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Constraints faced and suggestions suggested by sheep rearers in Solapur district of Maharashtra

[1]Mane YC, [2]Shelke RD, [3]Tawale JB and [4]Thombare RA

[1, 4]PhD Scholar, VNMKV, Parbhani, Maharashtra, India

[2]Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, COA, Latur, Maharashtra, India

[3]Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, COA, Dharashiv, Maharashtra, India

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Corresponding Author: Mane YC

Abstract

Sheep (*Orvis arise*) are most likely descended from the Europe and Asia and one of the earliest animals to be domesticated for agricultural purposes. Sheep help to control weeds, hence known as "Natural weed killer". The study was conducted to assess the socio-economic characteristics of sheep rearers in Solapur district of Maharashtra during year 2020-21. The data were collected through personal interview using a well-structured questionnaire from 72 sheep rearers. The result of study showed that, major constraint faced by sheep rearers were lack of grazing land was 52.77%, lack of veterinary services was 51.38%, lack of knowledge and training was 48.61%. Also, the study showed that, about 52.77% sheep rearers suggested that increase grazing area by government. 48.61% sheep rearers suggested that arrangement of vaccination programmes by veterinary doctors for controlling sheep diseases. 45.83% sheep rearers suggested that arrangement of training programme on advanced sheep rearing practices at village level.

Keywords: Sheep rearing, constraints and suggestions

Introduction

Sheep have more environmental adaptability, shorter production cycles and quicker growth rates, ease of management, low investment capital and low feed requirements as compared to large ruminants. They are important protein sources in the diets of the poor people, help to provide extra income and support survival for many farmers in the country. Sheep are mainly reared for wool and meat. Sheep skins and manure constitute vital sources of earning, the latter particularly in Southern India. India possesses 74.26 million sheeps. Total sheep population in India has increased by 14.13% over previous livestock census, 2012. About 13.8% of livestock in India is contributed by sheep. Maharashtra state has a population of around 2.7 milion sheep, which is the 7th largest state-wise population in India. Total population in the Pune division is near about 8,28,875 and out of this 1,25,386 sheep population exist in Solapur district of Maharashtra. (Source-20th livestock census 2019)

Materials and Methods

Multistage sampling design was adopted in selection of district, tehsils, villages and sheep rearers. At first stage, from these district three tehsils i.e. Sangola, Malshiras and Mangalwedha were selected on the basis of availability of highest sheep population. The sampling technique adopted for this investigation was random sampling with the village as a primary unit and the sheep rearers as an ultimate unit of sampling. At second stage, six villages i.e. two villages each from Sangola, Malshiras and Mangalwedha, were selected randomly. The villages *viz.*, Mahud and Lotewadi from Sangola tahsil, Mandave and Purandawade from Malshiras and Sulewadi and Talsangi from Mangalwedha tehsil was selected. At third stage, separate list of sheep rearers was taken from each village with sheep flock size. Then, this list was prestratified into three groups like small (< 35 sheeps), medium (35 to 55 sheeps) and large (> 55 sheeps). From each group four sheep rearers were randomly selected. Thus from each village, twelve sheep rearers were selected. In this way, from six villages of three tehsils, 72 sheep rearers were selected.

The data is collected by personal interview method using well-structured questionnaire. The data was analyzed using statistical tools like frequency and percentage calculation to analyze the constraints and suggestions by sheep rearers.

Result and Discussion

The study's findings highlighted the primary constraints and recommendations identified by sheep rearers, which are as follows:

Constraints faced by sheep rearers in production and marketing

In Table 1, constraints faced by sheep rearers in production and marketing is presented, it was noticed that, major constraint faced by sheep rearers were lack of grazing land was 52.77%, lack of veterinary services was 51.38%, lack of knowledge and training was 48.61%, lack of credit facilities

was 43.05%, Lack of drainage facilities in sheep shed during rainy season was 34.72%. Undeveloped pasture land was 33.33%, Non availability of improved breeding of rams was 30.55%, High mortality rate of lamb was 27.77%, High cost of concentrates was 26.38%.

Table 1: Constraints faced by sheep rearers

Sr. No	Particular	Frequency (N=72)	Percentage	Rank
1.	Lack of grazing land	38	52.77	I
2.	Lack of veterinary services	37	51.38	II
3.	lack of knowledge and training	35	48.61	III
4.	Lack of credit facilities	31	43.05	IV
5.	lack of drainage facilities in sheep shed during rainy season	25	34.72	V
6.	Undeveloped pasture land	24	33.33	VI
7.	Non-availability of improved breeding rams	22	30.55	VII
8.	High mortality rate of lamb	20	27.77	VIII
9.	High cost of concentrates	19	26.38	IX

Suggestions Suggested by sheep rearers
In Table 2, suggestions of sheep rearers in sheep rearing business is presented, It was noticed that, about 52.77% sheep rearers suggested that increase grazing area by government. 48.61% sheep rearers suggested that arrangement of vaccination programmes by veterinary doctors for controlling sheep diseases. 45.83% sheep rearers suggested that arrangement of training programme on advanced sheep rearing practices at village level 41.66% sheep rearers suggested that increase government should provide loan for sheep farmig on low interest rate. 33.33% sheep rearers suggested that reduce the cost of concentrates and 31.94% suggested that provide assistance for construction of sheep shed. 29.16%, 27.77% and 25% sheep rearers suggested that availability of good quality breeding ram at reasonable prices, Develop pasture land and provision of adequate veterinary services.

Table 2: Suggestions Suggested by sheep rearers

Sr. No.	Particular	Frequency (N=72)	Percentage	Rank
1.	Increase grazing area by Government	38	52.77	I
2.	Arrangement of vaccination programmes by veterinary doctors	35	48.61	II
3.	Arrangement of training programme on advanced sheep rearing practices at village level.	33	45.83	III
4.	Govt. should provide loan for sheep farming on low interest rate.	30	41.66	IV
5.	Reduce the cost of concentrates	24	33.33	V
6.	Provide assistance for construction of sheep shed	23	31.94	VI
7.	Availability of good quality breeding ram at reasonable prices	21	29.16	VII
8.	Develop pasture land	20	27.77	VIII
9.	Provision of adequate veterinary services.	18	25	IX

Conclusion
The study revealed that farmers identified several major constraints in sheep rearing such as lack of grazing land, lack of veterinary services, lack of knowledge and training, lack of credit facilities, Lack of drainage facilities in sheep shed during rainy season, Undeveloped pasture land, Non availability of improved breeding, High mortality rate of lamb and High cost of concentrates.

To overcome these challenges, sheep rearers suggested that increase grazing area by government, arrangement of vaccination programmes by veterinary doctors for controlling sheep diseases, arrangement of training programme on advanced sheep rearing practices at village level, increase government should provide loan for sheep farming on low interest rate, reduce the cost of concentrates, provide assistance for construction of sheep shed, availability of good quality breeding ram at reasonable prices, Develop pasture land and provision of adequate veterinary services.

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