

She Shows the way by Goat farming

KVK Thane has been playing a pioneering role in technology transfer, refinement and imparting the need based trainings to farmers and rural youth. This particular success story unfolds the achievement of a tribal farm woman , entrepreneur and technologists interaction in sustainable development of a goat farm in Thane & Palghar district.



'Tara' aged 35 is a resident of Kinhavali panchayat of Palghar district, was working in a daily house hold work, nurturing children's & including farming. Her husband is also doing farming and has three children. He hails from a low middle class family and in his childhood his mother in the absence of his father had brought him up by goat rearing. The belief that what one acquires in his childhood days would be the fundamentals of his/her life is very much true in the case of Ismail. Even after completing long career of ten years of service in the school his interest was always in goat rearing. The extended support rendered by his family and KVK Malappuram resulted in the greatest achievement of Ismail.

Mr.Abubbekker is a gulf returnee, a businessman, a planter and owner of a land of 8 acres in Aamayam Island, 12 km away from Edappal in Ponnani block. He has a real taste and interest in agriculture especially in goat rearing. His initiative and interest in shouldering the financial responsibilities has resulted in the establishment of Ammayam Goat Farm. They got another partner to invest with. Mr.Kunjumithu, Vadakkekadu, Thrissur.

They started the goat farm at the land of Abubbekker at Aamayam island on 25th August 2005. They constructed sheds with locally available trees and by concrete pillars of 12 feet height for reinforcement. Provision was also provided for the easy removal of excreta. They purchased 27 malabari goats, including seven males and 20 females. Out of the 20 females, 15 were pregnant. According to Ismail, it is beneficial to purchase the pregnant animals than buying the kids. Individual animals were selected based on the production parameters.

The enterprise ran successfully for the first six months. There after the problems began to precipitate like unavailability of sufficient fodder, difficulty in scientific breeding of the goats, low weight gain of kids and difficulty in management of male kids.

Technical support

In order to meet the fodder demand KVK experts advised them to utilize the farm land for the cultivation of fodder. KVK provided necessary guidance for fodder cultivation. They started cultivating congo signal and Hybrid napier CO3 of fodder varieties in three acres of land.

KVK conducted Frontline Demonstration (FLD) on castration in goats to prevent off flavour of meat and better weight gain of male kids. According to Ismail castration of goats enables the easiness in handling of animals and saves much space in the shed.

KVK conducted one of its demonstrations on hormonal induction of estrus and artificial insemination (AI) in goats in this farm. This demonstration was conducted with the objectives of convincing the farmers about the method of producing large number of better progenies. It is planned to distribute the selected male kids born out of AI to farmers for breeding. The other demonstrations include feeding of yeast for improving the weight gain of kids. KVK identified this goat farm as one of its field for imparting on farm training to the new entrepreneurs.

Farm operations

Daily operations will start with cleaning of the farm premises. Animals are allowed to graze for three hours in the morning and afternoon. Additional nutrients are met through feeding of commercially available concentrate feed specially made for goats. Though kids are housed separately, they are allowed to drink all the milk produced in the farm. Males and females are kept in separate enclosures and the doe in heat will be bred with the selected buck. The farmers are of the opinion that unscientific selection and indiscriminate breeding are the main reasons for production loss in goat rearing.

Major Problem

The operations in the farm moved to a full-fledged stage after one and half year of establishment and the number of animals increased from 27 to 125 during that period including the newly purchased ones. Due to the scientific management the average birth weight of kids were 3 kg. The kids used to attain body weight of 25-28 kg by six months. During March 2007 there was mortality of a few kids and the growth rate declined in spite of the scientific breeding. The situation was analysed with the help of KVK scientists and found that the animals are affected with severe worm infestation. Though animals were regularly drenched with albendazole for deworming, the worms developed drug resistance. According to Ismail worm infestation and its management is one of the important aspects the goat farmers should aware of, other wise it will result in wiping out of the flock and closure of the farm.

Diversification

One and a half year after starting his goat farm they wanted to diversify the activities and he approached KVK with this demand. With monitoring of KVK experts, two vermicompost tanks of 7 x 1.5 x 1 m were constructed. The excreta of goats and other wastes were used for vermicomposting. Ismail and Aboobecker found that vermicomposting is an effective method of converting the goat droppings to easily absorbable manure, saving the labour usually needed for the grinding of pellets. Aboobecker is happy to see that the production of coconut is increasing due to application of sufficient quantity of vermicompost. Initially this vermicompost was utilized for the farm which has 300 coconut palms. Now they are selling the excess quantity outside at the rate of Rs.9/kg. Farmers are of the opinion that the vermicompost made out of goat droppings is superior in quality and the impact can be easily seen on the growth of the crops when it is applied. As the number of animals increased they engaged two helpers in the farm. Due to increased availability of labour and manure they started cultivation of banana and vegetables. Now it is acting as a supplementary source of income.

Financial outlay

The investment of the unit was Rs. 5 lakhs including the cost of goats Rs 2 lakhs. They used to sell goats at 3 - 4 months when they weigh around 15-20 kg. They sell malabari goats at Rs.130/Kg and on an average a 3-4 month old kid will fetch an amount of Rs.2600/. Where as for Malabari Boer crosses price is Rs.150/Kg and some times they sell one even for Rs.10000/ to Rs.15000/ per goat. With in the last two years 72 deliveries were reported in the farm yielding 150 kids. Out of that 90 kids were sold and the remaining animals are kept for selection of breeding stock.

The demand for goat is more from August-September to April-May and in this period they could manage to sell 30-50 goats/month. Unlike in the rainy seasons, in these months the goats can graze for 6-8 hours. Therefore the expense for the feeds can be reduced which might be the reason for this high demand of kids during these months.

On an average they spends Rs.12000/ for concentrate feed and Rs.3000/ for labour in a month. One may be embarrassed by the higher feeding cost. But Ismail says, "If your animals are having higher growth potential and management is good investment on extra concentrate feed can really increase your profit".

As far as percentage of returns is concerned they said with in two years of expansion of the unit itself, we received almost 60% of the initial investment. One of the important things should be noticed is that the level of confidence they holds towards in the enterprise. Ismail is sure that 100% of the returns would be back with in another year. The confidence, love and affection he had for his enterprise was developed only because of his dedication and hard work.

Farmers Message

This particular case would be a nice motivation to the unemployed youths who strives for white colour jobs with frustrated minds due to the damnation of

unemployment. In addition to this it is an eye opener for those who keep their land lie fallow.

WHEN CASHING IN ON YOUNG GOATS BECOMES KID STUFF

She has won the 'Best Woman Farmer' award from the University Integrated farming has always been advised by agricultural scientists especially for small scale farmers across the country.

As the average land holding is small in countries such as India, the resource-inadequate farmers need to be as sure of a regular income through economically viable and socially acceptable farm enterprises which will complement their cropping activity through crop and livestock integration, according to Dr. C. Ramasmy, Vice Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU)

Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

Gaining popularity

This type of farming is fast gaining popularity in several village across Tamil Nadu as farmers

are now more aware that by integrating animal husbandry along a with their doubled, and if there

is any loss due to crop failure, the impact is not so severe unlike for farmers who practise

monocrops, explained Dr. E. Vadivel, Director of Extension Education of the University.

Releasing importance

Compared to the last 5-7 years there are more farmers in the South who are slowly releasing

the importance of integrated farming and have been successful trained in several animal husbandry

practices such as cattle, goat, pig and poultry rearing by the several Krishi Vigyan Kendras

(KVKs).

Mrs. S.Saradhamani is one such progressive lady farmer of

Perianiackenpalayam village in

Coimbatore District.

With hardly 2-3 acres, Saradhamani has been successfully integrating goat, cattle rearing.

Vermicompost manufacturing and growing a number of crop varieties such as sunflower, vegetables

and high yielding fodder grass varieties.

Effective recycling

“Her farm was selected as one of the model farms by our University for conducting farmers’

participatory research programs on integrated farming systems in low external input sustainable

environment” said, Prof. Rm. Vijayaraghavan, Head, KVK, Coimbatore.

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He also added that effective recycling of farm residues and waste is possible when

complementary farm enterprises are judiciously integrated.

Goat shed was constructed on her farm with financial assistance from the University, which

also supplied her with about 5 female and 1 male Tellicherry goats.

Tellicherry goats are mainly reared for mutton purposes, and stall feeding is highly suitable for

this breed. “In about 3 years I have earned about Rs. 75,000 from the sale of goats alone,” she

said.

Why goat rearing?

But why did she prefer to pay more attention to goat rearing when cattle would have been a

better option? “Rearing goats is relatively easier compared to cattle as the expenditure involved in

goat rearing is less when compared to cattle.

“The feed for my animals is mostly grown in my field. In fact spend about only Rs. 2 per day

as feed cost for one animal.

“A female goat gives birth to 4 kids in a year and the kids are sold for Rs, 2,000 each when

they attain 3-4 months of age.

“Also, selling the goats is easy when compared to cattle as there are no middlemen involved,

as farmers approach me directly if they need any animals. The cost factor, is small when compared

to that of cattle.

Farmers can easily pay the small amount for buying the goat kids unlike that of cattle which

costs several thousands. In short, goats are similar to ATM cards which can be used to get money

in times of emergency," she said.

More beneficial

Similarly like cattle dung the dung of goats can also be used for making vermicompost.

The vermicompost made from goat dung has been found to be more beneficial when compared

to that of cattle, as the crops turn dark green in color in 2-3 days the vermicompost made from

months to act on the plants.

Mrs. Saradhamani has won the 'Best woman Farmer' award from the University and is

also the Farmers Discussion Group Convener of KVK of TNAU in Coimbatore.

Readers can contact Mrs. S.Saradhamani at Chinnamathampalayam, Perianackenpalayam

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