

## BREEDS, HERD CHARACTERISTICS AND FEEDING SYSTEMS OF DIFFERENT GOAT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN KURUNEGALA DISTRICT

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Goat farming is popular in dry and dry intermediate zones of Sri Lanka. The highest potential for livestock production exists in Kurunegala district and 3,913 goat farms are located in the area. A questionnaire survey was conducted in 50 goat farms to evaluate the breed, herd characteristic and feeding under different goat management systems. The prominent goat management systems were identified as semi intensive (62%) and extensive systems (38%) according to the housing and feeding systems. The goat breeds in the district were indigenous and Jamnapari crosses (98%), of which 63.3% were in extensive system and 36.7% in semi intensive system while the remaining 2% were Jamnapari crosses in semi-intensive system. The sources of the above breeds were purchased from a breeder (80%), tenancy (12%) and through subsidy programme (8%). The average herd size in a farm was 18 and herd compositions were 47% she goats, 11% bucks, 18% kids and 24% studs. Permanent goat housing structures were available in 60% of the farms and rest (40%) of the farms had temporary housing systems. The floors of the 52% of goat houses were made with slats, 46% of them with clay and 2% with cement. Houses with elevated floor were observed in only 52% of the farms. The commonly used roofing material was coconut cadjans (82%) and galvanized iron sheets (12%). The major feeding systems were free grazing (36%), cut and feed (32%) and tethering (2%) while 30% of the farmers used combination of cut and feed, free grazing and tethering. The fodder varieties mostly used in stall feeding were Jack fruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Gliricidia (*Gliricidia sepium*), Ipil-ipil (*Leucaena leucocephala*), Kottamba (*Terminalia catappa*), Neem (*Azadirachta indica*), Tamarind (*Tamarindus indica*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Kumbuk (*Terminalia arjuna*) and Drumstick (*Moringa oleifera*). There were no specific diseases causing heavy losses of goats except occurrences of pneumonia, parasitic problems and heavy kids' mortality at rainy season. As a parasitic control measure, 82% of farmers regularly used anthelmintic drugs. Goat management was in the subsistence farming system with low input efficiency based on the feeding and management system in the district.

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