

**POTENTIAL OF GOAT FARMING IN
AMPARA DISTRICT**

BY

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ABSTRACT

A survey of small-scale goat farmers was conducted in Ampara district. The aim of 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 total of 102 goat farmers were randomly selected from selected six goat farming villages representing three communities exist in the District. The selected farmers were interviewed during field investigation using pre tested questionnaire. The data collected were coded and entered in Microsoft Excel for analysis.

Women participation in goat rearing was high in Sinhala and Tamil villages while men's participation was high in Muslim villages. Seventy percent of farmers are aged adults of age ranged from 30 -60 also, 60 percent of the total respondents have completed school up to Grade 10. Fifty percent of the farmer rear cross breeds 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. Herd size was generally less than 10 to over 30 while 10 – 30 was at optimum. This variation depends on the availability of surplus labor in the family. Crosses of Jamunapari, Sannan, Kottukacheya and Sri Lankan Boar were available in most of the farms in Ampara District. Easy management, low cost of production and disease tolerance were the main advantage of goat farming over other livestock enterprises. In conclusion, the goat farming is popular among rural poor as it plays a significant role in economy and nutrition of rural poor and need there is a to be uplifted.

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