

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF GOAT KEEPERS

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Forty percent of rural population especially the economically and socially backward classes, maintain goats for assured income (Bhattacharya, 1993). Therefore, it provides food security to the weaker section of rural population. Goat keepers have been living under the poverty trap (Baldeo Singh, 1979) and to fight this poverty a extension worker must have atleast basic knowledge of flock-size, caste, occupation, education, family type and size, land and house of goat keepers to plan the extension programme effectively for the transferring of improved goats technologies to the end users. Sagar and Dohare (2000) reported that situational, socio - economic and extention characteristics were positively and significantly correlated with the adoption of health care in goats.

Keeping this in view a study was conducted to know the socio - economic profile of goat keepers in the adopted villages.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in five adopted villages such as Jhandipur, Bhai, Garhaya, Sanora and Pingari of Block - Farah, Distt. Mathura, U.P. Total 119 goat keepers were selected at random from Jhandipur (14), Bhai (26), Garhaya (30), Sanora (25) and Pingari (24). Seven important socio - economic characteristics of goat keepers namely, flock-size, caste, occupation, education, family type and size, land and house were selected for this study. The data were collected through personal interview with the help of structured schedule. The frequency and

percentage of goat keepers of socio-economic characteristics were analysed.

Table-Socio-Economic Profile of Goat Keepers

Items	Category	Frequency	%
Flock-size	Up to 5 goats	82	68.91
	6 to 15 goats	23	19.33
	16 to 30 goats	11	9.24
	Above 30 goats	3	2.52
	Total	119	100.00
Caste	General	16	13.45
	Backward	33	27.73
	SC/ST	66	55.46
	Minority	4	3.36
	Total	119	100.00
Occupation (other than goat rearing)	Cultivation	58	48.74
	Labour	61	51.26
	Total	119	100.00
Education	Illiterate	81	68.07
	Primary	14	11.76
	Middle	13	10.93
	High School	8	6.72
	Inter	3	2.52
	Graduate and above	0	00.00
	Total	119	100.00
Family	Type-Nuclear family	66	55.46
	Type-Joint family	53	44.54
	Total	119	100.00
	Size-Up to 5 members	34	28.57
Land	Size-Above 5 members	85	71.43
	Total	119	100.00
	No land	61	51.26
	Less than 1 acre	3	2.52
House	1-5 acres	37	31.10
	5 - 10 acres	8	6.72
	10 -15 acres	10	8.40
	15 - 20 acres	0	00.00
	Total	119	100.00
House	Kutcha house	41	34.45
	Mixed house	26	21.85
	Pucca house	52	43.70
	Total	119	100.00

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Flock-size—Maximum (68.91 %) of the selected goat keepers had possessed up to 5 goats followed by 6 to 15 goats (19.33 %), 16 to 30 goats (9.24 %) and above 30 goats (2.52 %).

Caste—It was found that 55.46 % of the selected goat keepers belonged to SC/ST caste, 27.73 % belonged to backward caste and 13.45 % belonged to general caste. Selected goat keepers belonging to minority were 3.36 %.

Occupation—51.26 % of the selected goat keepers depended on labour and 48.74 % of the selected goat keepers were dependent on cultivation other than goat rearing.

Education—The selected goat keepers were in general, illiterate and 68.07 % were illiterate. 11.76 % had primary level education, 10.93 % were middle and 6.72 % were high school. Inter level pass goat keepers were 2.52 %. There was not a single goat keeper who was graduate and above.

Family—The selected goat keepers having nuclear family were 55.46 % and joint family 44.54 %. Big family size was rather

predominant as 71.43 % selected goat keepers had family size with more than 5 members.

Land—51.26 % of the selected goat keepers had no land and 2.52 % had less than one acre of land. 31.10 % of the selected goat keepers had land holding between 1 to 5 acres and 6.72 % above 5 acres. 8.40 % of the selected goat keepers had land holding between 10 to 15 acres and none of the selected goat keepers had land holding between 15 - 20 acres.

House—43.70 % of the selected goat keepers had pucca house, 34.45 % had kutcha house and 21.85 % had mixed house.

CONCLUSION

It may be concluded from the above study that the goat enterprise is primarily in the hand of weaker section of rural population and majority of the goat keepers are uneducated and poor. The selected socio - economic characteristics for the study are extremely important in goat improvement programme and extension work through different types of interventions viz., research, extension and research and extension.

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