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## Constraints faced by goat farmers of Nabarangpur district of Odisha

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#### Abstract

This study was carried out in two blocks of Nabarangpur district of Orissa. One hundred twenty respondents were selected randomly having minimum 10 numbers of goats with 5 years of experience in goat rearing. Different constraints namely financial, operational, extension support, socio-cultural and marketing were analyzed in detail. Extension support constraint was ranked 1<sup>st</sup> among all others. Majority of the farmers reported that proper incentives were not given by the government. Among the different operational constraints, unavailability of feed supplements was the major problem. Farmers did not have sufficient knowledge on benefits of goat farming. Our study suggested that goat farming is done by people of lower socio-economic status who face difficulty in transporting their goats to distance market place for marketing. Government may take necessary steps to improve the knowledge dissemination through specially designed extension activities.

**Keywords:** Goat farmers, constraints

#### Introduction

The small ruminants like goats were among the first farm animals to be domesticated. As indicated by the archeological evidence, they have been associated with man in a symbiotic relationship since time immemorial. Goats can adapt to divergent environmental conditions and nutritional regimes. Thus, they are found all over the world. In spite of all these advantages, there are some constraints that hinder the development of our goat farmers. One of these constraints is treatment cost and goat keepers rarely seek the help of veterinarians for treatment of goats (Rai *et al.*, 2013) [6]. The poor goat keepers are also exploited by middlemen very often. These middlemen moved round the year in the villages and collect more than 90% of goats from the village for selling either in the market or to other sellers. The profitability form goat farming can be extended to poor famers by providing public and non-public support systems, particularly in terms of farmer education and provision of extension and veterinary services (Kosgey *et al.* 2008) [2].

#### Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in two different blocks of Nabarangpur district of Odisha. The blocks namely Papdahandi and Raighar were selected at random. From each block, 12 Gram Panchanchayats (GPs) were selected at random and from each GP, one village was randomly selected. Thereafter, five respondents with minimum 10 numbers of goats and with five years of experience in goat farming were selected from each village. Thus, a total of 120 respondents were selected. To study the constraints faced by the goat farmers, 5 major constraint categories such as financial constraints, operational constraints, extension support constraints, socio-cultural constraints and marketing constraints are identified by having discussion with officials of Department of Fisheries and Animal Resource Development, Government of Odisha, beneficiaries and experts of College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology. The identified constraints were validated by extension personnel. The statements related to constraints were randomly arranged in the interview schedule and the respondents were asked to assign ranks in order of most difficult one to the least difficult one. The statement which was mentioned as highest constraint by the respondents is given rank 1 and the least is given 5. Similarly under each constraint category, 5 major constraint statements were asked to the beneficiaries to assign rank in order of most difficult one to least difficult one. So in total, 25 statements were asked to goat farmers regarding their difficulties in goat rearing. Constraints were ranked on the basis of Garrett's ranking technique.

## Results and Discussion

### a) Financial Constraints

The analysis of financial constraints presented in the Table 1 revealed that the statement of no incentives from government for goat rearing secured first rank followed by insufficient subsidy from the Government as second rank. Initial heavy investment for construction of shed and purchase was ranked third and unavailability of credit from banks and other financial institutions for supporting the scheme was ranked

fourth by the beneficiaries. "My poverty restricts me to participate proactively in the programme" ranked fifth. As most of the goat rearers from backward and disadvantaged sections of the society, the Government should provide incentives for goat rearing to support livelihood in the rural areas. Goat farmers should be reasonable supported to construct the goat shed and purchase the animals to start the goat farming.

**Table 1:** Rank of Financial constraints faced by beneficiaries

Sl. No	Types of constraints	Mean score	Rank
1	Initial heavy investment for construction of shed and purchase of goats	50	III
2	Insufficient subsidy from government	53.5	II
3	No incentives from government for goat rearing	57	I
4	Unavailability of credit from banks and other financial institutions for supporting the scheme	45	IV
5	My poverty restricts me to participate proactively in the programme	45	V

### b) Operational constraints

The analysis of operational constraints presented in table 2 revealed that unavailability of feed supplements in nearby area secured first rank followed by unavailability of kids for starting a farm. Difficulty in construction of goat shed was

ranked third and low level of knowledge on goat management was ranked fourth. Irregular health advisory services by the department were ranked fifth. Therefore, provision may be made to provide feed and fodder to the goat farmers for their maximum benefit from the business.

**Table 2:** Rank of Operational constraints faced by beneficiaries

Sl. No	Types of constraints	Mean score	Rank
1	Difficulty in construction of goat shed	47.75	III
2	Unavailability of kids for starting the farm	50.04	II
3	Unavailability of feed supplements in nearby area	61.87	I
4	Low level of knowledge on goat management	44.33	IV
5	Irregular health advisory services by the department	38.54	V

### c) Extension support constraints

The analysis of extension support constraints faced by the beneficiaries presented in the Table 3 revealed that lack of idea about goat farming secured first rank followed by lack of training to goat farmers, which was ranked second. Lack of exposure to successful goat farms were ranked third and no regular visit of officials of veterinary department was ranked fourth by the respondents. Unavailability of extension literature materials on goat farming ranked fifth. Training is teaching or developing skills and knowledge related to useful competencies. It is absolutely necessary to start a scientific farming. Exposure visit enables farmers from different regions to interact with and learn from each other, allowing them to view practical examples of successful integration of sustainable practices in farming communities like their own.

It is very much essential in order to gain a practical experience. Extension literature or farm publication is class of publications prepared by the extension agency in printed form, containing information relating to improvement of farm income. It includes leaflet, folder, newsletter, etc. Distributing the extension literatures in local languages to the farmers will go a long way in improving their knowledge on goat farming and also can be kept for future reference. Non provision of training, exposure visit and literature are viewed seriously by the respondents and similar findings were reported by Kosgey, *et al.* (2008) [2]. So, it is suggested to include training, exposure visit and distribution of literature materials to encourage the goat farming in the rural areas as a livelihood option.

**Table 3:** Rank of Extension Support Constraints faced by beneficiaries

Sl.No	Types of constraints	Mean score	Rank
1	Lack of training to goat farmers	54.5	II
2	Lack of exposure to successful goat farms	51.62	III
3	Unavailability of extension literature materials on goat farming	45.54	V
4	Lack of idea about benefit of goat farming	55.25	I
5	No regular visit to officials of veterinary department	46.62	IV

### d) Socio-cultural constraints

The analysis of socio-cultural constraints faced by the respondents presented in the Table 4 revealed that goat farming is considered as the occupation of low caste people secured first rank followed by mutton is not preferred by large sections of the people because of health awareness which was ranked second. Unavailability of professionals butchers for slaughtering of goats in rural area was ranked third and there

are certain beliefs that goat keeping in house will restrict the prosperity in the family was ranked fourth by the respondents. The noncooperation of neighbours for goat farming ranked fifth. The farmers mainly raise their goats through semi-intensive system where goats mainly depend upon open grazing with little supplementation of concentrates either in the early morning or evening. So, the presence of adequate grazing land in the vicinity plays a major role in growth and

prosperity of goats. But many of the grazing areas are now threatened with degradation and encroachment by the better off families of the village. As a result of population pressure, and policies which favour cropping, much of the best pasture is being turned over to crops. Besides, now days a majority of grazing land has been acquired for certain developmental projects. Similar findings were reported by Naidu *et al.* (2016) [5]. So it may be suggested to identify the grazing land surrounding the villages and allow the animals to graze on it periodically thereby maintaining the quality of grazing land. The farmers maintain their goats in the goat shed only during the night. But rest of the time either the goats are out for grazing or tied in the farmer's backyard which is not fenced in most of the cases. This creates a major problem for the neighbours. Although majority of the people prefer goat meat than any other meat, but they do not prefer goats in their neighborhood. Browser by nature, the goats prefer to dine on leaves, shrubs and small trees. In most of the cases, if the goats are not tied, they let loose and feed on valuable trees and crops of the neighbour often leading to arguments and fighting with neighbours. Similar findings were reported by Chander, *et al.* (2012) [1] who proposed that goats often cause

conflict when these stray in the crop fields of other farmers. The bad smell of bucks and goat manure create a problem for the neighbours. So, it may be suggested to maintain the goats in a fenced patch of land. Goats are mainly reared by low caste people of the village and often they do not find social recognition. Slaughtering and dressing of goats is a very professional job and requires a lot of skill. This is the reason the professional butchers are not available in every village. So, the farmers mostly sell the goats to middlemen who in turn sell the goats to professional butchers available in urban areas. This was highlighted by the farmers and was ranked third. The goat meat is preferred by large sections of the society. Though the goat meat is costly and has some health concerns due to high cholesterol content but it is accepted widely. The respondents do not have superstition that rearing goats will affect the prosperity of their family. Rather they are of the view that the amount earned from goat rearing will enhance their economic status. So it was ranked as low as fourth. This finding contradicts the findings of Lebbie (2004) [3] who reported that unfound prejudices limit goat development.

**Table 4:** Rank of Socio-Cultural Constraints faced by beneficiaries

Sl. no	Types of constraints	Mean score	Rank
1	Goat farming is considered as the occupation of low caste	56.98	I
2	There are certain beliefs that goat keeping in house will restrict the prosperity in the family	48.58	IV
3	Mutton is not preferred by large sections of the people because of health awareness	53.08	II
4	Unavailability of professionals butchers for slaughtering of goats in rural area	51.45	III
5	Non co-operation of neighbors for goat farming	37.5	V

#### e) Marketing constraints

Goat marketing system plays an important role in assuring better income and benefit for producers. Market constraints refer to factors that hinder the price and promotion of goat meat. The marketing constraints faced by the beneficiaries presented in the Table 5. It shows that high transportation cost to distant market first rank followed by inability to sell the goats at doorstep was ranked second. High bargaining of goat price by middleman was ranked third and unregulated marketing was ranked fourth by the respondents. No community managed goat business centres were ranked fifth. There is no regulated market for goats in the study areas. Goats are sold mainly between goat keepers and middlemen/professional traders through mutual compromise. There is no auction or other systems of marketing of goats. Absence of any regulated marketing system results in harassment of producers. As the producers do not have access to open market, they mostly sell their goats to middlemen at a price fixed by the middlemen. So in majority of cases they sell their goats below the market price thus leading to reduced profit. So this constraint is ranked third by the respondents. Similar findings were reported by Singh *et al.* (2013) [7], who proposed that more than 90% goats were sold by goat keepers in their villages to butchers/middlemen. These middlemen moved round the year in the villages and further sell these

goats to itinerant traders resulting in less profitable business for goat farmers. Most of the farmers view the absence of community managed goat business centres as a reason for their harassment and therefore ranked fifth by the respondents. Many of the households confirm that long distance of market is the cause of selling goats at doorstep as transport cost will be too high for selling small number of goats (one or two) in a distant market place. But most of the respondents do not feel any difficulty in selling the goats at doorstep and also of the view that in spite of high price of goat meat, the market demand remains the same. The demand becomes very high during festive season resulting in better pricing of goats. It is evident from the above discussion that goats are mostly sold at door step to middlemen resulting in reduced profit to producers. In order to encourage efficient marketing systems of goats and their products, there is need for making investment to create physical infrastructure in the markets. Developed physical infrastructure will promote the linkage between producer, processor and consumer. For efficient marketing, there is also need for regulatory and legal frameworks. The village committee must play a major in fixing the pricing of goats as per the market demand, thus preventing the harassment of producers by the middlemen. There is also need to encourage small animal rearers to integrate with agribusiness firms.

**Table 5:** Rank of Marketing Constraints faced by beneficiaries

Sl. No	Types of constraints	Mean score	Rank
1	Inability to sell the goats at door step	52.91	II
2	High bargaining of goats price by middleman	52.70	III
3	High transportation cost to distant market place	54.83	I
4	Unregulated marketing	47	IV
5	No community managed goat business centre	43.16	V

### f) Overall Constraint Analysis

The analysis of overall constraints faced by the beneficiaries presented in the Table 6 revealed that extension support constraint was ranked first by the respondents followed by financial constraints as rank second. The operational constraint was ranked third and marketing constraint was ranked fourth by the respondents. The socio cultural constraint faced by the respondents was ranked fifth.

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**Table 6:** Overall Constraint ranking by respondents

Sl no	Types of constraints	Mean score	Rank
1	Financial constraints	50.60	II
2	Operational constraints	49.51	III
3	Extension support constraint	50.76	I
4	Socio cultural constraints	48.51	V
5	Marketing constraints	50.10	IV

### Conclusion

Financial support should be given by government for different aspect in goat rearing. All the goat farmers must be oriented through regular trainings, exposure visits to nearby successful farms and exhibitions, supplementation of farm literatures in order to make them aware of modern rearing practices which will make them confident about their profession. Most of the farmers view the absence of community managed goat business centres as a reason for their harassment by middlemen. The village committee must play key role in fixing the price of goats as per the market demand, thus preventing the harassment of producers by the middlemen. There is also need to encourage small animal rearers to make agreement with agribusiness firms.

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