

B-21: Study of the performance of Vanni goats at Killinochchi

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Indigenous local breeds of goats distributed in the Vanni area were known as Vanni goats. The object of the present investigation was to study some of the productive and reproductive traits of Vanni goats. Data was collected from a herd maintained at the University Farm, Kilinochchi. In June 1992, 78 females of Vanni goats and 6 studs of Sannan crosses were introduced to this farm.

Annual kidding rate and twinning rate were 1.61 ± 0.11 and 1.77 ± 0.13 respectively. Significantly higher ($P > 0.05$) kiddings were observed during the dry season when compared to the rainy season. Mortality among kids born in the dry season was 12.19% which was significantly low compared to 31% for kids born in the rainy season. Birth weight of kids born in the dry

season and rainy season were 2.75 ± 0.57 and 2.18 ± 0.64 kg respectively. There was significant difference between growth rate of dry season kids and rainy season kids, and it was 101.42 ± 2.42 g/day for the former and 82.85 ± 2.11 g/day for the latter. From the results it was clear that the performance of goats was affected by the season.

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