

Socio-economic aspects of dairy and goat farming in Rambukkana and Aranayake

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A field survey was carried out to assess the socio economic aspects of dairy cattle and goat farming in Aranayake and Rambukkana Veterinary Service (VS) ranges. Forty farmers including 20 dairy and 20 goat farmers were selected and interviewed using a detailed questionnaire on family characteristics, socio economic status, livestock and crop production, labor distribution, monthly budget and income composition.

Majority of farm families in both VS ranges were Buddhist while only 40% of goat farmers in Aranayake VS range were Muslim. Almost all farmers were males except 10% dairy farmers were female in Aranayake VS range. Education level of all farmers in all VS ranges were less than the secondary education. According to data, 10% of dairy farmers in Rambukkana worked on fulltime basis however, none of the goat farmers in this area were fulltime. In contrast 30% of dairy farmers and 20 % of goat farmers in Aranayake range were fulltime farmers. Both dairy and goat Farmers in Rambukkana VS range were having more total land area compared with the farmers in Aranayake VS range. Almost all dairy animals in both ranges were crossbred animals of Friesian, Jersey and AMZ while majority of goats were crossbred animals of Sanan and Jamnapari. Most of the farmers in Rambukkana VS range offered concentrates and minerals to increase the milk yield whereas usage of concentrates among Aranayake dairy farmers was about 10 - 20 %. Income contribution from dairy sector in both Rambukkana and Aranayake VS ranges was less than that of goats in the same VS ranges. Income contribution to net annual income of households from dairy farming in Rambukkana VS range was higher (27.61%) as compared to Aranayake VS range (20.65%). Goat farmers in Rambukkana VS range were having more income (34.4%) from goat compared with that of goat farmers in Aranayake VS range (20.65%). According to the survey, it was found that average income % generated from goat farming was higher than that of dairy farmers in both Rambukkana and Aranayake VS ranges and, the values ranged from 20 to 30% out of the total income.

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