CHAPTER VI
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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

Sheep and goat rearing plays an important role in generating income and employment, augmenting income of landless labourers and marginal farmers and in meeting their livelihood. An economic study of Sheep and Goat rearing population at district level is of utmost important in the present day. In the present study the researcher made an in-depth analysis about the Sheep and Goat rearers in Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu. Various aspects related to socio-economic conditions of rearers, income and expenditure involved in rearing and constraints faced by the rearers are analysed with the help of primary data collected from the selected 300 Sheep and Goat rearers of the study area. Based on the analysis the following findings are given.

- It is found that most of the selected respondents are entered in rearing from the beginning level of their childhood age due to their poverty and illiteracy and also continue their rearing activity till their old age.
Female participation in Sheep and Goat rearing is higher percentage than the male participation. Maintenance for rearing is having less expense than others.

The study found that there is no significant difference between family size and flock sizes of Sheep and Goat rearing.

The study identified that the uneducated rearers are more in both Sheep and Goat rearing i.e. 85.33 percent and 84 percent respectively.

The study found that due to high level of illiteracy in the study area, Sheep and Goat rearers are unaware of the facilities provided by the Government and the NGOs for the development of their business and hence they remains poor and unskilled without required credit.

Based on the analysis it is found that there was no significant relation between educational status and flock size of sheep and goat rearing.

In the study area 93.33 percent of Sheep rearers and 86.67 percent of Goat rearers belong to Hindu religion. The remaining are Christians. There was no representation in Muslim religion.
Economically backward communities like SC/ST, BC and MBC are involving in the Sheep and Goat rearing as their family business to maintain their livelihood.

The study found that among the 300 selected rearers only 4 percent and 6.66 percent of Sheep and Goat rearers are possessing wet land. The study also reveals that majority of the Sheep and Goat rearers are landless labourers or marginal farmers.

The analysis revealed that almost all the Sheep and Goat rearers are interested in the nature pure breed. Due to their illiteracy they are not aware about the cross-breed.

Rearers of the study area maintained their animals with the help of freely and locally available fodder like tree leaves, residues, grasses and weeds. Hence their expense on fodder was found very low.

The selected respondents are not interested in making more medical expenses for their animals unless and until they are affected with serious diseases.

It is found that huge flock size Sheep and Goat rearers earn more income.
The study identified that there is a significant relation between flock size and earnings in Sheep and Goat rearing.

The selected rearers are very much interested in selling their animals in weekly market. They reaps good price in weekly markets.

80 percent and 86.67 percent of Sheep and Goat rearers are preferred to move there to the market by walk. It is considered as the cheapest way of transportation.

It is found that all the selected respondents of the study preferred to use public land for the rearing.

It is found that on an average each rearer earned a net income of Rs.3600-4000 from sheep rearing and Rs.4000-4500 from Goat rearing.

From the study it is found that Sheep and Goat rearing generate 210 labour days of employment per year during the study period.

It is noticed that contribution of family labour to tend Sheep and Goat rearing was almost 100 percent in landless groups.

It is found that Sheep and Goat rearers facing lot of constraints. All the selected respondents are facing constraints like, lack of
awareness in loan facilities, lack of awareness in Govt. programmes, lack of educated manpower, lack of technological development.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the field survey, analysis of the data and obtained findings of the present study the researcher offers the following suggestions and measures for the future development of Sheep and Goat rearing.

- The present study found that the majority of the selected respondents are illiterate. Hence it is suggested that a suitable system of education is to be arranged.

- The Government should take necessary steps for the establishment of cooperative societies for marketing Sheep and Goat with emphasis on proportionate benefit to small farmers.

- The returns earned by the rearers should only improve through sale of meat but also through selling milk and skin. Suitable breeding programmes may be implemented to improve goat milk production and markets may be extended for better marketing of goat milk and skin.
Propagating goat husbandry to promote unemployment must, hence be thoroughly analysed at least in the future to give the Sheep and Goat a suitable role for improving rural employment.

To improve health cover of Sheep and Goats extension education by Animal Husbandry department to all rearers financed by banks.

Since the Sheep and Goat rearers are mostly raised by poor and illiterate farmers there is need to organise them into groups so as to practice group farming. Wherever there is scope, co-operatives can also be formed.

Sheep and Goat rearers are followed traditional management system. Management of animals and carelessness by shepherds result in major loses in Sheep and Goat rearing. Short duration capsule training programmes besides demonstration are to be conducted to educate the farmers in the adoption of scientific management practices. This would also help in reduce mortality rate.

It is observed from the field survey that the rearers do not have the house for their animals. There is need to convince the
farmers to have a proper shelter and proper housing facilities. The needed finance is to be provided either on loan basis or loan cum subsidy basis.

- It is suggested that the necessary steps should be made by both research and development institutions to link up rural poor/women with funding agencies.

- The system of insurance should be introduced, to reduce the losses which occur to the lambs either because of accidents and natural calamities like lightning and death and also by the disease like blue-tongue, foot and mouth disease, goat-pox etc.

SCOPE FOR THE FUTURE RESEARCH

The present study concentrates only on landless and marginal farmers who are engaged in sheep and goat rearing as their full time work. Hence it is suggested that the future study may involve the rearers possessing wet land and engaged in the business for their supplementary income. The present study ignores the marketing of Sheep and Goats. Hence the future studies may concentrate on marketing of Sheep and Goats.
CONCLUSION

Sheep and Goat rearing is a highly attractive asset for the poor landless labourers particularly poor women in India as also in the area under study. Rearing of Sheep and Goat requires less capital and is more appropriate to our economy where capital is dear. Considering the importance of Sheep and Goat rearing to our economy, developmental schemes have been launched under intensive rural development programmes to help rearing of Sheep and Goats by rural poor.