



Prospects and Problems of Goat Farming in Rural Nepal

Bipana Devkota

Assistant Professor

Mid-West University, Surkhet, Nepal

dbipana07@gmail.com

Article History

Received: 6 Jan 2025; Reviewed: 20 Feb 2025; Revised: 5 March 2025; Accepted: 5 April 2025;

Published: 21 April 2025

Abstract

This paper primarily covers problems and prospects of goat farming in Garpan village of Surkhet district, Nepal. The need for sustainable agricultural development and enhance the lifestyle of rural farmer is a prime concern. People who are involved in agriculture especially livestock rearing are managing their economic sector but facing different problems. To make sustainable goat farming requires many components; recruit technologies, ideas, skills and breeding system including commercialization of products. The socio-economic base of people has also taken into contemplation in order to make agriculture and livestock sustainability in the eyes and experience of people taken into consideration. The purpose of this paper is to identify the prospects and problems as inherent in the goat farming occupation followed by the people of Garpan village of Surkhet District, Nepal. Shortage of food grain and grass for feeding, unskilled manpower, issue with livestock insurance, insufficient loan facilitation, inadequate training, and problem of facilitation of veterinary is noticed as the problems of goat farming. Diverse significant predictions were found in goat farming activities and action. As the main occupation, goat farming helps to increase income level, opportunity of employment, prospects of meat market, followed with the fertility of land capacity.

Keywords

Goat farming, Economic, Income, Occupation, Employment

Introduction

Traditional animal husbandry system has been changed and modern technological innovation adopted in farming and agriculture. The spread out effects in globalization process, Nepalese farmers also use the contemporary methods and instrument to enhance the goat farming in competitive market (Poudel, 2017). As the versatile animal, goats are mostly raised for their meat, milk, wool, and leather in many parts of the world (Rijal, 2019). Since goats may be raised in a variety of ecological zones in Nepal, goat farming is becoming more and more popular as a business (MOAC, 2019). Goats are belonging to different species, but their management is almost similar. Nepal is a fertile land for livestock like sheep and goats (Rijal, 2019). All



caste and ethnic people like goat meat so goat farming has become a popular occupation in semi-urban and rural area. Goat farming is easy to establish and operate in terms of investment and manpower (MOAC, 2019).

Goat farming in Nepal is a significant agricultural practice, playing an essential role in the livelihoods of many rural communities (Poudel, 2017). Goat farming is a major source of income for many rural households in Nepal (MOAC, 2019). It contributes to food security, nutrition, and economic stability; especially in marginalized and remote areas. Goat meat is highly preferred in Nepal, contributing significantly to the country's meat consumption (MOAC, 2019). The demand for goat meat increases during festivals like Dashain. Although apart from meat production, some farmers also produce goat milk, which is valued for its nutritional benefits (Pradhan, 2016). Indigenous breeds like the Khari, Chyangra and Terai breeds are well adapted to the local environment. Khari is the most popular due to its hardiness and adaptability (Poudel, 2017, Rijal, 2019). Breeds like Jamunapari, Barbari, and Boer have been introduced to improve meat production and overall productivity. Crossbreeding between local and exotic breeds is common (Pradhan, 2016, Rijal, 2019).

Most goat farming in Nepal follows traditional, extensive systems where goats graze freely on natural vegetation (Pradhan, 2016). This is common in hilly and mountainous regions (Pradhan, 2016). In some areas, especially near urban centers, farmers are adopting semi-intensive and intensive farming systems (MOAC, 2019, Rijal, 2019). Goat farming creates employment opportunities, not only in farming but also in related activities such as feed production, veterinary services, and meat processing (Tayo, 2019). Goat farming has been a tool for women's empowerment in many rural areas, providing them with income and improving their social status within their own community (Rijal, 2019).

Goat farming in Nepal is an integral part of rural agriculture and serves as a livelihood for many smallholder farmers, particularly in the hilly and mountainous regions. The practice of goat farming is deeply embedded in the socio-economic fabric of rural Nepal, providing a sustainable source of income, food, and employment. Despite being predominantly small-scale and informal, goat farming is characterized by diverse practices that vary according to geographic, cultural, and economic factors. This section outlines the key goat farming practices in Nepal, including breeding, feeding, management, and health care, as well as the challenges faced by farmers. Goat farming in Nepal holds great potential for contributing to rural development, poverty reduction, and food security (Rijal, 2019). Addressing the challenges through targeted interventions and leveraging opportunities for growth can enhance the productivity and sustainability of this sector (Tayo, 2019). Providing proper support and investment, goat farming can continue to be a vital part of Nepalese agricultural landscape to improve people's work and life in rural area of Nepal (MOAC, 2019).

Goat farming is an important agricultural sub-sector in Nepal. Numerous farmers involve in goat farming (Rijal, 2019, Tayo, 2019). Goat farming is the practice of raising and breeding goats for their meat, milk, fiber, and other by-products (MOAC, 2019). Goats are versatile animals that can adapt to different environments, making them an ideal choice for farmers and homesteaders. Choose the right breed (Tayo, 2019). There is many breeds of goats, each with its own unique characteristics. Some popular breeds are Boer, Nubian, Alpine, and Seamen. It needs a shelter for your goats to protect them from harsh weather conditions, predators, and other risks. Goats require regular vaccinations, dehorning, and other health treatments (MOAC, 2019). Goats reach sexual maturity at around six months of age (Tayo, 2019). Determine the breeding schedule and practices that work best for your operation. There is a need to identify potential customers and markets for your goat products, such as meat, milk, and fiber. Establish a pricing strategy and market your products through local farmers' markets, online marketplaces, or direct sales (MOAC, 2019, Tayo, 2019).

Around 75 percent of household are rearing goats in their families (MOAC, 2019, Acharya, 2017). Farmers used to goat farming as supplementary occupation of crop production (MOAC, 2019). Goat farming is a major part of livestock sector and is mainly adopted by the small as well as marginal farmers whose primary and stable source of income is agriculture (MOAC, 2019, Acharya, 2017). The weak management of goat farming in Nepal livestock face problem of breeding and proper production as required performance (Tayo, 2019). In addition to this lack of proper management in feeding and disease control the farmers are not able to reap optimum profit from this sector (MOAC, 2019). In many rural areas there is not even the availability of improved castration method and the castration is painful for goat (Kumar et al., 2014).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation (MOAC) (2019), stated that the number of goat in Nepalese market is insufficient, the production of goat meat cannot fulfil the demand of the people 25% of the production consume in local village market and rest of the 75% sent to the formal market. Livestock production is an essential sector in Nepalese national development since it produces food, increases external trade, ensures balanced growth across areas and sectors, and reduces rural unemployment while also offering new job opportunities in the industrial and service sectors. Goat production is an important part of Nepal's livestock industry (Rijal, 2019, Tayo, 2019).

The nutritional requirements of farm goats in terms of calories, protein, minerals, and vitamins have long been recognized and have been improved upon in recent years (Pradhan, 2016). There are numerous requirement determination systems for ruminants and non-ruminants in different countries (Tayo, 2019). These systems were initially developed to examine the nutritional and productive effects of various diets for goats after intake was known (MOAC, 2019). To properly predict goat growth, body composition, feed needs, waste product outputs from the goat, and production costs, a substantial amount of research is still needed (Panta & Dhakal, 2019).

Goats were raised in ways that more closely matched their natural environments, and the primary goal of producing livestock in earlier societal forms was to provide a useful product rather than just to make money exchange-value (Shrestha, 2016). The social behavior of livestock goats with humans was one of the main factors that led humans to choose them for domestication (Panta & Dhakal, 2019).

Livestock farming is the main source rural economy and source of income for rural farmer. Since the separation of Nepal into three geographical zones, namely mountains, hills, and plain regions, various sorts of crops are grown in each zone. Still, the main crops farmed in most parts of Nepal are paddy, maize, millet, and wheat (Panta & Dhakal, 2019). Agriculture plays the vital role in Nepalese rural economy and employment generating sector for rural communities, it is providing employment for more than eighty percent of the Nepalese population (Marpana & Seresin, 2011). Livestock rearing is an important activity of farming as a part of Nepalese agriculture system (Panta & Dhakal, 2019).

Nepal's permanent agriculture system was established in the early nineteenth century (Nepali et al., 2007). In 1952, the Nepalese government launched a new agricultural strategy to equip farmers with information on improved crops, fertilizers, and agricultural implements. That was a significant stride forward in Nepalese agricultural growth. Yet, considerable agricultural growth in Nepal did not commence until the mid-twentieth century. Following that, Nepal's national agricultural policies and plans have increasingly focused on transforming subsistence farming into a professional and competitive agricultural sector through sustainable agricultural development (MOAC, 2019). However, agriculture is still subsistence in most parts of Nepal, and farmer circumstances have not changed considerably in the course of time.

Agricultural strengthening entails increasing agricultural output by cultivating more annual crops, develop farm house and enhance the animal husbandry (Neupane, et al. 2018). In particular, intensification is defined as an increase in yearly cropping patterns, an increase in crop kinds, intensive input utilization, and other land use activities. In the Nepalese mid-hill semi-urban context, intensification has replaced the traditional practice of planting two crops per year with three or more crops, including vegetables, per year (Acharya, 2017, Dahal, et al., 2009). Yet, agricultural intensification in Nepal's mid hills is distinguished by the widespread use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides (Neupane, et al. 2018).

To strengthening agriculture, Acharya (2017) argues that urban centers consist of large non-agricultural populations that exert a substantial demand for agricultural products. Semi-urban areas of Nepal thus have great potential of intensification since they are in close proximity to markets and own better infrastructures (Dahal, et al. 2009). Since intensification has provided increased income opportunities through the better linkages with the urban markets, farmers with relatively smaller landholdings and limited off farm income have also adopted intensification practices in the watershed (Neupane, et al. 2018). Agricultural strengthening is considered to have some negative effects as well. According to Alauddin and Quiggin (2008), intensification is detrimental to soil fertility, land management, and natural resource management. Furthermore, unsustainable agricultural techniques threaten overuse of natural resources in the form of inputs, which has negative environmental consequences (Acharya, 2017).

Regarding the livestock, Degen, et al. (2010) pointed that an agricultural system supported by the livestock is only measured sustainable if it contributes to social, environmental, and economical outcomes.

Sustainable farming intensification produces fewer environmental and human health problems. Sustainable agricultural intensification decreases negative environmental effects by increasing natural capital contributions and providing improved flows of environmental services. Furthermore, it improves livelihoods through increased output and safeguards the land from degradation (Dahal et al. 2009). This paper tries to provide information on the people involved in goat farming activities and action and also depict attention to carry out further research works covering area of goat farming in Nepalese rural areas. The main thrust of this paper is to analyze the socio-economic status of the farmer and find out the prospects, problems and affecting factors of goat farming in rural Nepal.

Methodology

This paper which is based on the field research is marked with the descriptive research design combined with interpretative methods of data interpretation and analysis. Hence this study is marked with mixed research design, research strategies and tools of data collection. There were 153 households among them 39 households were sampled using purposive sampling method. That was 25.5 percent of the total household. In order to collect data and information field work was carried out in October, 2024 in Garpan Village of Surkhet District, Nepal. Field observation and questionnaire survey were used to collect the primary data and information from the field. Secondary sources of data were taken from the government publications, reports, economic survey and related research articles. Questionnaire and observation list was used as tools of data collection.

Result and Discussion

This section of the paper is divided into three sections. The first section attempts to depict social and economic situation of people involved in goat farming. The second section insights the prospects associated with the goat farming occupation. The third section describes the problems as encountered by farmers involved in goat farming business.

This study was conducted in the Garpan Village of Surkhet District in Karnali Province of Nepal. The village is made of with diverse caste and ethnic groups residing for centuries. Most people of that village practiced sustainable agriculture and animal husbandry as their main occupation. The overall picture of the goat farming in rural areas is described in the following subsection of the research study paper.

Socio Economic Status of the Respondents

Most of the agricultural studies relate to the goat farming provide valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by farmers and the agricultural sector as a whole (Rijal, 2019). Some aspects to consider when assessing the socio-economic status of respondents are demographic information, age, gender, education level, economic factors, income levels, community engagement usually used. The main socio-economic status of the respondents for this study is analyzed below.

Land Ownership

Being an agricultural country, more than 60 percent of the population of Nepal depends on agriculture (Gov of Nepal, 2022). Land is the main source of food grain and animal husbandry. Economically farmers have seen in a low position in comparison of contemporary society. The land ownership of the respondents in the study area is not seen sufficient to raising the goat farming. They hardly maintain the farm in their limited land. The land holding status of the respondents is mention in the following table.

Table 1

Distribution of Respondents by Land Holding

Land in ropani	Respondents number	Percentage
5-10	9	23.07
10-15	15	38.46
15-20	10	25.64
>20	5	12.82
Total	39	100

Source: Field Study 2024

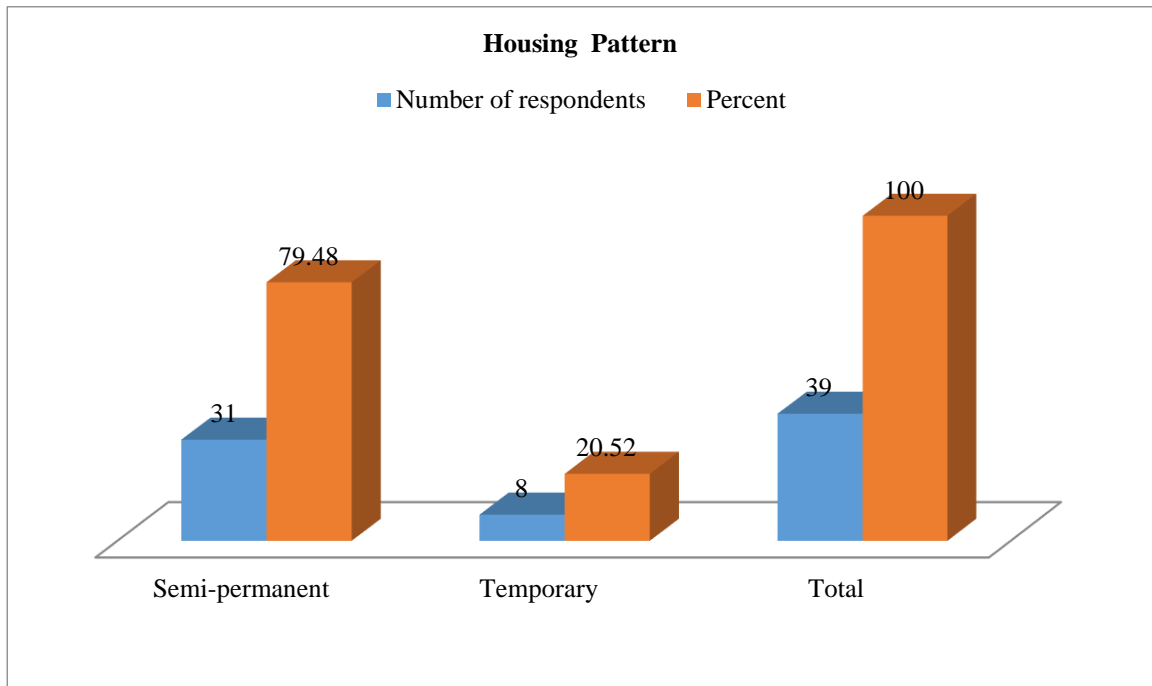
The above table describe the land holding situation of the respondents, 38.46 percent of the respondent have 10-15 *Ropani* of land, like this 25.64 percent have 15 to 20 *Ropani* of land 23.07 percent have less than 10 *Ropani* and only 12.82 percent have more than 20 *Ropani* of land. This result indicates that all the goat farmers have their own land but this land is not sufficient to enlarge the goat farm.

Housing Pattern of the Respondents

The housing pattern in the study area is primarily connected to the environment, culture, and economic resources of the area. Traditional houses have evolved to meet local needs and offer solutions to climate and terrain. The houses have modified, most of their roof is made up of tin.

Figure 1

Housing Pattern of the Respondents

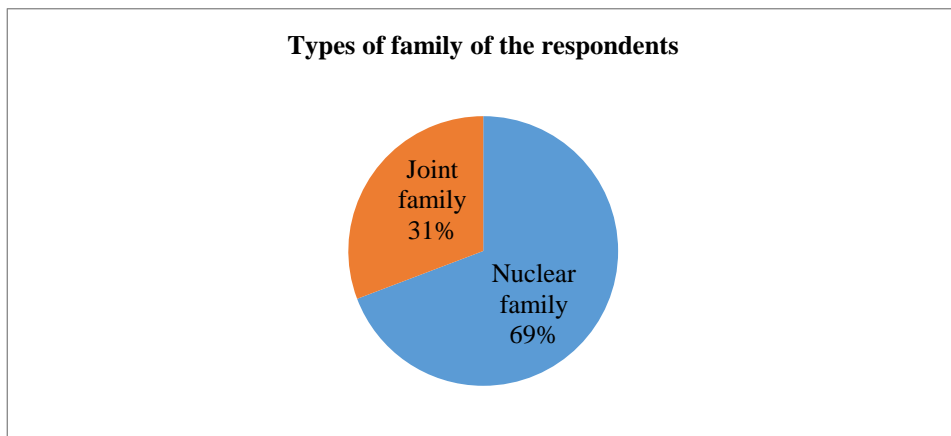


Source: Field Study 2024

In the study village, most of the houses were semi-permanent; they are made using local recourse by applying indigenous technology but roof of the house covered by tin. Only 20.52 percent of the houses were represented the traditional type.

Family Pattern

In agricultural society family pattern plays the vital role to the domestic activities and action. Family pattern is influence by the various factors like relationships within a family unit, as well as the norms, values, and practices that guide family life. It encompasses how family members are related to each other, how they interact, and how responsibilities and duties are distributed. As the time course family in rural Nepal also influence by modernity and become nuclear. The following figure shows the pattern of family in the goat farming society.

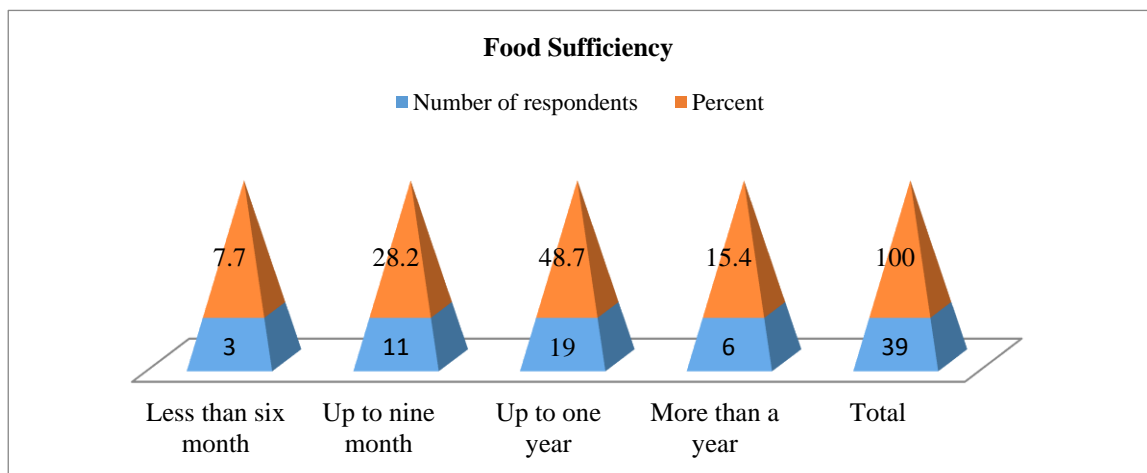
Figure 2*Distribution of respondents by family pattern*

Source: Field Study 2024

Regarding the family pattern, 69 percent of the respondent represents nuclear family while 31 percent were joint family. These evident show that; nuclear family is popularly practiced in rural Nepal.

Food Sufficiency

Sufficient food in goat farming is essential for the well-being and productivity of goats. A balanced diet with the right mix of forage, grains, fiber, and minerals is key to ensuring healthy goats. Regular access to fresh water and proper feeding management are also crucial for preventing health issues. By providing a well-rounded and sufficient food supply, goat farmers can optimize the health, growth, reproduction, and production of their goats, leading to a more successful farming operation. The following figure shows that food sufficiency of the respondents in the study area.

Figure 3*Distribution of Respondents by Food Sufficiency*

Source: Field Study 2024

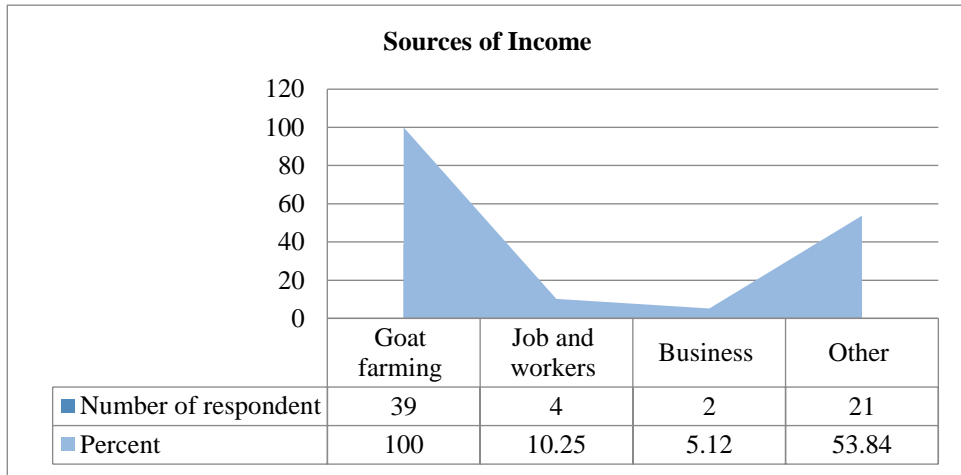
On the basis of food production, 7.7 percent have produce food grain for less than six month, 28.2 percent can success to produce food for up to nine month, 48.7 percent of the farmer produce available food grain to their family and livestock. Only 15.4 percent of the respondents can produce food grain as they need.

Sources of Income

When analyzing the sources of income of respondents in a study or survey, it's important to categorize the different ways they earn money. This can provide insights into their economic activities, financial stability, and socio-economic status. The sources of income of the respondents are shown in the following figure:

Figure 4

Distribution of Respondents by Their Sources of Income (Multiple Responses)



Source: Field Study 2024

The main source of income of the respondents gain from goat farming, all of the respondent have main source of income to sustain their family is goat farming. Apart from the goat farming 53 percent of the respondents have other sources of income like chicken, cow, buffalo, and food grain. Like this 10.25 percent have additional income sources these are nominal job and work force in their own village and 5.12 percent of the respondents involve in pity traders in their own house.

Financial Support of Respondents

Finance is very essential to run the business or farm. Regarding the study village, farmers have taken loan from the different sources. They have taken loan from banks, cooperatives, villagers and relatives on the basis of their access. Farmers have given priority to agricultural bank and commercial bank rather than the cooperatives and relatives. The situation of financial loan taken for goat farming is shown as below:

Table 2

Distribution of respondents by taking loan for goat farming

S.N.	Sources of Finance	Number of Respondents	Percent
1	Agricultural bank	15	38.46
2	Commercial bank	12	30.76
3	Cooperatives	7	17.94
4	Relatives	5	12.84
	Total	39	100

Source: Field Study 2024

The table shows the distribution of respondents who took loans for goat farming, based on their sources of finance. To run and established the goat farming, 15 respondents (38.46%) secured loans from agricultural banks; making it the most common source of finance. 12 respondents (30.76%) took loans from commercial banks. 7 respondents (17.94%) obtained loans through local cooperatives. 5 respondents (12.84%) relied on loans from relatives for financing their goat farming. A total of 39 respondents participated in the survey.

The majority of loans were sourced from agricultural and commercial banks, while fewer respondents used cooperatives or loans from relatives.

Table 3

Annual Saving of the Respondents

S.N.	Amount in Rs.000	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	<50	2	5.12
2	50-100	8	20.51
3	100-150	17	43.58
4	150-200	9	23.07
5	>200	3	7.69
Total		39	100

Source: Field Study 2024

The table provides a distribution of the annual savings of respondents, where the amount saved annually is categorized into different ranges. It includes the number of respondents within each savings range and their corresponding percentages. The largest group of respondents (43.58%) saves between 100,000 Rs. and 150,000 Rs. annually, making this the most common saving range. The smallest group (5.12%) saves less than 50,000 Rs. annually. There is a moderate number of respondents (20.51% and 23.07%) who save between 50,000-100,000 Rs. and 150,000-200,000 Rs. annually. A small portion of the sample (7.69%) saves more than 200,000 Rs. annually. The data suggests that most respondents save between 50,000 Rs. and 150,000 Rs. annually, with the highest concentration around the 100,000-150,000 Rs. range. The distribution indicates a relatively middle-to-upper saving behavior, with fewer respondents saving very little or very high amounts. The savings pattern shows a diverse but relatively moderate approach to saving, with the bulk of respondents saving between 50,000 and 150,000 Rs. annually.

Prospects and Problems of Goat Farming

There are some prospects and problems as identified with goat farming in the study area. These have been discussed as below.

Prospect of Goat Farming

There is a growing demand for goat meat and other goat products such as milk, skin, and wool in both domestic and international markets. Goat meat, being a preferred choice in Nepalese cuisine and increasingly popular in urban areas, presents a significant market opportunity. The growing trend of health-conscious consumers seeking lean meat further boosts the demand for goat products, offering promising prospects for goat farming as a viable business.

Goat farming has the potential to play a vital role in the socio-economic development of rural Nepal (Poudel, 2017). It provides a reliable source of income, especially for smallholder farmers, and is a more accessible form of livestock farming compared to cattle or buffalo (Dhital, 2018). By increasing the productivity and profitability of goat farming, rural communities can experience improved living standards and a reduction in poverty.

Goat farming can contribute to environmental sustainability, particularly in regions where other forms of livestock farming may not be feasible. Goats are hardy animals that can thrive in diverse environments, including hilly, mountainous, and arid regions. Their ability to graze on rough terrain and low-quality fodder makes them an ideal choice for regions facing land degradation and climate change. In this way, goat farming can be an environmentally sustainable form of agriculture, especially when managed properly.

Problems of Goat Farming

In rural area of Nepal, goat farmers are facing the veterinary services. Different types of disease and parasitic infections attack the goat farming (joshi et al., 2018). This lead to low productivity and high mortality rates create financial losses (Rijal, 2019). The majority of goats raised in rural Nepal are local and indigenous breeds, which tends to have lower productivity compare to improved and crossbred verities. Local

breeds are generally more disease-resistant and adapted to the harsh climatic conditions but have lower growth rate (joshi et al., 2018). For the sustainability of goat farming and increase in production and profit gain may not possible without proper breeding program to improve genetic quality.

Mountain and hilly areas of Nepal, there is limited availability of quality fodder and nutrition for goats. Farmers often rely on grazing which is not always sufficient and nutritionally balanced. Small scale goat farmer in rural Nepal have limited access to modern farming techniques and knowledge. Lack of formal training in areas such as herd management, disease prevention, breeding practices, and feeding strategies affects the productivity of goat. The absence of extension services and support, lack of training and management system in goat farming, farmers could not success to lead economic growth and increase in productivity. Farmers face difficulties in selling their animals at profitable prices due to a lack of established market linkages.

Factors Affecting Goat Farming

In the course of study, respondents said that goat farming can be influenced by several factors that determine its success and unproductive. One of the primary factors is environmental conditions. Goats are adaptable animals, but extreme weather conditions, such as excessive heat or cold, can impact their health and productivity. Adequate shelter, proper ventilation, and access to clean water are essential for their well-being. Feed and nutrition also play a crucial role in goat farming. The quality and availability of forage, grains, and supplements directly affect their growth, milk production, and reproductive performance. Additionally, the breed of the goat can significantly influence the outcome of farming, as certain breeds are better suited for milk production, meat, and fiber. Health management is another factor; regular veterinary care, vaccinations, and parasite control are essential to prevent diseases and ensure high productivity. Market demand for goat products, such as meat, milk, and wool, also affects the viability of goat farming, as farmers must align their operations with consumer preferences. Management practices such as breeding, record-keeping, and labor management are important for maintaining an efficient and profitable goat farming operation.

In the course of examining the factors affecting goat farming in the study area, some aspects should be considered. These factors can influence the productivity, sustainability, and profitability of goat farming. Here are some important factors to consideration:

- *Environmental conditions:* Environmental conditions play a crucial role in the success and sustainability of goat farming. Goats have specific temperature tolerances. Extreme heat can lead to heat stress, affecting their health and productivity, while extreme cold can increase the risk of hypothermia and reduce feed intake. Adequate rainfall is essential for maintaining pasture quality and availability. Insufficient rainfall can lead to drought conditions, reducing forage availability and increasing feed costs.
- *Breeding practices:* The breed of goats and their genetic traits can influence growth rates, milk production, and disease resistance. Use of artificial insemination or natural breeding methods can affect herd improvement.
- *Feeding and nutrition:* Access to quality forage, supplements, and minerals is crucial for goat health and productivity. Knowledge of balanced diets and feeding schedules can impact growth and reproduction.
- *Health management:* Access to veterinary care and vaccination programs can prevent diseases and improve herd health. Awareness and management of common goat diseases are essential for maintaining productivity.
- *Social and Cultural Factors:* Local traditions and practices related to goat farming can influence management practices and herd size. Participation in cooperatives or farmer groups can enhance access to resources and knowledge.
- *Technological adoption:* Adoption of modern farming techniques, such as improved breeding and feeding practices, can enhance productivity. Availability of agricultural extension services and training can improve management practices.

- *Government policies:* Availability of subsidies, grants, or training programs from the government can impact goat farming viability. Compliance with health and safety regulations can affect operational practices.
- *Labor availability:* Availability of skilled labor for goat management and care can affect productivity and efficiency. Because of the low level of skilled labor supplement, it affects the goat farming in the study area.

Discussion

Goat farming in Nepal presents both significant challenges and promising opportunities, reflecting a complex interplay of socio-economic, environmental, and technological factors. As a country with a strong agricultural tradition, Nepal has the potential to expand its goat farming industry, but various obstacles hinder its growth. At the same time, these challenges highlight areas for improvement, where targeted interventions could unlock considerable benefits for rural communities and the national economy.

Several studies have documented the primary challenges faced by goat farmers in Nepal. Reference to Panta & Dhakal (2019), one of the most significant issues is inadequate veterinary services. Another challenge is the inadequate supply of quality feed. Goat farming in Nepal is largely dependent on grazing, which is often insufficient, particularly in hilly and mountainous regions where grazing land is limited (Dhital, 2018). Many farmers face difficulties in providing their herds with nutritionally balanced and adequate fodder, leading to poor growth rates, low reproductive performance, and reduced milk and meat yields (Bhattarai et al., 2019). During the dry season, when grazing resources are scarce, the problem becomes even more pronounced, affecting the overall health and productivity of the goats.

Most goats raised in Nepal are indigenous breeds that are well-adapted to the local environment but tend to have lower productivity compared to improved breeds. According to Sharma et al. (2022) the lack of organized breeding programs limits the genetic potential of goats, resulting in slow growth, low milk yield, and lower overall economic returns for farmers. This problem exacerbates the challenge of improving the efficiency of goat farming in rural Nepal. Many farmers rely on local traders who offer low prices, reducing the overall profitability of goat farming (Joshi et al., 2018).

Despite these challenges, several studies highlight the prospects of goat farming as an economically viable and sustainable enterprise. The growing demand for goat meat, especially in urban areas and export markets, presents a significant opportunity for expansion. According to a study by Joshi et al. (2021), goat meat consumption is increasing in Nepal due to its perceived health benefits, particularly as a lean source of protein (Panta & Dhakal, 2019).

The potential for genetic improvement through crossbreeding is also recognized as a key opportunity. Sharma et al. (2022) argue that introducing crossbred goats with higher productivity could help improve meat and milk yields, thereby enhancing the profitability of goat farming. Furthermore, improving genetic quality through selective breeding programs could lead to more robust and disease-resistant goats, which would reduce the impact of livestock diseases and improve overall herd productivity (Tayo, 2019).

In terms of market expansion, improving infrastructure and creating better market linkages is essential for increasing the income of goat farmers. Research by Bhattarai et al. (2019), government initiatives and support programs aimed at improving transportation, cold storage facilities, and market access could help reduce post-harvest losses and ensure farmers receive fair prices for their products. Strengthening cooperative models and farmer associations has also been suggested as a way to empower farmers and enhance their bargaining power in the market (Bhattarai et al., 2019).

Additionally, goat farming has the potential to play a significant role in rural development and poverty alleviation. Several studies highlight that goat farming is an inclusive and accessible livelihood option for smallholder farmers, especially women. Neupane (2018) notes that women in rural Nepal often engage in goat farming as a means of income generation, and the sector has the potential to empower women economically. Goat farming also provides a stable source of income for households, helping to reduce rural poverty and improve food security (Joshi et al., 2018).

In the study area, to run and established the goat farming, 15 respondents (38.46%) secured loans from agricultural banks; making it the most common source of finance. 12 respondents (30.76%) took loans from commercial banks. 7 respondents (17.94%) obtained loans through local cooperatives. 5 respondents

(12.84%) relied on loans from relatives for financing their goat farming. The data suggests that most respondents save between 50,000 Rs. and 150,000 Rs. annually, with the highest concentration around the 100,000-150,000 Rs. Range, per year. Goat farming is a part of agricultural system. Animal husbandry is directly related to food production and increase the fertility of land. To produce food grain animal dung plays the catalyst role. Sufficient land is required to produce grain to feed the animal, but the farmers who have involved in goat farming in the Garpan village do not have sufficient land to produce the food grain to feeding their family member and their goats. It is the evidence that only the 15 percent respondents have produce sufficient food grain. But major source of income of the respondents is goat farming.

Respondents had urged that goat farming influenced by several factors that determine its success or unproductive. One of the primary factors is environmental conditions. Adequate shelter, proper ventilation, and access to clean water are essential for their well-being. Feed and nutrition also play a significant role in goat farming. Additionally, the breed of the goat can significantly influence the outcome of farming, as certain breeds are better suited for meat, and fiber production. Health management is another factor; regular veterinary care, vaccinations, and parasite control are essential to prevent diseases and ensure high productivity.

Conclusion

Goat farming in Nepal presents both notable challenges and promising opportunities. Goat farming could emerge as a significant contributor to rural livelihoods and national economic growth. Despite facing significant obstacles such as limited veterinary services, inadequate feed, poor genetic quality of livestock, and restricted market access, the sector has considerable potential for growth and development. The high demand for goat products, coupled with the growing trend towards healthier dietary preferences, offers substantial market opportunities. Findings of the study indicates that people in rural Nepal often engage in goat farming as a prime source of income generation, and the sector has the potential to economic empower. Goat farming also provides a stable source of income for households, helping to reduce rural poverty and improve food security.

It is crucial to address the existing constraints through targeted interventions. Strengthening veterinary services, improving feed resources, and introducing effective breeding programs can significantly enhance the productivity and sustainability of goat farming in Nepal. Expanding market access and improving infrastructure will enable farmers to secure better prices for their products, thereby increasing their income and reducing poverty in rural areas. Goat farming influenced by several factors that regulate its success. Factors like environmental conditions, adequate shelter, proper ventilation, and access to clean water are essential for their well-being. Feed and nutrition also play a significant role in goat farming. The breed of the goat can influence the productivity of farming. It has the capacity to contribute to rural economic development, improve food security, and offer a sustainable livelihood option for Nepal's smallholder farmers. With the favorable policies, institutional support, and investment in farm, goat farming can become a cornerstone of Nepal's agricultural economy, offering both economic and social benefits for rural communities across the country.

About Author

Bipana Devkota is an Asst. Prof. of Rural Development in the Mid-West University, Nepal.

References

- Acharya, R. B. (2017). Marketing Constraints to Goats in the Western Hill of Nepal. *Nepal Agricultural Research Journal*, 8, 95–102. <https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.3126/narj.v8i0.11601>
- Alauddin, M. & Quiggin, J. (2008). Agricultural intensification, irrigation and the environment in South Asia: Issues and policy options. *Ecological Economics*,
- Bhattra, N., Gorkhali, N. A., Kolakshyapati, M., & Sapkota, S. (2019). Breeds and breeding system of indigenous and crossbred goats in Nepal. <https://doi.org/http://dx.org/10.5772/intechopen.82821>
- Dahal, B. M., Nyborg, I., Sitaula, B. K. & Bajracharya, R. M. (2009). Agricultural intensification: food insecurity to income security in a mid-hill watershed of Nepal. *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*, 7 (4): 249-260.
- Degen, A. A., Pandey, L. N., Kam, M., Pandey, S. B., Upreti, C. R., & Oasti, N. P. (2010). Goat production and fodder leaves offered by local villagers in Mid- Hills of Nepal. *Human Ecology*, 38(5), 625-637. <https://doi.org/1007/s10745-010-9342-2>
- Dhital, B. (2018). A socioeconomic view of status and prospects of goat farming in rural areas of Nepal. *Journal of the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science*, 35(1), 1-8.
- Government of Nepal (2022). *Economic survey of Nepal*: Ministry of finance.
- Herold, P., Markemann, A., & Zarate, A. V. (2011). Resource use, cattle performance and output patterns on different types in a mountainous province of northern Vietnam. *Animal Production Science*, 51(7), 650-661. <https://doi.org/10.1071/AN10032>
- Joshi, A., Kalauni, D., & Bhattarai, N. (2018). Factor affecting productive and reproductive traits of indigenous goats in Nepal. *Archives of Veterinary Science and Medicine*, 1(1), 19-27. <https://doi.org/10.26502/avsm.003>
- Kumar, U., Reader, R. A., Singh, M. L., Balwada, R. G., & Chaturvedi, D. (2014). Economics of goat farming under traditional low input production system in Bikaner district. *Asian Journal of Animal Science*, 9(2), 160–163. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15740/HAS/TAJAS/9.2/160-163>
- Marapana, R. & Seresin, T. (2011). Goat farming systems in the southern province of Shree Lanka: Feeding and management strategies. *World Journals of Agricultural Sciences*, 7(4), 383-390.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, (2019). *Statistical Information on Nepalese Agriculture*. Government of Nepal.
- Nepali, M. B., Tiwari, M. R., Sapkota, S., Poudel, H. P., Acharya, B. R., & Gautam, S. (2007). Marketing constraints to goats in the Western Hill of Nepal. *Nepal Agriculture Research Journal*, 8(1), 95-102. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.3126/narj.v8i0.11601>
- Neupane, N., Neupane, H., & Dhital, B. (2018). A socioeconomic view of status and prospects of goat farming in rural areas of Nepal. *Journal of the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science*, 35(1), 8. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.3126/jiaas.v35i1.22508>
- Pantha, B. P., & Dhakal, S. C. (2019). Determinants of mandarin productivity and causes of citrus decline in Parbat District, Nepal. *Acta Scientific Agriculture*, 3(10), 14–19. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.31080/ASAG.2019.03.0638>
- Poudel, D. (2017). *Goat Meat Industry in Nepal: Opportunities and Challenges*. Retrieved from <http://biruwa.net/2018/03/goat-meat-industry-nepal-opportunities-challenges/>
- Pradhan, S. L. (2016). *Goat meat production in Nepal*. In Proceedings of a workshop on goat meat production in Nepal (pp. 152–160).
- Rijal, P. N. (2019). *Consumption of meat rises by seven times*. Retrieved from <http://www.karobardaily.com/news/2013/10/consumption-of-meat-rises-by-seven-times>
- Shrestha, S. (2016). *Productivity analysis of cow farming in putalibazar municipality of syangja District*
- Tayo, G. O. (2019). Goat products: Meeting the challenges of human health and nutrition. *Agriculture and Biology Journal of North America*, 1(6), 1231-1236.