

## Sheep Management for Upliftment of Marginal Farmers

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From the ancient time it is well known that the original place of sheep was Australia and evolutionary measure were adopted for improvement in productive and reproductive and traits by Captain Makarther. The performance of on the Deccani sheep is on lower side as compared to the exotic and crossbred sheep. Deccani sheep gives 750-1000 gms of carpet type wool in two clippings which is used for the preparation of carpets, while foreign breeds particularly pure merino gives near about 5000 gms of fine type of wool which is utilized for the preparation of blankets, shawls and twide coating. Deccani sheep yield very less quantity of milk which is just sufficient for feeding of its Lambs and are giving milk for a period of 4 to 5 months .Out of total income from sheep, shepherd receives include the 70% from the sale of milk, 12% from sale of wool, 12% from sitting the sheep flock in the field to increase the fertility of the Land and 5% by the sale of sheep manure.

Ultimately sheep are reared for the mutton purpose. Deccani sheep provide mutton, wool, milk, skin; fertilizer (manure).The weight of the adult sheep is varying from 25 to 40 kgs. After slaughtering 10 to 16 kgs of edible mutton is obtained from sheep .The weight of the new born Lamb is 2.5 to 3.0 kgs.The sheep require 30 to 35 inch rainfall, 100 to 105°F temperature. Also require temperate climatic conditions which are suitable environment for their survival. Adverse climatic conditions like poorly drained, muddy and humid surroundings make sheep prone to various diseases hence, sheep do not thrive well under such climatic conditions. In India about 60 % people are non-vegetarian, out of which 80 % people consume the meat of sheep and goat. The gestation period of the sheep is 150 ± 2 days. Deccani sheep have Lambing once in year and incidence of producing twins or triplets is very less.

The sheep faming must be adopted as a secondary enterprise on commercial basis for survival and upliftment of the shepherds, being farming as a

main enterprise. Due to Industrialization and globalization in metropolitan cities huge quantity of mutton is demanded and hence for the fulfillment of the demand, it becomes essential to improve the mutton quality of Deccani sheep by adopting genetic resources and selection procedure scrupulously. The geographical as well as environmental conditions are suitable for sheep farming in Maharashtra state. Sheep is domesticated animal which thrive on poor quality feed, it is excellent weed destroyer and there by saving the labour cost. Now a day due to excessive use of chemical fertilizers the land has became unfertile and unproductive which ultimately increase the cost of production of field products. Now it has become a grate problem of getting biological fertilizer and sheep is the only animal, which provides biological fertilizer at a cheaper rate.

How the sheep farming is beneficial/superior over goat farming

- 1) Habits of grazing:- The goat is having browsing habit of grazing. They climb on the stem of plant eat peripheral portion of leaves and buds which cause injury to the vegetation, hence goat cannot be grazed in reserved area of the forest or military area. While, sheep utilize waste of feed and fodder. They have picking habits and can survive on the waste material. Sheep graze at the ground level while goat dislike and refuses dirty, wet, foul smelling, stale and trampled fodder .
- 2) Eating habits:- Sheep eat for sometime take rest i.e. the intermittent feed consumer while the goats are fastidious continuous horacious eater.
- 3) Goat refuses the feed, which is soiled by the other animals. They require clean and fresh feed. They are highly selective and sensitive feeding habit due to development of the taste buds while the sheep do not have selective feeding and survive on any scanty feed available in the field.
- 4) Goat are remarkably efficient user of the course

- and cellulose materials where as sheep are less efficient.
- 5) Goat need higher dry matter as compared to sheep. Goat is efficient and 100% converting carotene to vit-A where as sheep is less efficient.
  - 6) Goat is having toughest mouth of all the ruminants while sheep are not so.
  - 7) Goat consumes large quantity of feed as compare to sheep.
  - 8) Goat utilized the herbage from unaccessible places where as sheep do not.
  - 9) Goat prefer the more quantity of leguminous fodder like green , arhar , cowpea, berseem , Lucerne and dry matter intake of goat is 3-5% whereas sheep require less leguminous fodder and grains and DM requirement is 3.5 %.
  - 10) Goat moves speedily while grazing in the field often in scatter manner therefore they consume variety of medicinal plants hence the milk of goat is easily digestible and used for T.B. patient. Where as sheep moves in cluster form slowly and diversified habit of consumption of food is not present in this species.
  - 11) Tree leaves must be harvested carefully and should be made available to the flock. The flock man must be wise and he should move the flock very slowly and due precaution should be taken at the time of grazing by the side of road for goat flock as they are too much active and aggressive in nature. The shepherds should made available leaves of bamboo, peepal, subabul, neem, anjan, jamun, bohamea, glyricidia, and tamarind etc.
  - 12) Caudal cent glands are present in male goat,
- which gives bucky smell to milk and meat, hence the people prefer sheep meat and milk as compare to goat.
- 13) Goat do not prefer fodder like sorghum and maize but silage , straw and hay are liked by prepared from forest grasses , while sheep eat all type of wild grasses, herbs or crops residue.
  - 14) Concentrates containing urid, mung, gram, and gram husk are utilized well by both the species.
  - 15) Sheep & goat thrive on natural flora pasture and varied type of green foliage from forest, small twig matured leaves from trees. The food includes all sorts of herbages, pastures, woodland, forest, coarse grasses unappetizing weeds, shrubs, thorny bushes, brambles, tree leaves etc.
- Deccani, Sangamneri, Madgyal, Osmanabadi, Berari are some of the breeds reared in Maharashtra by shepherds which are named according to their region.
- Looking more advantages in sheep farming, the people should concentrate on sheep farming as compare to the goat & other livestock farming.

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