



**GOAT PRODUCTION
UNDER
TRADITIONAL MANAGEMENT
SYSTEMS IN
BATTICALOA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA**

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ABSTRACT

A questionnaire survey was conducted among 86 goat farmers, selected at random, in the Batticaloa district. All goats were found to be of indigenous type. White was predominant colour with varying amounts of tan and black patches. The goats were small in size (average height at withers 64.3 cm). Herding was adopted by 79% of the farmers, while tethering and semi-intensive rearing were used by 12% and 9% respectively. Breeding was uncontrolled. Most of the kiddings (71%) occurred during the months of November to December. The average age (\pm standard deviation) at first kidding and the average kidding interval were 9.3 ± 1.7 and 6.3 ± 0.7 months, respectively. The average litter size was 1.9 ± 0.5 at birth and 1.6 ± 1.0 at weaning. The average weight at birth and weaning were 1.2 ± 0.2 and 4.1 ± 0.8 kg, respectively. Heavy mortality (56%) was observed among young animals.