

Status And Scope of Goat Rearing in India with Special Reference to Jharkhand

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The goat is a multi-functional animal and plays a significant role in the economy as well as in nutrition of landless, small and marginal farmers in the district. For this reason, Mahatma Gandhi said that goat as "Poor Man's Cow". Goat rearing can provide part time self-employment without affecting the main occupation for small and marginal farmers. Goat can be readily marketable at any point of time and provided the needy emergency fund to the rural farmers of India. So, goats are fondly called as ATM of rural India. The rural poor who cannot afford to maintain a cow or a buffalo find goat as the best alternative source of supplementary income and milk. The risk involved in goat farming is much lower when compared to other livestock and crop production. Goat is reported to be more economical than cattle and sheep under natural grazing/ browsing.

Status of goat population in India and Jharkhand

- Total Goat Population in the country is 148.88 million according to 20th livestock census 2019 as presented in table 1.
- Total Goat has increased by 10.14% over previous Livestock Census (2012).
- About 27.8% of the total livestock is contributed by goats as presented in figure 1.

Table -1. Population of goat in 2012 and 2019 livestock census

Population Of Goat (In million) 2012	Population Of Goat (In million) 2019	% growth
135.17	148.88	10.14

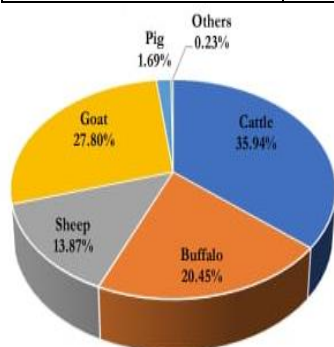


Fig. 1.- Graphical representation of goat population in total livestock population

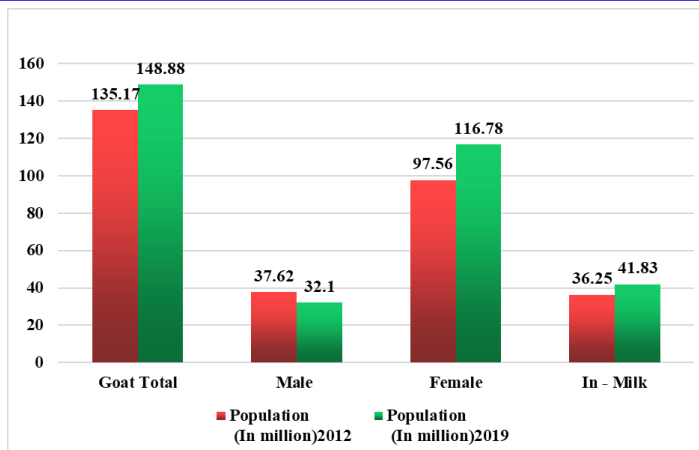


Fig 2. Graphical Representation of Goat Population in 2012 & 2019 (DHAD MF, 2019)



Fig 3. Graphical representation of Goat Population in Major States in 2012 & 2019 (DHAD MF, 2019)

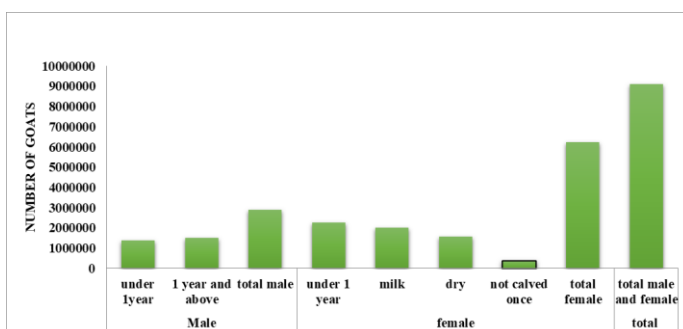


Fig 4. Details of Indigenous Goat by Age, Sex and Use in Jharkhand (DHAD MF, 2019)

Production status of goatery

- The total meat production in India was 7.38MT, 7.65 MT and 8.11 MT, 8.59 MT, 8.79 MT, 9.29MT and 9.76 MT in the year 2016-17, 2017-2018, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2020-21, 2020-21 and 2022-23, respectively. Out of which the contribution of Chevron was 1.04 MT, 1.04 MT, 1.09 MT, 1.21 MT, 1.26 MT, 1.26 MT and 1.41 MT 2016-17, 2017-2018,

2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2020-21, 2020-21 and 2022-23, respectively as presented in table 5.

- Jharkhand shares **2.21 percent** in total chevon production of India in year 2021-22.

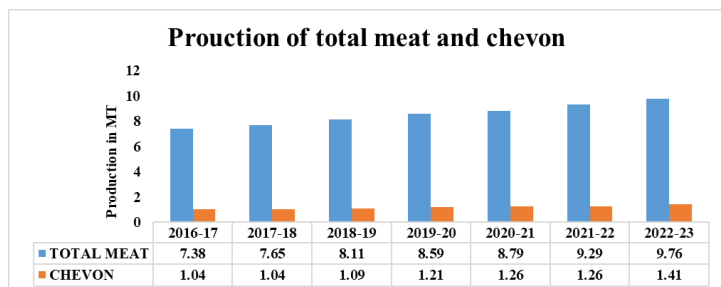


Fig. 5. Production trends of total meat and chevon production in India (BAHS, 2023)

- Per capita availability of meat in India was increased from 5.72 kg in the year 2016-17 to 7.10 kg in the year 2022-23, where as in Jharkhand increased from 1.53 kg in the year 2016-17 to 2.14 kg in the year 2022-23 as presented in table 6, which is far below than Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recommendation of 11 kg/person/year.

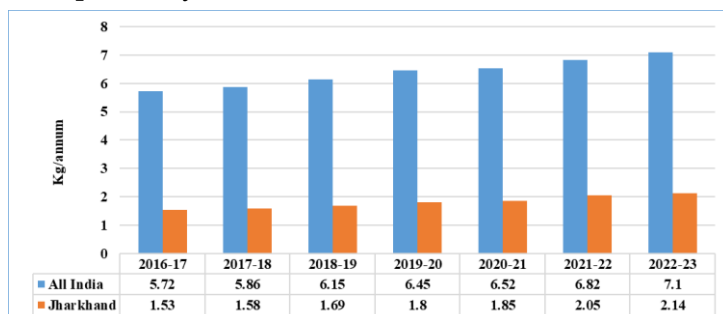


Fig. 6. Per capita availability of meat in India and Jharkhand (BAHS, 2023)

- The total production of goat milk in India in year 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 was 5.75 MT, 6.16 MT, 6.09 MT, 7.35 MT, 6.26 MT, 6.6 MT and 7.59 MT, respectively, out of which the contribution of Jharkhand was 1.3, 1.38 MT, 1.49 MT, 1.58 MT, 1.90 MT and 2.29 MT respectively as presented in table 7.
- Jharkhand shares 2.29 MT in total goat milk production of India in year 2022-23.

Role of goatery in rural economy

- Goats play a significant role in providing supplementary income and livelihood to millions of resource poor farmers and landless labourers of rural India.

- Small ruminant rearing ensures self-employment and acts as a cushion in distress situations like drought, etc.
- Goat rearing has distinct economic and managerial advantages over other livestock because of its less initial investment, low input requirement, higher prolificacy, early sexual maturity, multiple product (milk, meat, fibre, skin, manure, etc.) use and ease of marketing.
- The goat husbandry also generates about 4.2% rural employment to the small and marginal farmers and landless labourers.

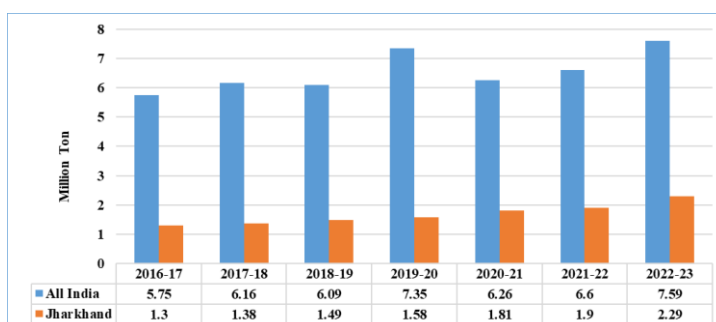


Fig 7. Total goat milk production in India and Jharkhand (BAHS, 2023)

Role of goatery in Indian economy (Lata and Mondal, 2021)

- Goats has tremendous role in providing supplementary income to nearly 70 million farmers in 0.5 million remote villages as well as improvement of socio-economic condition.
- Goats contribute 8.4% of the India's livestock GDP i.e. Rs. 38,590 crores through meat (Rs. 22,625 crores), milk (Rs. 9,564 crores), skin (Rs.1491 crores), manure (Rs.1,535 crores) and others Rs. 3,360 crores.
- India is largest exporters of sheep & goat meat. It has exported 14,128.85 MT of sheep & goat meat worth Rs. 646.69 crores in 2019-20. Major export destinations have been UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arab and Oman.
- Production of chevon increased steadily over the years. Country stands second in goat meat production in the world and has its 12% share.
- India produces 45 MT of pashmina per year from 0.0250 m pashmina goats and is less than 1% of the

total world pashmina production. Indian goats produce around 100-145 g of pashmina per year.

Scope of Goatery

- Goat husbandry provides glimpses of future hope for employment generation, nutritional security and prosperity to the millions of small and marginal farmers in the country.
- Demand for goat milk and milk products for internal consumption and export is expected to rise in coming years.
- Small ruminant rearing ensures self-employment and acts as a cushion in distress situations like drought and famine.
- The demand for meat, milk and fibre is increasing progressively and expected to further rise in future in view of sizable increase in per capita income and health consciousness of people.
- Worldwide consumers are preferring products that are “clean, green and ethical”. As such goat producers are shifting to husbandry practices that do not compromise the welfare of animals.
- Medicinal properties of goat milk increased the interest of society to use it as therapeutic health food nutraceutical; moreover, biotechnologists are focusing on designer milk for human health.
- Goat farming involves less investment compared to other species.
- Wide acceptance of chevon all over India without any religious taboo and most preferred after poultry.
- The growing demands of the goat products.
- Low start-up cost.
- With the advent of modernization, urbanization and expanding human population, there will be a greater need for quality food.

- These human needs can only be sufficed by maximizing animal production in future, with global warming. Already we have seen unbelievable growth in poultry sector in the last 3-4 decades.
- The future of world goatery look bright and there are promising opportunities for all. The developed western nations have already attained pinnacle of industrialization, urbanization and modernization, hence there is less or restricted scope for future growth to different agri-businesses. But the developing regions like India which already have the largest goat populations, have true opportunity to become world leaders in goatery.
- There is ample scope for establishing cottage industries based on goat meat and milk products and value addition to skin and fibre.

Government schemes

- National Livestock Mission (NLM)- Entrepreneurship in Sheep/Goat Farming
- National Livestock Mission- Entrepreneurship in Feed & Fodder (Individual entrepreneurs, SHGs, FPOS, Cooperatives, Section 8 companies etc.)
- Animal husbandry infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) provided to FPOS, SHGS, Private companies, Individual entrepreneurs, Section 8 companies, MSMEs etc.
- Insurance for the animals under NLM- Livestock insurance (through the State Government)

References

DHAD MF: 20th Livestock Census, Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries 2019.

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