

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Goat husbandry is a famous livelihood activity which ensures food security for marginal farmers and rural folks in Sri Lanka. Because of the goat's high adaptability, high productivity, small size and non-competitiveness with human food make them valuable to man. Goat production in the country mainly comprises of intensive and semi intensive management systems. In both systems, primarily animals are reared for mutton. Because of the demand and profit margin of mutton, domestic mutton industry has a great potential to grow. Even with this potential, production of mutton in Maritimé pattu Veterinary Surgeon's Range in the Mullaitivu District of Northern Province is very low.

The Project of "Improving goat production in Maritimé pattu Veterinary Surgeon's Range in Mullaitivu District" was proposed to address the issue of low production of mutton in the Maritimé pattu Veterinary Surgeon's Range. Main objectives of proposed project are to increase productive goat population by 50% in two years, to increase productivity of existing goat population by 20% in one year and to train two hundred livestock farmers in modern goat farming in one year. Implementation of the project is expected to result in increased production thereby improves the availability of mutton in short term and significantly reduces the gap between demand and supply of mutton in long term.

Project was formulated by initiating Situation analysis to determine the strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats to the mutton industry in Maritimé pattu Veterinary Surgeon's Range. Subsequently, Problem analysis was performed to determine the major causes of the problem of low mutton production. Then the project components were identified to address the major causes of the problem. Relevant problems under each project component were analysed and solutions were developed to address the problems. Subsequently resources were allocated for those solutions to be implemented. Cost Benefit Analysis was carried out to determine feasibility, justifiability and soundness of the project. Then projected output and outcome of the project were established.

Three identified main causes which are affecting mutton production negatively are poor basic goat management practice, poor breeding practice and poor technical capacity of the farmers. Poor basic goat management happens due to poor feeding, poor housing and poor disease prevention and control. Poor breeding practice by farmers in the concerned VS range is the result of shortage of breeding materials, poor accessibility for Artificial Insemination (AI) services and poor knowledge and skill among goat farmers. Poor

technical capacity of the goat farmers in Maritimé pattu VS Range is due to insufficient training opportunities provided by relevant institution. Three project components were identified to address these causes thereby the problem.

Improving basic goat management practice is one of the project component identified. Basic goat management practice includes feeding, housing and disease & parasite prevention and control. Inadequate quality feed base is the main issue in feeding. Inappropriate goat houses and poor preventive and control measures of disease and parasites are the other management issues in housing and disease & parasite management respectively in Maritimé pattu VS Range. Establishing and expanding suitable fodder cultivation, assisting to develop housing for goats and conducting regular mobile health clinics are developed solutions in this project component to address those issues.

Improving breeding practices is another project component established. Goat population in Maritimé pattu VS Range mainly made up of indigenous breed. They are small in size and performances are poor compared to crossbreeds. They are maintained as herd and inbreeding which is undesirable is rampant. Castration of all male goats in the indigenous herd for cross breeding, establishing farmer based breeder farm and supplying superior quality stud goats, appointing AI Technician from farmers according to geographical distribution of goat farms and establishing AI facilities in selected areas are the solutions developed in this project component to address these issues.

Technical capacity building of livestock farmers is the other project component identified. Livestock farmers in Maritimé pattu VS Range are having poor technical knowledge and skill with regarding modern goat production, resulted from insufficient training opportunities. To address these issues, raising the number of trainers in modern goat farming through training for trainers programs, providing training and awareness programs for goat farmers on modern goat farming were formulated as solutions in this project component.

Two years of time and resources such as the capital of SL Rs.7.06 million and human resources of one Veterinary Surgeon, three Livestock Development Officers, Four Field Assistants & three Trainers are required to implement the project. Cost benefit analysis of the project proved to yield net benefit of about SL Rs.1.7 million at the end of second year. The expected outputs of the Project are 50 Acres of fodder cultivation, 50 Numbers of improved goat housing, 52 biweekly Mobile Clinics, 15 herds with male goat castrated,