Factors Affecting Productive and Reproductive Traits of Indigenous Goats in Nepal

Arati Joshi, Dharmendra Kalauni and Nirajan Bhattarai
Agriculture and Forestry University, Rampur, Chitwan, Nepal

ABSTRACT

It is important to understand the scientific basis of raising goats to improve production and productivity of goats. This is a review article to document available literature on the effects of non-genetic factors on productive and reproductive traits of indigenous goats in Nepal. The review included journal articles, published reports, technical bulletins, conference proceedings, post-graduate and doctoral dissertations. The study revealed that altitude, season of conception, season of kidding, number of kids at birth, parity, size of doe are the major factors affecting productive and reproductive traits of indigenous goats of Nepal. These factors should be carefully considered to promote the indigenous goat production in commercial scale farming.

INTRODUCTION

Goat is recognized as an important livestock species for poverty reduction, livelihood and food & nutritional security for smallholder farmers in Nepal. Due to the requirement of low initial investment, high prolificacy and high value of meat, goat farming is gaining popularity in Nepal. Recently, goat constitute highest population among the total livestock population. Though it seems to be a growing business, there has not been major uptake of commercial goat farming in Nepal. NARDF (2004) reported that absence of proper breeding plans, feeding strategies, inbreeding and poor hygiene are the widespread problem in goat farming in Nepal. Similarly, weak extension service, and lack of awareness about the optimum farming techniques, becomes the hindrance to goat farmers for commercial goat farming.

METHODOLOGY

Necessary information were gleaned through journal articles, published reports, technical bulletins, conference proceedings, post-graduate and doctoral dissertations and reliable information on the factors affecting the productive and reproductive traits of goat were collected. Relevant information were arranged systematically. Findings are summarized in tables, briefed in texts with conclusive outline of the non genetic factors affecting the productive and reproductive traits of indigenous goats of Nepal.

RESULTS

The reproductive traits of goat is found to get affected by breed, location, season of conception, season of kidding, dam's birth type, parity, age of kidding and health care and nutrition. However, the significant factors that affect the reproductive traits are shown by grey/black color in figure (1). Upper altitude, summer conception, single birth type and goat in third parity attain earlier sexual maturity, conception, kidding, kidding interval and post partum estrus. Similarly, production trait of indigenous goat of Nepal is affected by breed, location, season of conception, season of kidding, feed intake, parity, sex, birth type and size of dam. While the trait that significantly affect the production trait is shown in figure (2) by grey/black color. Summer/rainy season conceived does, goats of third to fifth parity, goats born from large sized does and males have higher weight gain and better productive performance.

DISCUSSION

Does born from dams conceived during summer attain earlier sexual maturity and first kidding than those conceived in winter and days because the does conceived during summer season gets relatively abundant nutritious fodder and forage which leads to the faster and proper growth of the fetus. Multiple born kids struggle for food and survive under stress condition since the mother has to support the food among many kids, while the single born kids get proper nourishment which helps for earlier maturation of reproductive organs. Shrestha et al. (2012) reported that lower the age at first kidding and kidding interval, the better is the life time production of the goats. Studies show that kids born from the dams conceived during summer season were heavier than those compared to kids born from dams conceived during winter season.

REFERENCES