

CONSTRAINTS IN GOAT FARMING PERCEIVED BY FARM WOMEN IN ERODE DISTRICT OF TAMILNADU

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Abstract: The present study was carried out to analyse the constraints perceived by the farm women in goat farming in Erode District of Tamilnadu. A total 120 farm women having actively involved in goat rearing were randomly selected from the study area for the study. The data was collected through a semi-structured interview schedule containing a list of constraints and the farm women were asked to rank them. The data were tabulated and Garretts' ranking technique was adopted to analyze the constraints as perceived by the respondents. The study revealed that shrinking of grazing land / lack of grazing land, inadequate availability of breeding buck (non-availability of improved breeding bucks), lack of veterinary services at the door step at time of emergency (lack of veterinary aid) and middleman not providing remunerative price to kids were the main constraints in the major domain of feeding, breeding, health care and marketing.

Keywords: Constraints, Goat Farming, Farm women.

Introduction

Goat rearing is an important enterprise not only for livelihood of weaker section of society but it also helps in meeting nutritional requirement of farm families. Goats are generally maintained on grazing/browsing with supplementary feeding of locally available crop residues and agro-industrial byproducts. Goat can consume a variety of vegetation, which are not useful for other species of livestock (Tanwar, 2011). Goat rearing as a micro enterprises in animal husbandry sector have considerable potential as sustainable income generating activities for the rural women since the management of goats is less labour and input intensive. Goat provides a dependable source of income to 40% of the rural population below the poverty line in India and to many who do not possess any land. Constraints are the problems or the difficulties faced by the goat farmers in the day to day management of goat husbandry practices. In India, rural people are facing a variety of advent like flood and droughts etc., in such advent conditions goat husbandry act as an important source of

livelihood for the rural poor, particularly for women, landless and marginal farmers living in the interior areas, who do not have other means of survival. Goat is ideally suited for the poorest of the poor because of short gestation period, low risk capital investment and low cost of maintenance (Gopal *et al.*2010). Keeping this in view, the present study was taken up with the objectives to identify the constraints perceived by the farm women in goat farming in Erode District of Tamilnadu.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in Erode District of Tamilnadu state of India. A total of 120 farm women having actively involved in goat rearing were randomly selected from the study. An interview schedule containing a list of constraints in various major domains on the basis of objective was developed with the consultation of subject matter specialists and also by review of literatures and it was pre-tested with representative population of study area other than final respondent. The data was collected by using this pre-tested interview schedule and the farm women were asked to rank the listed constraints as they perceive important and which were limiting the goat farming activities.

Garretts' ranking technique was adopted to analyze the constraints perceived by the farm women. The percentage position of each rank was converted into scores using Garrett table. For each constraint, scores of individual farm women were added together and were divided by total number of respondents for whom scores were added. Thus, mean score for each constraint was ranked by arranging them in descending order.

Results and Discussion

1. Constraints in Feeding

Feeding constraints perceived by the farm women in goat farming are summarized in Table1. It reveals that shrinking of grazing land / lack of grazing land was the most important constraint with a mean score of 76 (rank 1st), followed by non-availability of green fodder with a mean score 64.9 (rank 2nd), lack of knowledge about balanced feeding with a mean score 57(rank 3rd), lack of irrigation facilities with a mean score 48.1(rank 4th), lack of knowledge about importance of mineral mixture with a mean score 38.2(rank 5th), problems in availing good quality feed for goats with a mean score 34.1(rank 6th) and high cost of feed and fodder with a mean score 31.3(rank 7th). This finding implies that there should be concerted efforts and action on the part of the authorities concerned to ensure the farm women adequate access to the required resources, educate them about balanced feeding and

to insist them to plant fodder trees in the pasture land to overcome the feed problem. These findings are in line with those of Braj Mohan *et al.* (2009) and Tanwar (2011).

Table 1. Garrets ranking method - Feeding constraints perceived by the farm women in goat farming

S.No	Factors	Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
1	Lack of knowledge about balanced feeding.	685	57.0	III
2	High cost of feed and fodder.	394	31.3	VII
3	Lack of irrigation facilities.	632	48.1	IV
4	Non-availability of green fodder.	748	64.9	II
5	Lack of knowledge about importance of mineral mixture	454	38.2	V
6	Shrinking of grazing land / Lack of grazing land	796	76.0	I
7	Problems in availing good quality feed for goats	441	34.1	VI

2. Constraints in Breeding

It is evident from Table 2, the most important breeding constraints perceived by the farm women in goat farming was inadequate availability of breeding buck (non-availability of improved breeding bucks) with a mean score 68 (rank 1st). This infers that there should be provision of availability of improved breeding bucks on low price to the rural farm women involved in goat farming. The second important breeding constraints perceived by the farm women in goat farming was indiscriminate breeding with a mean score 58(rank 2nd) followed by lack of knowledge about breeding practices with a mean score 41.3(rank 3rd) and delay in puberty in goat with a mean score 38.5 (rank 4th). This finding underlines the need for organizing periodical training programmes for farm women in breeding management to improve and update their knowledge in breeding aspects in goat farming. These findings are similar to those reported by Braj Mohan *et al.*(2009),Wani *et al.*(2009), Tanwar *et al.*(2010) and Tanwar (2011).

Table 2. Garrets ranking method - Breeding constraints perceived by the farm women in goat farming

S.No	Factors	Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
1	Inadequate availability of breeding buck (Non-availability of improved breeding bucks)	727	68.0	I
2	Lack of knowledge about breeding practices.	648	41.3	III
3	Indiscriminate breeding.	682	58.0	II
4	Delay in puberty in goat.	626	38.5	IV

3. Constraints in Health care

Constraints related to health care are shown in Table3. It depicts that lack of veterinary services at the door step at time of emergency (lack of veterinary aid) was the most important constraint with a mean score of 78 (rank 1st), followed by high cost of treatment with a mean score of 71 (rank 2nd), inability to cope with disease problems in goats with a mean score 68 (rank 3rd), ignorance about importance of deworming with a mean score 62.3 (rank 4th), non-availability of vaccination facility against contagious diseases with a mean score 52 (rank 5th), lack of knowledge about goat diseases with a mean score 48 (rank 6th), lack of knowledge about prevalent common diseases with a mean score 44 (rank 7th) and non-availability of medicines with a mean score 38.2 (rank 8th). The findings reflect the need of provision of availability of veterinary doctors at the door steps in time of need with low cost of treatment to the goat farmers and there should be a special provision to impart frequent training to rural women involved in goat farming in the areas of animal health care and disease control aspects. Also, the finding highlights the need of providing adequate facility of vaccination against contagious diseases of goats and availability of medicines at low cost to the rural farm women in goat farming. The findings are in accordance with those reported by Braj Mohan et al. (2009), Patil et al. (2009), Tanwar et al. (2010) and Tanwar (2011).

Table 3. Garrets ranking method – Health care constraints perceived by the farm women in goat farming

S.No	Factors	Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
1	Lack of veterinary services at the door step at time of emergency. (Lack of veterinary aid)	786	78.0	I
2	High cost of treatment.	768	71.0	II
3	Ignorance about importance of deworming.	682	62.3	IV
4	Lack of knowledge about prevalent common diseases.	614	44.0	VII
5	Non-availability of medicines.	454	38.2	VIII
6	Non-availability of vaccination facility against contagious diseases.	642	52.0	V
7	Lack of knowledge about goat diseases.	628	48.0	VI
8	Inability to cope with disease problems in goats.	722	68.0	III

4. Constraints in Marketing

The data in Table4 indicates the marketing constraints perceived by the farm women in goat farming. It could be observed that middleman not providing remunerative price to kids with a mean score of 72 (rank 1st) was the most important marketing constraint perceived by the farm women in goat farming followed by unorganized goat owners with a mean score of 69.2 (rank 2nd), lack of marketing infrastructure with a mean score 66 (rank 3rd), inability to procure good quality goat breeds with a mean score 58(rank 4th), no agency help in marketing with a mean score 44(rank 5th), distant goat market with a mean score 36.4(rank 6th) and inability to find market for goats' milk and kids with a mean score 34.2(rank 7th).The finding implies that there is a need to establish an efficient marketing network along with developing a research and development wing to identify the market demands and provide market information to the entrepreneurial units and also training in goat entrepreneurship is essential to develop the entrepreneurial skills of farm women in goat farming activities. The finding is in line with those of Braj Mohan et al.(2009), Tanwar et al.(2010) and Tanwar (2011).

Table 4. Garrets ranking method – Marketing constraints perceived by the farm women in goat farming

S. No	Factors	Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
1	Lack of marketing infrastructure.	684	66.0	III
2	Middleman not providing remunerative price to kids.	758	72.0	I
3	Unorganized goat owners.	714	69.2	II
4	No agency help in marketing.	554	44.0	V
5	Inability to procure good quality goat breeds.	614	58.0	IV
6	Distant goat market.	522	36.4	VI
7	Inability to find market for goats' milk and kids.	510	34.2	VII

Conclusion

The study revealed that shrinking of grazing land / lack of grazing land, inadequate availability of breeding buck (non-availability of improved breeding bucks), lack of veterinary services at the door step at time of emergency (lack of veterinary aid) and middleman not providing remunerative price to kids were the main feeding, breeding, health care and marketing constraints perceived by the farm women in goat farming in Erode District of Tamilnadu. Hence, there is a need to educate farm women and organize the training in goat farming practices to get more profit out of the enterprise. The government, co-operative or the private organization should take necessary steps to ensure that the farm women procure adequate resources and infrastructure facilities required for smooth running of the enterprise.

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