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Goat Farming: A Way for Transformation from Poverty into a Pathway of Prosperity

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Abstract

The impact of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) training showed that there was increased in net income from Rs. 4,000.00 to Rs. 84,000.00 (2018-19) with B:C ratio of 2.27 as compared to conventional farming (1.5). The economic analysis revealed that a small farmer like Smt. Usha Rani achieved an approx. double body weight (Avg. 13.5 kg) of their goat as compared to before (Avg. 6.5 kg) scientific intervention. Further, it was also observed that social status of her family also improved (03 Points) as compared to before intervention (01 Points). A sense of economic security (04) has been created in successful farmer and might become role model for many farmers (100) those are towards on the way of goat farming. Therefore, it is concluded that scientific method of goat farming can provide good income and play important role in employment generation particularly for small and marginal rural farmers.

Background Information

The most of farmers of Samastipur district of Bihar are small and marginal. Samastipur district of Bihar is known for horticultural crops particularly for vegetable production. But during the last five years, most of farmers are facing climatic vulnerable situation like drought, flood, uneven rainfall, hailstorm, storm etc. Therefore, farmers of district were searching an alternative farming for their sustainable income.

Smt. Usha Rani is a native of Tehra Gopalpur village of Samastipur, about 20 km away from district headquarter. She belongs to a resource poor family with insufficient income to meet her family needs. She was very eager to opt some other business or farming for sustainable income. Previously her family was involved in vegetable and goat farming on her own one acre of land, but unfortunately every year she was facing losses due to unfavorable climatic conditions. Meanwhile she approached KVK, Birauli, Samastipur and interacted with animal scientist. She showed keen interest in goat farming because, she already rearing 3-4 goats Table 1 as backyard farming and never got profit by selling of goats. Afterwards she acquired goatry training and got an opportunity to visit university goat farm and interacted with successful goat farmers. Further, she started goat farming in a scientific manner. Whenever she started farming with her own financial resources then two banks came forward with financial support for boost-up goat farming. Within a year Smt. Usha Rani recognized as a master trainer for district level livelihood improvement programme and many other NGO activities. As Bihar is the 5th largest goat population state, which contributes about 7.63% of India's total goat population. The state is also a habitat of 42.6% people below poverty line and hence there is a tremendous scope of goat

farming (Dey et al., 2007).

Meanwhile the training period, scientist of Krishi Vigyan Kendra interacted" in place of with the farmers, it was observed that unscientific feeding, housing and rearing management leads to suffering from diseases or death of kids and loss of capital. Whereas, Bihar is the natural habitat of Black Bengal goat, which is a famous breed known for high prolificacy, superior meat quality, best skin quality, early sexual maturity, low kidding interval and very good adaptability.

Further, goat is a very important livestock for small, marginal and landless rural farmers as a source of ATM ("ANY TIME MONEY"). Due to their ability to survive and produce under extreme climatic and managerial condition goat assures income to rural farming with minimum input cost. A good population of nondescript local goats is present in this region. But due to the poor performance of these goats, the income from the goats production is not satisfactory.

Institutional Involvement

KVK conducted skill oriented training and major emphasis was given on following points to become a successful goat farmer: (Smt. Usha Rani), **Year of work -2018**

- Conducted *learning by doing method* of training, during the class work training programme we mostly emphasized on Visual aids like Power-point presentation, open discussion between farmers-scientist and their feedback.
- Assistance for Breeding of goat only with recognized Buck/ Artificial insemination (A.I.).
- Linkage with Bankers for financial support.
- Importance of provision of Creep-ration before onset of heat and breeding.
- Initial administration of prophylactics medicine like Vaccines and others supplementary.
- Initial administration of dewormers medicines.
- Knowledge about right method and time of castration of male kids.
- Visit of local goat farm run by successful KVK trained farmers.
- Knowledge about right time to sale for their ready animals.
- Linkage with marketing people.

Success Points

The following were major points on which she paid due consideration to become successful farmer:

1. Selection of right place (High land and well drained area) for farming shed.
2. Goats' breeds (Black Bengal, Sirohi and Barbari) selected as per Table 1 which was locally adaptable and demand.
3. Initial help from local vets/ KVK veterinarian: whenever she was started farming and purchased new goats from

outside, some animals were suffered from stress and diseases. Meanwhile KVK scientist / local vets helped her in disease control and management. Further recommended some vitamins and feed supplements during stressful condition.

4. Always offered fresh and clean water, grasses / shrubs (Figure 1) and home-made concentrate mixture prepared under guidance of KVK scientist.
5. Followed vaccination schedule Table 1, Sl. No. 12 as per prescribed and regular deworming at every 4 months interval as showed in Figure 2.
6. During mating of goat she always preferred Artificial insemination or recognized Buck.
7. Regularly cleaning of farm shed
8. Precaution from cold and rainy season.

Table 1 : Economic and Socio-psycho Impact of Training

| Sl. No. | Before Training | After Training |
|---------|---|--|
| 1. | Farmers practice: | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conventional housing and feeding mainly based on grazing • Unaware about deworming and vaccination • Backyard rearing for only 3-4 goats • Rearing based only on grazing (Extensive) • Mating of goat by any local or street buck | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper housing and feeding management • Regular deworming and vaccination • Rearing of 30 goats (Black Bangal, Barbari and Sirohi) • Rearing based on semi-intensive farming • Mating of goats by recognized Farm Buck |
| 2 | No. of Kid/ goat: 2-3 kids/goat | 3-4 kids/goat |
| 3 | Age of marketing of male goat:10-12 months | 12-14 months |
| 4 | Body weight at market age: 05-08 kg | 12-15 kg |
| | Fixed cost of 4 goats: Rs. 10000 | Fixed cost of 30 goats: Rs. 60000 |
| | Recurring cost (Rs./Year): Rs. 8000 | Rs. 66000 |
| | Gross Income (Rs./Year): Rs. 12000 | Rs. 150000 |
| | Net Profit ((Rs./Year) : Rs. 4000 (12000-8000) | Rs. 84000 |
| | B: C Ratio: 1.5 (12000/8000) | 2.27 |
| 5 | Marketing: At the door-steps | At dist. market/ local market |

Table : Continue...

| Sl. No. | Before Training | After Training |
|---------|---|--------------------------|
| 6 | Dissemination of knowledge about farming: No | More than 100 farmers |
| 7 | Primary source of income: Agriculture | Goat farming |
| 8 | Economic security : (Based on 1-5 scale)* | 01 04 |
| 9 | Ability to solve problem*: (Based on 1-5 scale)* | 01 04 |
| 10 | Social status/image in community*: 01 (Based on 1-5 scale)* | 03 |
| 11 | Environmental impact: Not consider due to lack of Knowledge | Healthy animals produced |
| 12 | Deworming and vaccination: No | Followed schedule |

*1-5 Scale indicates, 1: lowest and 5: highest

Social Impact and Up Scaling of Technology

There has been significant improvement in awareness and knowledge about scientific method of goat farming in Samastipur district. Smt. Usha Rani became a role model for number of unemployed rural youths in the locality. More than 100 farmers Table 1, Sl. No. 6 have visited the farm house and learnt the skill of goat farming. The unemployed youth of nearby are showing interests to start and engage in commercial goat farming by seeing her improvement in lifestyle and economic condition. The rural youths of district are taking training and guidance from KVK Samastipur also and some (16 youths) of them have already started farming. Farmers from other district like Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and



Figure 1: Farmer offering green grasses in the Manger

Motihari etc. are visiting this farm also planning to establish low input-cost goat farm.



Figure 2: Deworming of goats

Conclusion

From the above study it can be concluded that by adopting scientific methods (like semi-intensive system of rearing, selection of suitable breeds, provision of green fodder, concentrate mixture, deworming and vaccination etc.) of goat farming, a small rural woman like Smt. Usha Rani can earned good income and improved their social status. Moreover, KVK of the district provided proper technical support to the farmers to motivate the farmers for adoption of improved methods of farming.

Recommendation

- Semi-intensive method of farming
- Selection of suitable breeds like Black Bengal, Sirohi, Barbari and Beetal
- Following of schedule of deworming and vaccination
- Following right time and right method of castration
- Provision of green fodder and concentrate mixture as per requirement
- Mating should done by recognized Buck/ A.I method
- Watch on marketing system

Reference

Dey, A, Barari, S.K, Yadav, B.P.S., 2007. Goat production scenario in Bihar, India. Livestock Research For Rural Development 19(9).