

ADVISORY ON IMPROVING SHEEP & GOATS PRODUCTION

- (i) In the short term, prevention of loss should be the strategy to augment production. A number of animals die because of diseases and many of the animals do not reach desired growth because of parasitic infestations. A strategy of universal de-worming, once post-weaning, and once during last month of pregnancy and before sale for meat production will radically minimize production loss. Studies are available to indicate that such practices have the potential of enhancing weight at 8 months by almost 3 Kilos. This means enhanced production of 1½ kg meat per animal can be achieved simply through adoption of a programme of administration of anthelmintics to weaned kids and lambs as well as pregnant mothers. Cost of such de-worming per animal is expected to be less than Rs.40/- approximately, while the expected gain will be over Rs.500/-. Each State with the help of nearby SAUs/ ICAR institutions must develop 'An integrated parasitic disease control programme' for their respective areas. Haphazard/injudicious deworming in animals is to be discouraged and judicious use of anthelmintics including timely rotation as well as control on the sale of anthelmintics drugs are to be adopted. This is to be further strengthened with vaccination programme, particularly against PPR, HS, and Enterotoxaemia, FMD, Sheep-pox, etc. total cost of which will not exceed Rs.25/- per animal approximately (**Annexure-I**). Model health schedule adopted by Central Sheep & Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar, Tonk, Rajasthan (**Annexure-II**) / Central Institute for Research on Goats, Makhdoom, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh (**Annexure-III**) may be adopted by the States after required modifications.
- (ii) Grazing resources for small ruminants are continuously shrinking. Therefore, arrangements for supply of complete feed blocks would greatly supplement nutritional inputs required for optimum production, particularly during periods of nutritional stress as in draught. Feed blocks can further be fortified with trace elements which the particular area is deficient in as per mineral mapping documents available with research organizations. It will be useful if the Panchayats are involved and MNREGA funds roped in to procure raw material which will facilitate production and distribution of complete feed blocks in a regulated manner.
- (iii) An advisory has already been issued by the Department in July, 2012, which gives the list of shrubs and trees suited to different agro-ecological regions of the country. These may be made integral part of land use planning to augment grazing resources for small ruminants (**Annexure-IV**).
- (iv) Lamb/kid survival may be increased by adopting a sound pre-breeding management program, close attention to ewes/does nutritional and health status during late gestation, keeping housing facilities clean and well

