WANT TO START GOAT FARMING??

Basic requirements to start a Stall fed goat farm:

1. One acre agricultural land for every 20 to 40 goats for cultivating fodder
2. Best breed on your farm and not a local one.
3. Water, Electricity and Labour availability to cultivate fodder throughout the year
4. A progressive mindset to adapt to latest scientific methods and technology
5. Passion towards the business

Commercial Goaty

1. Why do goat rearing?

Goat is a multi functional animal and plays a significant role in the economy and nutrition of landless, small and marginal farmers in the country. Goat rearing is an enterprise which has been practiced by a large section of population in rural areas. Goats can efficiently survive on available shrubs and trees in adverse harsh environment in low fertility lands where no other crop can be grown. In pastoral and agricultural subsistence societies in India, goats are kept as a source of additional income and as an insurance against disaster. Goats are also used in ceremonial feastings and for the payment of social dues. In addition to this, goat has religious and ritualistic importance in many societies. The advantages of goat rearing are:

i) The initial investment needed for Goat farming is low.

ii) Due to small body size and docile nature, housing requirements and managemental problems with goats are less.

iii) Goats are friendly animals and enjoy being with the people.

iv) Goats are prolific breeders and achieve sexual maturity at the age of 10-12 months gestation period in goats is short and at the age of 16-17 months it starts giving milk. Twinning is very common and triplets and quadruplets are rare.

v) In drought prone areas risk of goat farming is very much less as compared to other livestock species.

vi) Unlike large animals in commercial farm conditions both male and female goats have equal value.

vii) Goats are ideal for mixed species grazing. The animal can thrive well on wide variety of thorny bushes, weeds, crop residues, agricultural by-products unsuitable for human consumption.

viii) Under proper management, goats can improve and maintain grazing land and reduce bush encroachment (biological control) without causing harm to the environment.

ix) No religious taboo against goat slaughter and meat consumption prevalent in the country.

x) Slaughter and dressing operation and meat disposal can be carried without much environmental problems.

xi) The goat meat is more lean (low cholesterol) and relatively good for people who prefer low energy diet especially in summer and sometimes goat meat (chevon) is preferred over mutton because of its "chewability"

xii) Goat milk is easy to digest than cow milk because of small fat globules and is naturally
homogenised. Goat milk is said to play a role in improving appetite and digestive efficiency. Goat milk is non allergic as compared to cow milk and it has anti-fungal and anti bacterial properties and can be used for treating urogenital diseases of fungal origin.

xiii) Goats are 2.5 times more economical than sheep on free range grazing under semi arid conditions.

xiv) Goat creates employment to the rural poor besides effectively utilising unpaid family labour. There is ample scope for establishing cottage industries based on goat meat and milk products and value addition to skin and fibre.

xv) Goat is termed as walking refrigerator for the storage of milk and can be milked number of times in a day.

2 Scope for goat rearing and its national importance

2.1 The country has 115.278 million goat as per 1992 livestock census has increased to 120.8 million in 1997 and ranks first in the world. The state wise goat population is given in Annexure-I. Goat meat production stands at the level of 0.47 million tonnes. The slaughter rate of goat is at the level of 39.7% as compared to 31.8% for sheep and 11% for buffaloes respectively. Goat also produces 2.55 million tonnes of milk and 0.1288 million tonnes of skin as per FAO 189 records 2002 report (Annexure-II). The trend in consumption of mutton and goat meat shows increase from 467000MT in 1981 to 696000 MT in 2002 indicating annual compound growth rate of 1.28 % during 92-02. Sheep and goat meat production has reached 700400MT during 2002 in India. Ovine meat export has touched 29670 thousand $ during 2000 which was then reduced to 5635 thousand $ during 2001.

2.2 Goat make a valuable contribution to the livelihood of economically weaker sections of the society. Amongst the livestock owners goat rearers are the poorest of the lot.

2.3 Realising the importance of goat in the agrarian economy of the country, various developmental activities have been taken up by Govt.of India. The Central Government had established Central Institute for Research on Goats at Makhdoom, Farah, Mathura District, Uttar Pradesh. During VIII Plan Period Seven Intensive goat breeding farms were proposed with the objectives:

i) To produce 1000 stud bucks per year for the distribution among goat rearers

ii) To improve yield of milk and chevon through selective breeding of regular breeds like Jamnapari, Beetal, Barbari, Jakhrana, Jhalawadi.

iii) Cross breeding of non-Pashmina goats with Angora goats to produce Mohair in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

iv) To conserve germ plasm of regular breeds like Jamnapari, Beetal, Barbari, Black Bengal, Malbari,
Sirohi etc.

3. Financial assistance available from banks/NABARD for Goat rearing

3.1 NABARD is an apex institution for all matters relating to policy, planning and operation in the field of agricultural credit. It serves as refinancing agency for the institutions providing investment and production credit for agriculture and rural development. It promotes development through a well organised Technical Services Department at the head office and Technical Cells at each of the Regional Offices.

3.2 Loan from banks with refinance facility from NABARD is available for starting Goat farming. For obtaining bank loan, the farmers should apply to the nearest branch of a Commercial or Co-operative or Regional Rural Bank in their area in the prescribed application form which is available in the branches of financing bank. The Technical Officer attached to or the Manager of the bank can also help/give guidance to the farmers in preparing the project report to obtain bank loan.

3.3 For goat rearing schemes with very large outlays, detailed reports will have to be prepared. The items of finance would include costs of assets like Development of land, construction of sheds, purchase of equipments, purchase of breeding stock, rearing cost of animals till it generates income etc. The cost of land is not considered for loan. However, if land is purchased for setting up a goat farm its cost can be treated as party's margin as per the norms.

4. Schme formulation

4.1 A scheme can be prepared by a beneficiary after consulting local technical persons of State animal husbandry department, Commercial farmers etc. If possible the beneficiaries should also visit progressive goat rearers and government/ military/ agricultural university farms in the vicinity and discuss the profitability of goat rearing. A good practical training and experience in goat rearing will be highly desirable. Nearness
the Goat farm to a veterinary aid centre and breeding centre should be ensured.

4.2 The scheme should include information about land, livestock markets, availability of water, feed, fodders, veterinary aid, breeding facilities, marketing aspects, training facilities, experience of the farmer and the type of assistance available from State Government.

4.3 The scheme should also include information on number and types of animals to be purchased, their breeds, production performance, cost and other relevant input and output costs with their description. Based on this, the total cost of the project, margin money to be provided by the beneficiary, requirement of the bank loan, estimated annual expenditure, income, profit and loss statement, repayment period etc., can be worked out and included in the scheme.

5. Requirements of a Good Project

A format developed for formulation of Goat rearing schemes is appended as Annexure-III. The scheme so formulated should be submitted to the nearest branch of bank. The bank's officers can assist in preparation of the scheme or filling in the prescribed application form. The bank will then examine the scheme for its technical feasibility and economic viability.

A) Technical Feasibility - This would briefly include

i) Nearness of the selected area to veterinary dispensary, goat breeding centre, marketing outlets for fattened kids/meat and the financing bank's branch.

ii) Availability of good quality animals in nearby livestock markets. The distribution of goat breeds in India are given in Annexure-IV and Fig. 1. Production parameters of breeds are given in Annexure V and VI.

iii) Availability of training facilities.

iv) Availability of good grazing ground/lands.

v) Availability of Green/dry fodder, concentrate feed, medicines etc.

vi) Availability of veterinary aid/breeding centers and marketing facilities near the same area.

B) Economic Viability - This would briefly include:

i) Unit cost of animals

ii) Input cost for feeds and fodders, veterinary aid, insurance charges, etc.

iii) Output costs i.e. sale price of live animals, manure/penning charges, etc.

iv) The average unit cost (indicative only) of goat rearing units is assumed for calculating project cost.

v) Income-expenditure statement and annual gross surplus.

vi) Cash flow analysis.

vii) Repayment schedule (i.e. repayment of principal loan amount and interest).

Other documents such as loan application forms, security aspects, margin money requirements etc. are also examined. A field visit to the scheme area is undertaken for conducting a techno-economic feasibility study for appraisal of the same.

Age of the Goat
The teeth can be used as an aid in determining the approximate age of a goat, especially up to the age of four.

Goats have eight incisors (cutting or biting teeth) on the lower front jaw. These are sharp and small in animals less than one year. They meet a hard pad (dental pad) in the upper jaw. At about one year, the center teeth will drop out and they are replaced by two permanent teeth.

Twenty-four molars (chewing or grinding teeth) are found in the back, six on each side of the upper and lower jaws. At about the age of two, two or more large front teeth appear, one on each side of the yearling teeth. The three or four year old has six permanent teeth, two more than the two year old. At four or five years of age, the animals have a complete set of eight permanent teeth in front. After this point, the age is judged by the amount of wear on the front teeth. As the animal ages, the teeth spread and drop out. It becomes difficult for her to eat properly, so care should be taken to make sure she eats sufficient amounts of food.

Don’t forget that goats don’t have upper teeth in the front (but they do have sharp ones in the rear)!

Kid
FIRST YEAR

Yearling
SECOND YEAR

Two-year-old
THIRD YEAR

Three-year-old
FOURTH YEAR

Four-year-old
FIFTH YEAR