved in goat farming (5.8 %). Among the communes and municipalities, majority of the goat farmers in municipalities area studied secondary education (24.6 % vs. 19.1 %) compared to communes (Table 1). The present finding is in agreement with the findings of Tanwar *et al.*, (2008). But, this finding is in contrary to that of Deshpande *et al.*, (2010) who revealed that majority of their respondents were literate.

Primary occupation

The overall primary occupation of the respondents were goat farming (63.60 %) followed by agricultural labour (29.10 %). The same trend was observed in communes and municipalities with minor numerical variation (Table 1). This finding is similar to Deshpande (2010) who found that goat farming was

the primary occupation and source of livelihood, whereas only for a small per cent of the farmers it was a source of additional income.

Secondary occupation

Majority of the goat farmer's (58.73 %) secondary occupation was goat farming followed by other occupation (24.28 %). Agricultural labour and agricultural farming were 11.66 per cent and 5.33 per cent respectively (Table 1). This finding is in line with Nipane (2016) who reported that majority (59.69 %) of the respondents had goat husbandry and labour.

Land holding

Majority of the goat farmers were landless (87.9 %) followed by small farmers (11.1 %) and medium (one %) respectively. The land holding of the goat farmers ranged from 0-4 acres and the mean land holding was 0.22 acre (Table 1). The results were almost similar to the findings of Veeranna *et al.*, (2004) who found that majority (86 %) of the goat farmers in Karnataka were landless.

Annual income

The mean family income per annum was Rs. 1,37,403 which ranged from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 2,60,000. Only 0.48 per cent of the respondent's family income was below Rs. 50,000. Majority (53.88 %) of the respondent's family income was between Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,50,000. About 45.64 per cent of the respondent's family annual income was above Rs. 1.5 lakh. The reason for rise in family income may come from other activities. These findings are contradictory to the findings of Deshpande *et al.*, (2010) who reported that the annual income of majority (82 %) of goat farmers was less than Rs. 30,000.

Income from animal husbandry

The mean income from animal husbandry per annum was Rs. 34,990 which ranged from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 1,10,000. Only 3.40 per cent of the respondent's income was above Rs. 1,00,000. Majority (53.40 %) of the respondent's family income was between Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 1,00,000. In India, goat farming has become an important secondary source of income for millions of rural families. The findings were contradicting the results of Nipane *et al.*, (2016).

Table 1: Socio economic profile of the goat farmers

Particulars		Communes (141)		Municipalities (65)		Total (206)	
		n	%	n	%	n	%
Gender of the goat farmers	Men	58	41.1%	24	36.9	82	39.8
	Women	83	58.9%	41	63.1	124	60.2
Age of the goat farmers	Upto 35 years	7	5	2	3.1	9	4.4
	35 -50 years	50	35.5	22	33.8	72	35
	50 and above	84	59.6	41	63.1	125	60.6
Education of the goat farmers	No schooling	79	56	30	46.2	109	53
	Primary	21	14.9	7	10.8	28	13.5
	Secondary	27	19.1	16	24.6	43	21
	Higher Secondary	6	4.3	8	12.3	14	6.7
	College and above	8	5.7	4	6.2	12	5.8
Primary occupation	Agricultural labour	30	21.3	10	15.4	40	19.41
	Goat farming	95	67.4	36	55.4	131	63.60
	Agricultural farming	6	4.3	7	10.8	13	6.31
	Others	10	7.1	12	18.5	22	10.68
Secondary occupation	Agricultural labour	20	14.2	4	6.2	24	11.66
	Goat farming	71	50.4	50	76.9	121	58.73
	Agricultural farming	10	7.1	1	1.5	11	5.33
	Others	40	28.4	10	15.4	50	24.28
Land holding	Landless	125	88.7	56	86.2	181	87.9
	Small(1-2.5 acres)	15	10.6	8	12.3	23	11.1
	Medium(2.5-5 acres)	1	7	1	1.5	2	1
Annual income	Below Rs.50,000	1	7	-	-	1	0.48
	Rs.50,000-Rs.1,50,000	65	46.1	46	70.8	111	53.88
	Rs. 1.5 lakh and above	75	53.2	19	29.2	94	45.64
Income from Animal Husbandry	Below Rs. 30,000	60	42.6	50	76.9	110	53.40
	Rs. 30,000 -1,00,000	75	53.2	14	21.5	89	43.20
	Rs. 1,00,000 and above	6	4.3	1	1.5	7	3.40
Flock Size	Small (1-10)	33	23.4	39	60	72	34.95
	Medium (10-20)	71	50.4	19	29.2	90	43.70
	Large(above 20)	37	26.2	7	10.8	44	21.35
Experience of goat farmers	Upto 10 years	11	50.4	43	66.2	114	55.34
	11-20 years	49	34.8	19	29.2	68	33
	21-30 years	19	13.5	2	3.1	21	10.20
	31 and above	2	1.4	1	1.5	3	1.46

Flock size

Majority of the respondents (43.70 %) had medium flock size, followed by small (34.95 %) and large (21.35 %) flock size. The flock size of the goat farmers ranged from 5 to 50 numbers and the mean flock size was 16.66. The results were more or less similar with the results of Sharma *et al.*, (2007) and JayaShree *et al.*, (2014).

Source of animal purchase

Of the 206 respondents included in the study, the source of animal purchase for the majority (52.92 %) of the respondent's belonged to own farm bred category, followed by 47.08 per cent respondents purchasing from traders. The results were in line with Ojha *et al.*, (1993) that 60 per cent of the goat farmers in Mathura used to procure their goats from other goat farmers and 20 per cent from traders.

Experience in goat farming

Of the 206 respondents included in the study, 55.34 per cent of the respondents were having experience in goat farming up to 10 years, while 11-20 years and 21-30 years and above categories were 33 per cent and 10.20 per cent respectively. Experience of the goat farmers ranged from 2-35 years and the mean experience of the goat farmers was 12.07. These findings are in line with Ojha *et al.*, (1993) that majority of the goat families in Mathura was having an experience of more than 5 years in goat farming.

Conclusion

Majority of the goat farmers were aged (60.06 %), landless, women and illiterate (53 %) owning an average flock size of 16 numbers. Average annual income of the goat farmers was Rs. 1,37, 403. Majority of the goat farmers had goat farming as main occupation with an average experience of 12 years.

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