

Tarabai Choudhari - She Shows the way by Goat farming

KVK Thane has been playing a pioneering role in technology transfer, refinement and imparting the need based trainings to farmers and rural youth. This particular success story unfolds the achievement of a tribal farm woman, entrepreneur and technologists interaction in sustainable development of a goat farm in Thane & Palghar district.

‘Tarabai’ aged 35 is a resident of Kinhavali village, tal. Dahanu of Palghar district, was working in a daily house hold work, nurturing children’s & helping hand for husband in farming. Her husband have major earning source is farming and has two children. He hails from a low middle class tribal family and in his childhood his mother had brought him up by goat rearing. The belief that what one acquires in his childhood days would be the fundamentals of his/her life is very much true in the case of Mohan. Even after completing long career of ten years of service in the school his interest was always in goat rearing. The extended support rendered by his family and KVK Thane resulted in the greatest achievement of Mohan Choudhari.

Shri. Mohan Choudhari has 5 acres land in hilly areas of Kinhavali village, 58 km away from Dahanu block. He has a real taste and interest in agriculture especially in goat rearing. His initiative and interest in shouldering the financial responsibilities has resulted in the establishment of Goat Farm. They started the goat farm during 2008 with 10 local gaots. Initially they haven’t shed so goats were kept in wooden shed. They feels unhappy while seven goat were killed by dogs during grazing in forest. Hence, they decided to construct shed. They constructed sheds with locally available trees and wooden pillars of 06 feet height for reinforcement. Provision was also provided for the easy removal of excreta. Now they have 80 local breed goats. According to Tarabai, it is beneficial to purchase the pregnant animals than buying the kids. Individual animals were selected based on the production parameters.

The enterprise ran successfully for the first six months. There after the problems began to precipitate like unavailability of sufficient fodder, difficulty in scientific breeding of the goats, low weight gain of kids and difficulty in management of male kids. Then Mr. & Mrs. Choudhari approached KVK Thane for technical guidance.

Technical support

In order to meet the fodder demand KVK experts advised them to utilize the farm land for the cultivation of fodder. KVK provided necessary guidance for fodder cultivation. They started cultivating Hybrid napier CO-1 and Phule jaywant of fodder varieties in one acres of land. KVK conducted training & Demonstration (FLD) on castration in goats to prevent off flavour of meat and better weight gain of male kids.

KVK conducted training & demonstrations on feed management & disease management. This demonstrations help for improving the weight gain of kids. KVK identified this goat farm as one of its field for imparting on farm training to the new entrepreneurs.

Farm operations

Daily operations will start with cleaning of the farm premises. Animals are allowed to graze for three hours in the morning and afternoon. Additional nutrients are met through feeding of commercially available concentrate feed specially made for goats. Though kids are housed separately, they are allowed to drink all the milk produced in the farm. Males and females are kept in separate enclosures and the doe in heat will be bred with the selected buck. The farmers are of the opinion that unscientific selection and indiscriminate breeding are the main reasons for production loss in goat rearing.

Major Problem

Due to the scientific management the average birth weight of kids were 3 kg. The kids used to attain body weight of 25-28 kg by six months. During March 2016 there was mortality of a few kids and the growth rate declined in spite of the scientific breeding. The situation was analyzed with the help of KVK scientists and found that the animals are affected with severe worm infestation. Though animals were regularly drenched with albendazole for deworming, the worms developed drug resistance. According to Tarabai, worm infestation and its management is one of the important aspects the goat farmers should aware of, other wise it will result in wiping out of the flock and closure of the farm.

Diversification

One and a half year after starting his goat farm they wanted to diversify the activities and he approached KVK with this demand. With monitoring of KVK experts, two vermicompost tanks of 8 x 1.5 x 1 m were constructed. The excreta of goats and other wastes were used for vermicomposting. Mr. & Mrs. Choudhari found that vermicomposting is an effective method of converting the goat droppings to easily absorbable manure, saving the labour usually needed for the grinding of pellets. Tarabai & Mohan is happy to see that the production of mango and sapota is increasing due to application of sufficient quantity of vermicompost. Initially this vermicompost was utilized for the farm which has 30 Sapota & 100 Mango trees. Now they are selling the excess quantity outside at the rate of Rs.6/kg. Farmers are of the opinion that the vermicompost made out of goat droppings is superior in quality and the impact can be easily seen on the growth of the crops when it is applied. As the number of animals increased they engaged two helpers in the farm. Due to increased availability of labour and manure they started cultivation of coconut, banana and vegetables. Now it is acting as a supplementary source of income.

Financial outlay

They used to sell goats at 3 - 4 months when they weigh around 15-20 kg. They sell local goats at Rs.250/Kg and on an average a 3-4 month old kid will fetch an amount of Rs.6300/. They earned average Rs. 31500/- per month through Goat Keeping unit.

The demand for goat is more from October to April-May and in this period they could manage to sell 5-10 goats/month. Unlike in the rainy seasons, in these months the goats can graze for 6-8 hours. Therefore the expense for the feeds can be reduced which might be the reason for this high demand of kids during these months. On an average they spends Rs.6000/ for concentrate feed and Rs.3000/ for labour in a month as and when required.

As far as percentage of returns is concerned they said within two years of expansion of the unit itself, we received almost 60% of the initial investment. One of the important things should be noticed is that the level of confidence they holds towards in the enterprise. Tarabai & Mohan is sure that 100% of the returns would be back with in another year. The confidence, love and affection they had for his enterprise was developed only because of her dedication and hard work.

Farmers Message

This particular case would be a nice motivation to the unemployed youths who strives for white colour jobs with frustrated minds due to the damnation of unemployment. In addition to this it is an eye opener for those who keep their land lie fallow.