

B-02: Goat farming in Hambantota : a case study

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The objective of this study was to investigate the potential and socio-economic aspects of goat farming in Hambantota district. The villages representing major goat farming areas of Hambantota district were selected for the study.

A random sample of 60 farmers was selected and data was collected using a questionnaire.

The majority of the farmers were involved in paddy and other cash crop production under rain fed as well as irrigated conditions. Women and children play a major role (76%) in goat rearing.

The average herd size was 24.94; and 96% of the animals are local and non-descriptive type. The average mature weight, girth, length and height of the animals are 27.12 ± 5.56 kg, 70.29 ± 5.18 cm, 44.08 ± 9.50 cm and 61.78 ± 4.59 cm respectively. The only prevailing management system was extensive and natural breeding was the accepted practice.

Animals are sent for grazing in crown lands and feed shortages are observed during the dry period.

There is no problem in disposing the animals and the farmgate price was Rs. 45/kg live weight. However, sales are not motivated by the market forces. High mortality among kids is a major constraint. The veterinary services provided by the government are not used by the farmers, due to constraints.