*International Research Journal of Social Sciences*_____ ISSN 2319–3565
Vol. **4(3),** 1-6, March **(2015)** *Int. Res. J. Social Sci.*

Knowledge and Attitude of the Benenificiaries of Livestock Development for Livelihood Support (Ldls) Programme in Goat Farming in Wayanad District of Kerala, India

Chethan G.N.,[1] Senthil Kumar R.,[1] Rajkamal P.J.[1] and Chandra Mohan B.[2]
[1]Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Pookode, Wayanad, Kerala, INDIA
[2]KVASU Centre for Wildlife Studies, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Pookode, Wayanad, Kerala, INDIA

Available online at: www.isca.in, www.isca.me
Received 24th August 2014, revised 11th February 2015, accepted 9th March 2015

Abstract

A questioner survey was conducted among150 beneficiaries of Livestock Development for Livelihood Support (LDLS) programme to understand the knowledge and attitude of the LDLS programme beneficiaries in goat farming in Wayanad district of Kerala state. The study revealed that majority of the beneficiaries had moderately favourable attitude (42.67%) towards goat farming and also moderately knowledgeable (42.00%) in goat farming. Further investigation on beneficiaries' knowledge level revealed that only few beneficiaries had adequate knowledge about breeding, housing and health care aspects of goat farming. Comparatively higher proportion of beneficiaries had adequate knowledge about feeding and managemental practices of goats.

Keywords: Goat farming, attitude, knowledge, LDLS.

Introduction

Goat farming is one of the important sustainable livelihood livestock ventures among the farming communities in Kerala. This is particularly more so to the economically backward section of farming community because of its inherent advantageous characteristics like low initial investment, low maintenance *etc.*[1] LDLS was implemented during 2011-12 by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Kerala to uplift the socio economic conditions of the livestock farmers. Beneficiaries of this programme had received two adult female goats along with one pregnant heifer and ten poultry chicks. Accomplishment of desired ends of such schemes depends not only on inputs received by the farmers but also on their level of knowledge and attitude towards their respective farming. Moreover, a favourable attitude and a sound knowledge plays a key role in improving goat farming practices to derive maximum output from the farm. It was found that the lack of knowledge about improved goat farming and goat diseases were some of the important constraints faced by the goat farmers of Mathura district in Uttar Pradesh[2]. Similarly, women goat farmers of Erode district perceived that the lack of knowledge about feeding, health care and breeding of goats were important constraints[3]. Moreover, the failure to impart knowledge on animal husbandry practices to project beneficiaries prior to obtaining the inputs could be a contributory factor to their poor performance[4]. Hence, a study was conducted among the beneficiaries of LDLS programme in Wayanad district of Kerala to find out their knowledge and attitude towards goat farming.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in five randomly selected gram panchayath from each three taluks (Vythiri, Sulthan batheri and Mananthavady) of Wayanad district. From each grama panchayat an equal number (n =10) of beneficiaries were selected randomly. In total150 beneficiaries of LDLS programme was selected by applying stratified multistage random sampling technique. The data were collected with the help of a well-structured pretested interview schedule.

Attitude towards goat farming: In the present study, the attitude and knowledge towards goat rearing were studied. The attitude towards goat rearing was measured by using the scale developed by Rajkamal and Kunzru[5]. The beneficiaries were categorized into three groups *viz.,* highly favourable, moderately favourable and less favourable applying Dalenius and Hodges Cumulative Square root Frequency method.

Based on the attitude scores obtained, the beneficiaries were categorized as follows.

Table-1
Category of Beneficiaries

Category	Score
High	Above 25.01
Moderate	21.01 to 25.00
Less	Less than 21.00

Knowledge of goat farming: Knowledge level of beneficiaries regarding goat farming was accessed by adopting knowledge test developed by George *et al*[6]. On the basis of scores obtained, the beneficiaries were categorised as highly knowledgeable, moderately knowledgeable and less knowledgeable applying Dalenius and Hodges Cumulative Square root Frequency method.

Based on the knowledge scores obtained, the beneficiaries were categorized as follows.

Table-2

Category	Score
High	Above 8.01
Medium	5.01 to 8.00
Less	Less than 5.00

Results and Discussion

The present study was conducted among the beneficiaries of LDLS programme in Wayanad district of Kerala to find out their attitude towards goat farming and level of knowledge in goat farming.

Attitude towards goat farming: The data obtained from the study indicated that just more than two-fifth of beneficiaries (42.67 per cent) were having moderately favorable attitude towards goat rearing whereas 34.67 per cent and 22.66 per cent of beneficiaries (figure-1) were having highly favorable and less favorable attitude respectively. The lack of ebullience for investing in goat production appears to originate from the perception that goats are difficult to manage[7].

Knowledge of goat farming: Knowledge of farming practices improve the profitability of any livestock enterprise, hence it is important to have sound knowledge in all aspects of livestock farming. The analysis collected data indicated that almost an equal proportion of beneficiaries were moderately knowledgeable (42.00%) and less knowledgeable (40.67%) but only 17.33 per cent of beneficiaries were highly knowledgeable about goat farming (figure-2). It was reported that majority of women self-help group members had medium level of knowledge of goat farming in Thrissur district[8].

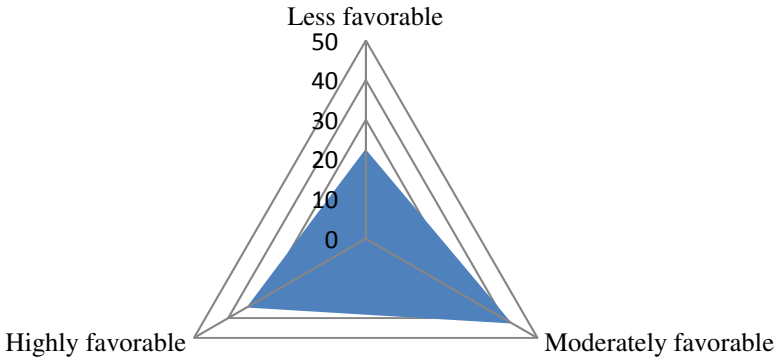

Figure-1
Distribution of beneficiaries (n=150) based on attitude towards goat farming (in percentage)

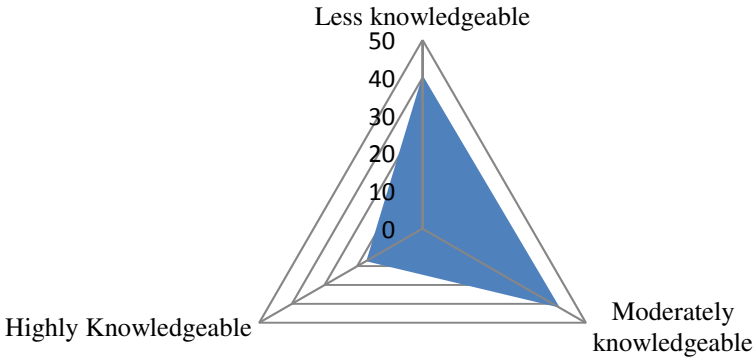

Figure-2
Distribution of beneficiaries (n = 150) based on knowledge of goat farming (in percentage)

Analysis of data indicated that, the knowledge level of beneficiaries on breeding aspects of goat was inadequate. Considerably only few beneficiaries (14.00%) knew the male to female ratio to be optimum in a small unit. Just 4.00 per cent of the beneficiaries had knowledge on maximum age up to which breeding bucks could be used for reproduction. Similar trend was observed in the knowledge level of breeding aspects of does. Appropriate does puberty age and its maximum reproductive span were correctly ascertained by 18.66 per cent and 14.00 per cent of beneficiaries respectively. The correct gestation period of goats was determined by comparatively more number of beneficiaries (32.66%) (figure-3). A similar finding was also reported that lack of knowledge about breeding practices was a constraint perceived by the farm women of goat farming in Erode district[5].

Housing system and stocking density of goats affects the occurrence of respiratory infections. At the same time knowledge of housing is also equally essential in order to reduce managemental stress, which ultimately affects the profitability of farm. Respiratory infections and pneumonia are considered to be predominant and serious disease in goats. It occurs as a result of stress, which may also due to poor air quality (high ammonia in confinement or dusty conditions in corrals), or a combination of biotic/abiotic stress factors[9]. The information on knowledge of goat housing revealed that very few beneficiaries (8.66%) had correctly specified the space requirement for does housing. However beneficiaries who had correctly mentioned the height of the goat pen from the ground were 32.00 per cent. Substantially more beneficiaries (30.66%) had opined for separate housing of bucks and does (figure-4).

The investigation on knowledge about feeding of goat brought out that nearly half of the beneficiaries mentioned, fattening of breeding bucks by over feeding should be avoided. Majority (68.66%) of the beneficiaries knew that milking goat needs more energy. Green grass requirement of goats could correctly mentioned by more than one fourth of beneficiaries (28.00%). The hazards of feeding left over to goats was knew by notable number of beneficiaries (62.00%) (figure-5). Lack of knowledge about balanced feeding and importance of mineral mixture were perceived as feeding constraints by the farm women in goat farming in Erode district[3].

The analysis of the manage mental aspects of goat farming inferred that the marketing age of young ones and goats that reared for meat purpose was positively answered by 16.00 per cent and 12.66 per cent of beneficiaries respectively. Maximum age up to which female goats could be reared profitably was known by nearly one fourth of beneficiaries. The age at which separation of male and female goats was mentioned by very few beneficiaries (7.33%). The other breeding and manage mental aspects where, comparatively higher beneficiaries had sound knowledge was normal presentation of newborns while kidding (42.66%) and duration with in which colostrums should be fed to goats (44.00%). Notable numbers of beneficiaries were also aware of common goat breeds of Kerala (62.66%) (figure-6)

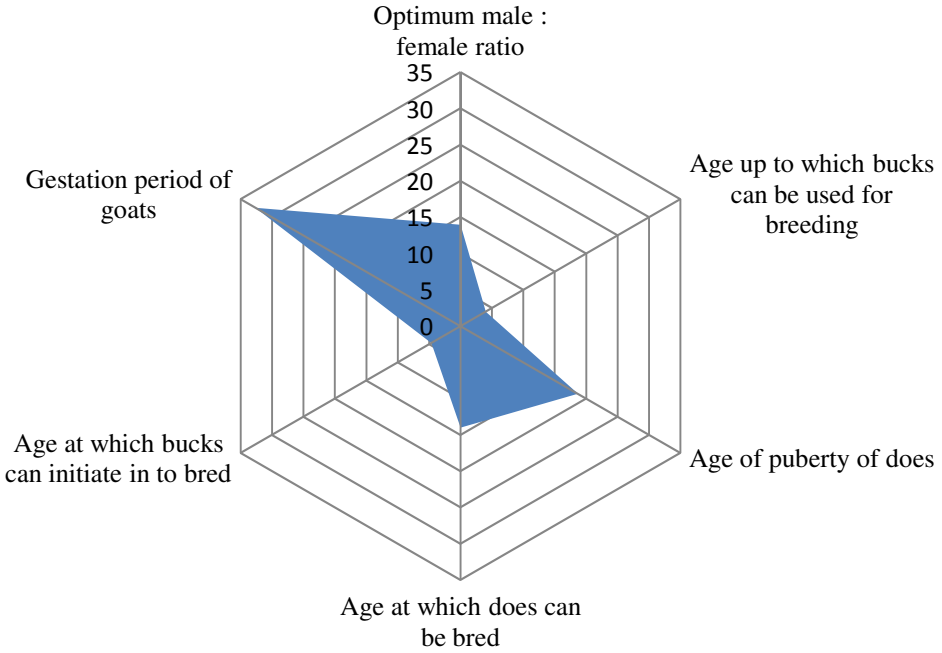

Figure-3
Distribution of beneficiaries (n=150) based on knowledge about goat breeding practices (in percentage)

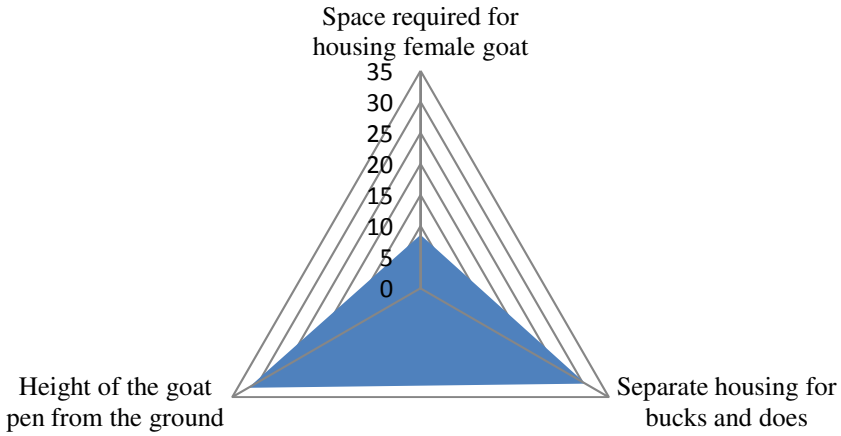

Figure-4
Distribution of beneficiaries (n=150) based based on knowledge about housing of goats (in percentage)

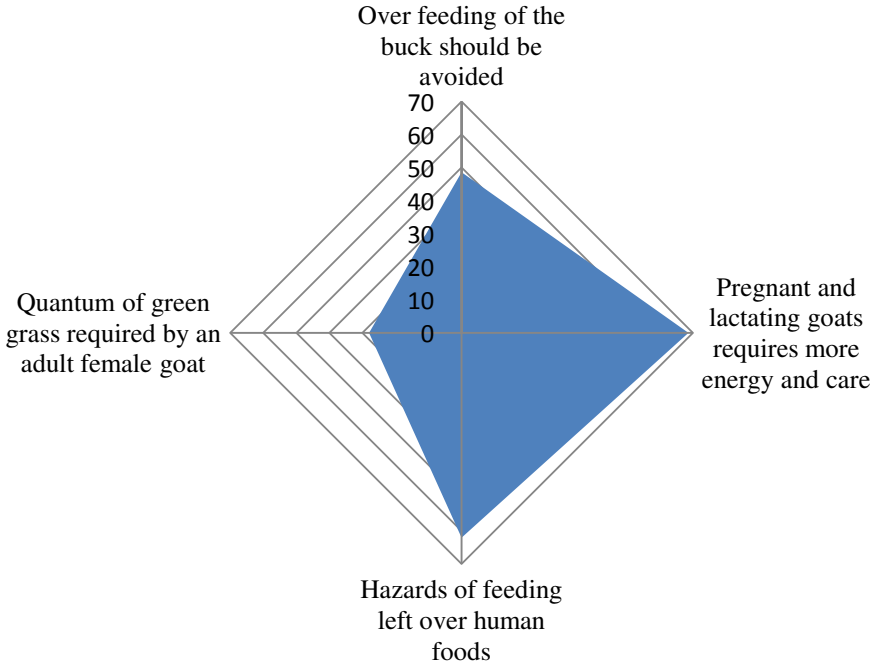

Figure-5
Distribution of beneficiaries (n=150) based on knowledge about feeding of goats (in percentage)

Parasites pose a significant threat to the health of small ruminants. Parasites can damage the gastrointestinal tract, which results in reduced reproductive performance, reduced growth rates, less productive animals in terms of meat, fibre and milk and even death[7]. Only few beneficiaries (8.00 %) had correct knowledge about the deworming schedule of kids, and deworming of adult and pregnant goats. Regarding vaccination of goats against foot and mouth disease, only one fourth of beneficiaries studied were having appropriate knowledge about foot and mouth disease and its vaccination in goats (figure-7). Lack of knowledge about prevalent and common goat diseases was health care constraints perceived by the farm women in goat farming among goat farmers of Erode district[9].

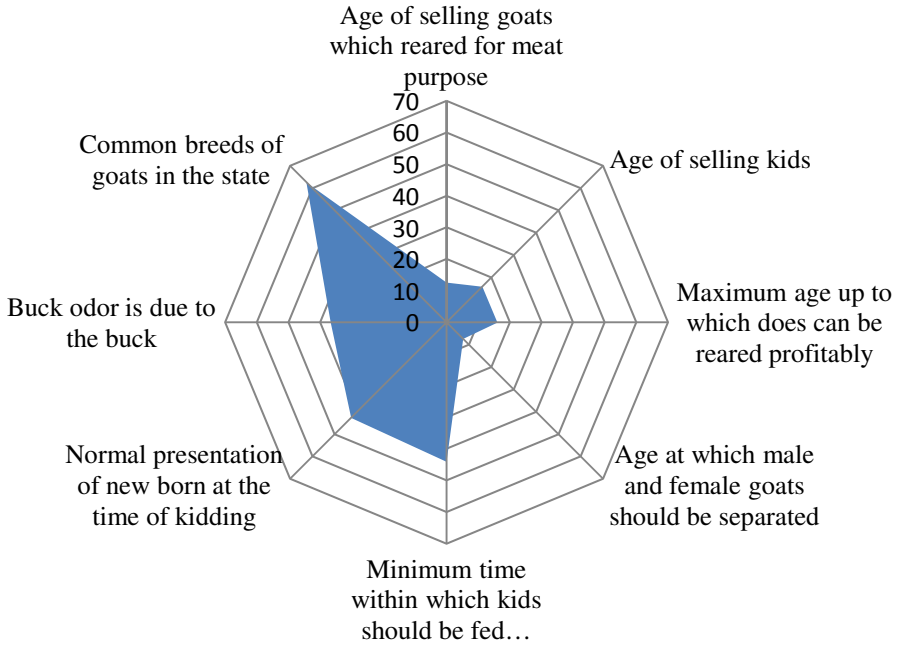

Figure-6
Distribution of beneficiaries (n=150) based on knowledge about goat management practices (in percentage)

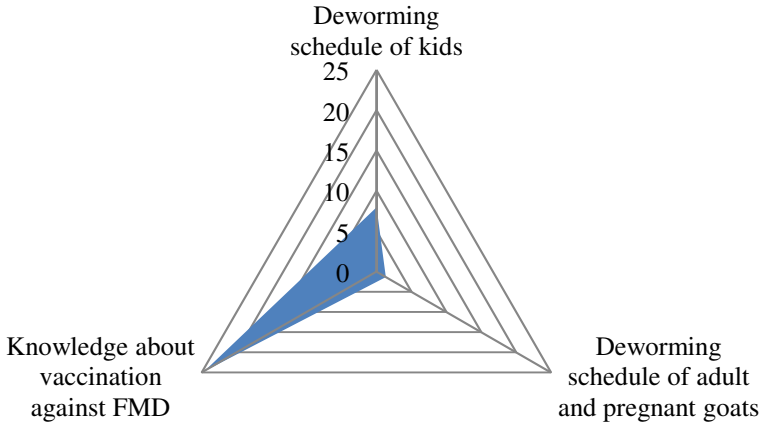

Figure-7
Distribution of beneficiaries (n=150) based on knowledge about diseases and deworming of goats (in percentage)

Conclusion

Present study revealed that majority of beneficiaries had moderately favourable attitude and moderately knowledge towards goat rearing. Regarding knowledge level of various aspects of goat farming, beneficiaries were adequately knowledgeable on feeding and managemental aspects of goat farming. Whereas beneficiaries were not sound enough on breeding, housing and health care aspects of goat farming. In order to accomplish any livestock development programmes,

knowledge level of beneficiaries plays a prime role. It also important to include training programmes for beneficiaries, as a component of programme. Moreover, the training programmes should concern the knowledge aspects where beneficiaries show lacunae.

References

1. Gopala G.T., Veeranna K.C. and Radder S.K. Constraints in goat farming in Bidar district of Karnataka state, Res. *J. Ani. Husbandry and Dairy Sci.,* **1(2)**, 80-82 **(2010)**

2. Mohan B., Sagar R.L. and Singh K., Factors related to promotion of scientific goat farming, *Indian Res. J. Ext. Edu.,* **9(3),** 47-50 **(2009)**

3. Rajkumar N.V. and Kavithaa N.V., Constraints in goat farming perceived by farm women in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. *Int. J. Sci., Environ. Technol,* **3(1),** 116-122 **(2014)**

4. Moreki J.C. and Kopano T., Evaluation of Performance of the Poverty Alleviation Component of Livestock Management and Infrastructure Development Support Programme in Letlhakeng Sub-district, Botswana, *Online International Interdisciplinary Res. J.,* **4**, 166-178 **(2014)**

5. Rajkamal P.J. and Kunzru O.N. A scale to measure attitude of farmers towards goat rearing, *J. Ext. Edu* .**9,** 2177-2182 **(1998)**

6. George P.R., Ranganathan T.T., Simon S. and Pradeep C.A., Knowledge of farm women of Wayanad district, Kerala about goat rearing practices, *Indian J. Anim. Res.,* **44 (1)**, 61-63 **(2010)**

7. Mahanjana A.M. and Cronje P.B. Factors affecting goat production in a communal farming system in the Eastern Cape region of South Africa, *South African Journal of Animal Science*, **30(2)**, 149–154 **(2000)**

8. Kavithaa N.V., Jiji R.S. and Rajkumar N.V., Knowledge and attitude of the members of women self – help groups in goat farming in Thrissur district, *Int. J.Sci., Environ. Technol.,* **3(1)**, 198–202 **(2014)**

9. Pezzanite L., Neary M., Hutchens T. and Scharko P., *Common diseases and health problems in sheep and goats.* News letter. Volume AS-595-W. Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service, West Lafayette. **(2011)**