

Organic Goat Farming: The Best Way Forward to Farmers Livelihood

Hina Ashraf Waiz^{1*} and Lokesh Gautam²

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Livestock Production Management CVAS, Udaipur, India

²Officer Incharge, Malvi Cattle Breeding Farm, Dag, Jhalawar and Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Rajasthan, India

*Corresponding Author: Hina Ashraf Waiz, Assistant Professor, Department of Livestock Production Management CVAS, Udaipur, India.

Received: February 01, 2021; Published: March 12, 2021

Abstract

The cultivation of organic goats can be a rewarding livelihood and is gaining popularity. In the past decade, global organic production has increased dramatically annually. As stated by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement, the basic principles of organic goat production include care, ecology, justice, and health (IFOAM). The production of organic goats would improve animal welfare, protect the environment and maintain rural lifestyles that are satisfying. When dealing with organic goat production, there are challenges, especially when one hopes to control intestinal parasites and achieve adequate nutritional management. The exploration of nutritional technologies and the prevention and treatment of diseases would ultimately increase production quality. The conventional farming help India produce enough food for its own consumption and it also produced surpluses for exports. The rising population and wages, however, would lead to more increases in demand for food and also for industrial raw materials. It is increasingly felt that the current farming system is becoming unsustainable, as evidenced by decreasing crop production, environmental damage, chemical pollution, etc. The need to provide an alternative method of agriculture that can work in a pleasant ecosystem while preserving and growing the productivity of crops is now organic farming which has been regarded as the best-known alternative to traditional farming.

Keywords: Organic Farming; Goat; Livelihood

Introduction

Goat farming in India encompasses a long history, dating back to 10 thousand year. Goats are the earliest domesticated animals among the livestock species. India ranks first in goat population and milk production. Goat milk is well known globally for easy digestion and its health promoting benefits. The demand for internal consumption and export of goat meat, milk and its products is expected to increase in the coming years. As evidenced by the rising interest of young entrepreneurs in developing knowledge and skills for this species, goat enterprise in the country upsurges day by day within the form of commercially viable enterprise. In addition to milk, meat production is also the most valuable commodity of goat in developing countries. Goat meat production is extremely important and researchers are currently trying to boost the indigenous breed in terms of growth, meat, milk production and reproduction Najari, *et al* [1]. This flexibility allows the producer to plan and operate a more stable economic production unit. In some parts of the globe, goat breeds are also raised for fibre, meat, and milk production.

India is that the largest exporter of Sheep and Goat meat to the world. The country has exported 21,950.71 MT of sheep and goat meat to the planet for the price of Rs. 837.76 crores during the year 2015-16 (National action plan on goats, 2017). The demand for meat, milk

and fiber is growing steadily and is forecasted that it will increase further in the future in view of a substantial increase in individuals' per capita income and health knowledge. Now a days consumers globally are preferring products that are "clean, green and ethical". Intrinsically goat producers are shifting to organic husbandry practices that don't compromise the welfare of animals. As per the reports of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying [2] the medicinal properties of goat milk have raised society's interest in using it as a nutraceutical food therapy; in addition, biotechnologists specialize in designer milk for human health. Keeping in sight the importance of goat farming, this article covers the fundamentals of raising organic goats also as requirements of organically certified goats.

Organic goat production

Organic goat meat or milk comes from goats raised in compliance with the National Organic Program guidelines and approved by an accredited state or private organization. It refers to food products grown with no chemical fertilizer, medications, and hormones with an outsized number of laws aimed at animal welfare status and environmental care. It won't be easy to make the transition to raising goats organically, and it will be impractical for a couple of farmers. Depending on their farm and the local circumstances, some farmers may find the criteria for organic certification difficult to fulfil, but they can at least start moving in that direction.

Living environment

1. Normally, goat herds are mostly converted into organic conditions for twelve months to fulfil all the requirements. Certification authorities should, for the first time, accept that the habitat of animals should also be taken into account as basic criteria to be free from the use of controlled substances to meet their behavioural needs (synthetic chemicals, etc). In addition, goats should not be housed with horned animals because the risks of injury are greater due to conflict with each other.
2. The shelter given must encourage the safe and natural behaviour and care of the goats. This involves ensuring that they are safe (minimizing chances of injury prevention), have a chance to exercise, are protected from extreme temperatures, have sufficient ventilation and have adequate bedding (clean and dry). The requirements also specify that they need shade, shelter, space for exercise, fresh air and direct sunlight.
3. The young ones should suckle their mother during in a natural way for at least a week and preferably longer if optimum health is to be achieved. In other way, the young ones should suckle for the first 4 - 5 days, then bottle feeding and leaving them where they will be seen, smelt and heard but not suckled.

Pasture requirements

- Goats must be raised on pasture that is organic in order to be certified organic. This does not require the use of pesticides, artificial fertilizers or otherwise limited products. Therefore, in the case of goats, a provision for many years of browsing should be in place.
- The other vital aspect of raising organic goats is that overstocking, which can cause overgrazed pasture land, must be avoided. Overgrazed grass, or pasture otherwise lacking vegetation, is not considered pasture any longer than a feedlot under the certification criteria. The two systems for holding goat's viz., pasture rotation, which is extremely significant, must be considered by organic producers.
- Pasture rotation discourages parasite overspill, especially in warm, wet regions, also as discouraging overgrazing and allowing time for vegetation to rest and regrow. In winter animals should confined to a smaller outside exercise space. Barns need to be airy and dry with enough bedding.

- Goats are usually quite hardy animals if fed adequate fibre. If shed are too well insulated the goats will never develop the winter undercoat and can like better to be indoors instead of outside.

Feed and supplements

Natural hay, grass and grains may also be fed to organic livestock. This indicates that artificial hormones, antibiotics, coccidiostat, or various feed materials cannot be genetically engineered and cannot be stored. Restricted materials for organic livestock includes:

- Animal drugs and artificial hormones.
- Urea.
- Slaughter by-products.
- Excessive amounts of feed supplements or additives.

Healthcare

- One of the most challenging aspects of organic goat rearing principles may also be caring for goats. If it has been infected with antibiotics, or a man-made or non-synthetic material that is forbidden by statute, a goat cannot be certified organic.
- Parasite control is one of the most difficult health challenges facing organic goat farming. Farmers should use herbal dewormers to treat parasite infestations of sick animals.
- The principles of Organic Health jointly require that physical marking methods, such as tattooing, disbudding and castration, are also carried out in a way that supports the goat's wellbeing and minimizes pain and stress.
- Organic goat farmers need to educate themselves and ensure that their veterinarian is aware of organic drug requirements that are typically recommended or prescribed for goats. That way, suppliers will decide how best to handle goats once they get sick and a banned medication is not mistakenly given.

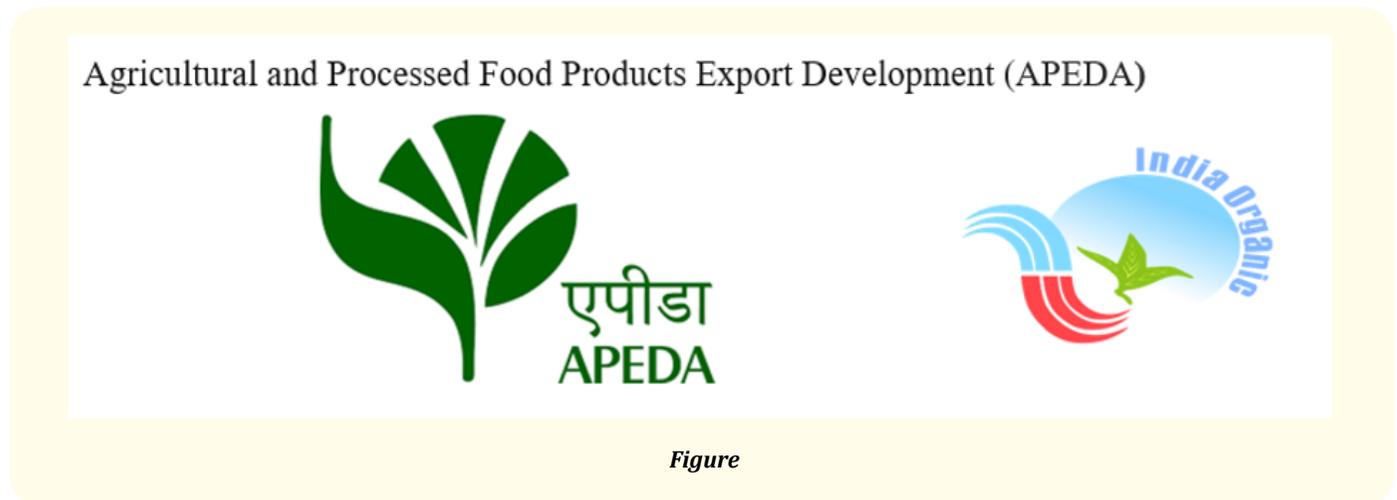
Considerations for organic goat farming

- Manure management can be a matter of concern, depending on the land area and variety of goats being unbroken, and farmers should consider the subsequent problems for economical organic goat farming. Provisions should be built to keep manure away from waterways. This may cause problem for large farms than small farms.
- Required documents contain "all operation records" and they should be comprehensible and available for review. A variety of these records include identification for each goat, whether or not it was born on the farm or bought, all veterinary and distinct health records for each goat, and feed information that holds all feed tags from feed that is purchased. In order to decide if a certain goat should be culled, these records may also serve a secondary objective of monitoring health problems. The standards conjointly address necessity for process of goat product. For example, non-organic meat does not come into contact with non-organic meat and no artificial materials are used during the whole process. Farmers should analyse the quality and see whether or not various food process specifications will affect their operation and whether or not they can be met.
- Make sure that any foot infection does not affect the animal. For that reason, clean and dry shelters and yards should be unbroken. Strong drainage is very crucial. For every six weeks, trim feet sometimes once.

- For treatment of mastitis, homeopathic remedies like Belladonna, Aconite, *Apis mellifica*, *Bryonia alba*, Arnica Montana, Phytolacca etc can be used. Herbal product like Mastilap cream can be used outwardly.
- External and internal parasites: Neem oil and Ash topically and herbal dewormer like garlic, pumpkin seeds, mustard seeds and copper sulphate (mineral substance regulated to use in organic production) has strong action against stomach worms.
- Skin infection: Aloe Vera as a food additive can be used. Some herbal cream or capsules can be used.
- Poisoning: Goats with daily access to a good form of plants are selective and do not consume poisonous plants, but many seem to be contaminated by those who escape from the containment area. A conventional farm must follow organic standards within twelve months period and then only it will fall into the category of certification.

Certification process for raising organic goats in India

The National Organic Product Standards, which ensure the authenticity of an organic product, were developed in 2000. The certification is provided by test centres approved by the Agricultural Processed Food Product Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Indian Government's National Program for Organic Production. After a rigorous validation process, which certifies that products grown by organic cultivation are free of synthetic hormones, artificial fertilizers or pesticides, the organic certification mark is applied to organic products by APEDA.



Figure

On the basis of compliance with the National Standards for Organic Cultivation, the trade mark 'India Organic' will be issued (NSOP). In order to convey the validity and origin of the product, the trademark will be the property of the Government of India.

Procurement of organic certification requires the following step:

- Find in your state a certifier (organic agent).
- Complete an application form.
- Depending on the application fee, the site inspection fee and the annual certification fee, which can range between 10,000 - 60,000 depending on the type of product, the size of the manufacturing process and the approved agency selected, the cost of the mark would be determined.

- Define the processes and procedures to be used in writing.
- Create a list of each substance you are going to use in manufacturing, noting its source of composition, and where/how it is going to be used.
- Describe how to execute and track the strategy.
- Define the systems of record keeping that will be used to satisfy the requirements.
- Describe procedures and methods to be used to ensure there is no combination of organic and non-organic products. Schedule an on-site inspection by a certifier.
- Planning an on-site inspection by a certifier [3-6].

Conclusion

Organic goat production will enhance the health of livestock, protect the environment and maintain satisfactory rural lifestyles. The future of the development of organic goats is to continue to examine alternatives that are environmentally sustainable, mindful of human health and animal forms. Understanding the fiscal, ecological, and animal welfare views of organic goat farming will increase the likelihood of success. Goat farmers who want to encourage the production of organic goats should learn what they can about organic certification under national legislation. Farmers have time to think about and build their needed Organic System Plan when carrying out this farming, speak to someone who can help them get organic certification, start thinking about policies and procedures to be enforced, and create an honest record keeping system. It would definitely enable a farmer to know a higher price for milk, meat and dairy products if the above methods are to be implemented.

Bibliography

1. Najari S, *et al.* "Impact of weighing data structure on the adjustment of the local kids' growth curve under pastoral conditions in southern Tunisia". *Journal Applied Animal Research* 37 (2010): 63-66.
2. Annual report of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (2017).
3. International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM). The Organic Principles/Standards and Certification. International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (2008).
4. Krishi Jagran.
5. Livestock Census (2012).
6. Organic Livestock Farming.

Volume 6 Issue 4 April 2020

©All rights reserved by Hina Ashraf Waiz and Lokesh Gautam.