

**PRESENT STATUS OF GOAT FARMING IN ERAVUR,
VANTHARUMOLAI AND MAHAOYA VETERINARY
RANGES**



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ABSTRACT

A survey of goat farmers was conducted in Eravur, Vantharumoolai and Mahaoya veterinary ranges in the Eastern Province. Aim of the study was to assess and document the socio-economic status of goat farmers, management system, feeding and nutrition, available resources and facilities, information of rearing goats and constraints in goat farming. A pre-tested structured questionnaire was administered to randomly selected goat farmers. 40 goat farmers were selected randomly from each veterinary range. 120 goat farmers coded and entered in Microsoft Excel and transferred into SPSS for analysis. Higher male participation in goat farming was observed in the study area. Most of the farmers are married. Majority of the goat farmers were in 30-45 years range of age. Most of goat farmers had experience more than 5 years in goat farming. Majority of the farmers kept local breed of goats. Crosses of Jamnapari, Saanen, Kottukachchiya were available in most of the goat farms in the surveyed area. Majority of the goat farmers had low education level. Many of goat farmers not involved in home consumption of goat meat, milk or manure. They reared goats mainly for commercial purpose. Goats were reared predominantly under semi-intensive management system. Majority of goat farmers in Mahaoya veterinary range are not registered in veterinary office. Herd size were generally 11-20 in Eravur and Vantharumoolai while 21-30 in Mahaoya. It was depending on availability of resources and surplus labour in the family. In conclusion, it revealed that goats are mostly reared as the secondary income earning of house hold economies.

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