

B-105 Management and socio-economic aspects of the goat industry in the North-Western Province of Sri Lanka

N Y Hirimuthugoda¹, I D Silva², A Dangolla², A Gunawardena¹

¹ *Dept of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna, Mapalana, Kamburupitiya*
² *Dept of Veterinary Clinical Studies, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, University of Peradeniya*

The objective of this study was to investigate the management and socio-economic aspects of the goat industry in the NWP. The study area covers Puttalam and Kurunegala districts. A survey was carried out in 1996 by using a questionnaire. Data was collected from 150 randomly selected farmers.

A majority were crop farmers with poor income and mainly family labour is being used. The average herd size was 16 ± 6.59 . Most of the farmers kept local goat breeds. In addition Jamnapari (20%), Kottukachchiya (15%) and Bectal (7%) were kept by a few farmers. All respondents reared their goats for meat and only one respondent reared goats solely for milk. An extensive management system was practiced by 85% of the farmers. In addition, 75% of farmers practice free range feeding while 5% practiced cut and feed system. In addition 20% farmers practiced both methods.

The availability of feed in the surveyed area depends mainly on the rainfall. Natural breeding was practiced by most of the farmers. The routine practices such as castration, vaccination hoof cutting, ear tagging, weaning, deworming had not been practiced.

An organized marketing system did not exist within the surveyed area. Exploitation by middlemen was the major problem in marketing. Animal health was one of the major constraints to goat production in the area.