

**POTENTIAL OF GOAT PRODUCTION IN
BATTICALOA DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

A survey of small-scale goat farmers was conducted in Batticaloa district. The aim the study was to assess and document the socio-economic status of goat farmers, management system, feeding and nutrition, resources and facilities available, herd size. A pre- test structured questionnaire was administered to randomly selected farmer who were involved in goat farming. A total number of 126 goat farmers were interviewed during field investigation. The data collected were coded and entered in Microsoft Excel and SPSS for analysis. Almost all the farmers have kept crossbreed of goat. Farmers exhibited limited knowledge on goat farming and improved management though they are reared mainly for commercial purpose. Goat is reared predominately under semi- intensive management system. Holding size is generally 12-18 goats per family depending on the availability of surplus labor in the family. Crosses of Jamunapari , Sannan , Kottukacheya and Sri Lankan Boer were available in most of the farm in the surveyed area. Easy management, low cost of production and disease tolerance were the main advantage of goat farming over other livestock enterprises and also studied major constrains were wild animal, diseases problem, lack of feed, lack of credit facilities, lack of land, breed availability and housing problem. In conclusion, it revealed that goats are mostly reared semi-intensively and they considered as the secondary income earning of the house hold economies.

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