

Original Research Article

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## Training Needs of Goat Entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu

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### ABSTRACT

The study was conducted on the entrepreneurs interested in goat farming in the state of Tamil Nadu. The training needs of the selected goat entrepreneurs were assessed in six major areas viz. management, breeding, feeding, housing, health care and marketing and record keeping. The study revealed that in the area of Goat care and management, Care and management of kid was perceived to be the most important training need followed by Housing system and its cleaning. With respect to feeding management, maximum training need was expressed about feeding of pregnant does and its importance followed by feeding of buck and its importance. Practices for increasing twinning and triplets percentage was the most needed training sub area in the area of breeding management. Most needed training sub area reported by goat entrepreneurs were information about disease and prevention and destruction of internal and external parasites and its importance in disease and health care management. Training on tools for profitable goat farming was the most needed training sub area in the area of marketing and record keeping.

#### Keywords

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### Introduction

Goat farming is one of the various important livestock enterprises which supports the rural households by providing employment and steady income for the rural masses. India is among the highest small ruminants holding countries in the world having 15 per cent of world's goat and 6 per cent of sheep (SA

PPLPP, 2011) and goat is considered as 'poor man's cow' and 'mobile bank', as goat enterprise needs less inputs and yields high rates of return. In this context, small ruminants especially goat has a tremendous potential to be projected as 'future animal' for both rural and urban India (CIRG, 2011). Goat production in India has low productivity per se which may be attributed to various

factors like shortage of feed and fodder, lack of scientific knowledge, rearing non-descript breeds, low fertility etc. which are also considered to be the major constraints of goat farming (Landge, 2004). It is observed that, there is a gap between management practices followed by the farmers and the available scientific technologies. Hence, need based training programmes are very essential for transfer of technologies at field conditions. Identifying training needs involves establishing areas where individuals lack skills, knowledge and ability in effectively performing the operations and also identifying organizational constraints that are creating road blocks in the performance (Mirza, 2005). With this background, the present study was conducted to analyse the training needs of the goat entrepreneurs.

### **Materials and Methods**

The present study was conducted on the entrepreneurs interested in goat farming in the state of TamilNadu. A questionnaire was developed in consultation with experts and relevant literature. The training needs of the selected goat entrepreneurs were assessed in six major areas viz. management, breeding, feeding, housing, health care and marketing & record keeping. Further, major areas were sub divided into various minor areas and training needs of the goat entrepreneurs were retrieved by using three point scale viz. Most needed, Needed and Least Needed.

### **Option (Response category) Score**

Most Needed (MN) =3

Needed (N)=2

Least Needed (LN)=1

Weighted Score (WS)= (No. of MN × 3) + (No. of N × 2)+ (No. of LN × 1)

The Training Need Index (TNI) was computed with the help of following formula (Patil and Kokate, 2011).

**Training Need Index** =

$$\frac{\text{Total Obtained Score}}{\text{Maximum Obtainable Score}} \times 100$$

The collected data were scored, tabulated, and analysed by using frequency, percentage, weighted mean and ranking.

### **Results and Discussion**

Among the respondents who attended the training, majority (93.33%) were male and the rest were female (6.67%).

Majority of them (56.67%) belong to middle age followed by young (23.33%) and middle age (20%).

It is evident from Table 3 that Care and management of kid (TNI = 96.67) was the most important training area followed by Housing system and its cleaning (TNI = 94.44), care of does before, after and at the time of kidding, methods of goat rearing and its importance (TNI= 93.33), importance of colostrum (TNI= 90.00), castration of kid for sale and its importance, breeds of goats and its importance (TNI = 87.73) and care and management of milking does (TNI = 86.67) respectively. Care and management of kids was given first rank because mortality of young ones can be reduced by adopting scientific management practices and regular replacement stock of flock which tends to increase the profitability of enterprise. These findings are not in line with Tekale (2013).

Table 4 depicted that among various practices in feeding management, feeding of does and pregnant does and its importance (TNI = 97.78) was ranked first followed by feeding of buck and its importance (TNI = 95.56), care about feeding of does before and after kidding (TNI= 94.44), importance of mineral mixture in feeding (TNI = 93.33), feeding of kids and its importance, fodder production for goat and its importance, storage of fodder and its benefits, enrichment of poor quality

roughages (TNI = 92.22) respectively. Similar findings were reported by Jena (2018). Sound feeding management at important stages provides effective way to improve the productivity of farm and also the number of offsprings born.

Table 5 revealed that majority of the respondents felt practices for increasing twinning and triplets percentage (TNI = 96.67), followed by selection and its

importance of male and female goat for breeding, flushing procedure for synchronization of estrus (TNI = 95.56), methods of breeding for improving the good genetic potentiality (TNI = 94.44). These findings are in conformity to the observation found by Jena (2018). The probable reason behind this result might be due to the fact that higher returns are possible with twins and triplets born in the flock.

**Table.1** Distribution of respondents according to gender

S.No.	Gender	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Male	28	93.33
2.	Female	02	6.67

**Table.2** Distribution of respondents according to age

S.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Young age (<35 years )	07	23.33
2.	Middle age (35-50 years)	17	56.67
3.	Old age (>50 years)	06	20

**Table.3** Training needs in Goat care and Management

S.No.	Training areas	Most Needed	Needed	Weighted mean score	Mean score	TNI	Rank
1.	Methods of goat rearing and its importance	24 (80%)	06 (20%)	84.00	2.80	93.33	III
2.	Breeds of goat and its importance	19 (63.33%)	11 (36.67%)	79.00	2.63	87.78	V
3.	Care of does before, after and at the time of kidding	24 (80%)	06 (20%)	84.00	2.80	93.33	III
4.	Care and management of kid	27 (90%)	03 (10%)	87.00	2.90	96.67	I
5.	Importance of colostrum	21 (70%)	09 (30%)	81.00	2.70	90.00	IV
6.	Care and management of milking does	18 (60%)	12 (40%)	78.00	2.60	86.67	VI
7.	Castration of kid for sale and its importance	19 (63.33%)	11 (36.67%)	79.00	2.63	87.78	V
8.	Housing system and its cleaning	25 (83.33%)	05 (16.67%)	85.00	2.83	94.44	II

**Table.4 Training needs in Feeding Management**

S.No.	Training areas	Most Needed	Needed	Weighted mean score	Mean score	TNI	Rank
1.	Feeding of pregnant does and its importance	28 (93.33%)	02 (6.67%)	88.00	2.93	97.78	I
2.	Care about feeding of does before and after kidding	25 (83.33%)	05 (16.67%)	85.00	2.83	94.44	III
3.	Feeding of kids and its importance	23 (76.67%)	07 (23.33%)	83.00	2.77	92.22	V
4.	Feeding of buck and its importance	26 (86.67%)	04 (13.33%)	86.00	2.87	95.56	II
5.	Fodder production for goat and its importance	23 (76.67%)	07 (23.33%)	83.00	2.77	92.22	V
6.	Storage of fodder and its benefits	23 (76.67%)	07 (23.33%)	83.00	2.77	92.22	V
7.	Enrichment of poor quality roughages	23 (76.67%)	07 (23.33%)	83.00	2.77	92.22	V
8.	Importance of mineral mixture in feeding	24 (80%)	06 (20%)	84.00	2.80	93.33	IV

**Table.5 Training needs in Breeding Management**

S.No.	Training areas	Most Needed	Needed	Weighted mean score	Mean score	TNI	Rank
1.	Selection and its importance of male and female goat for breeding	26 (86.67%)	04 (13.33%)	86.00	2.87	95.56	II
2.	Practices for increasing twinning and triplets percentage	27 (90%)	03 (10%)	87.00	2.90	96.67	I
3.	Methods of breeding for improving the good genetic potentiality	25 (83.33%)	05 (16.67%)	85.00	2.83	94.44	III
4.	Flushing procedure for synchronization of oestrus	26 (86.67%)	04 (13.33%)	86.00	2.87	95.56	II

**Table.6** Training needs in Disease and Health Care Management

S.No.	Training areas	Most Needed	Needed	Weighted mean score	Mean score	TNI	Rank
1.	Vaccination for prevention of contagious diseases and its importance	25 (83.33%)	05 (16.67%)	85.00	2.83	94.44	III
2.	Information about disease i.e. mastitis, ET, BQ, Pox, pneumonia	29 (96.67%)	01 (3.33%)	89.00	2.97	98.89	I
3.	Information about cutting of navel cord and its importance	28 (93.33%)	02 (6.67%)	88.00	2.93	97.78	II
4.	Prevention and destruction of internal and external parasites and its importance	29 (96.67%)	01 (3.33%)	89.00	2.97	98.89	I
5.	Diseases of goat and home remedies	28 (93.33%)	02 (6.67%)	88.00	2.93	97.78	II
6.	Ethnoveterinary practices for treatment	24 (80%)	06 (20%)	84.00	2.80	93.33	IV

**Table.7** Training needs in Marketing and Record Keeping

S.No.	Training areas	Most Needed	Needed	Weighted mean score	Mean score	TNI	Rank
1.	Record keeping and its importance	19 (63.33%)	11 (36.67%)	79.00	2.63	87.78	III
2.	Selling management of kids and its importance	24 (80%)	06 (20%)	84.00	2.80	93.33	II
3.	Tools for profitable goat farm and its importance	28 (93.33%)	02 (6.67%)	88.00	2.93	97.78	I

Table 6 showed that information about disease i.e. mastitis, ET, BQ, Pox, pneumonia and prevention and destruction of internal and external parasites and its importance (TNI =

98.89) was ranked first followed by information about cutting of navel cord and its importance, diseases of goats and its home remedies (TNI = 97.78), vaccination for

prevention of contagious diseases and its importance (TNI = 94.44), ethnoveterinary practices for treatment (TNI = 93.33) respectively. These findings are in line with Jena (2018). The reason could be attributed that inadequate knowledge of the causes, symptoms and treatment of diseases results in financial burden, that's why goat entrepreneurs had required training in disease and health care management.

From table 7 it is clear that, majority of respondents perceived that training on tools for profitable goat farming (TNI = 97.78) as most important training need followed by selling management of kids and its importance (TNI = 93.33), record keeping and its importance (TNI = 87.78) respectively. The possible reasons for less record keeping might be unawareness about the importance of record maintaining.

Based on the results it can be concluded that training institutions should follow a holistic approach while planning training programmes. For profit maximisation, the extension agencies should take utmost care to plan and execute training programmes as per the need and interest of the participants which in turn will help in better efficiency of training programmes.

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