



ISSN: 2456-2912

VET 2025; 10(1): 35-37

© 2025 VET

www.veterinarypaper.com

Received: 18-11-2024

Accepted: 23-12-2024

M Seevagan

Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India

T Ravimurugan

Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India

SMK Karthickeyan

Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

T Thamil Vanan

Department of Livestock Production Management, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

T Anna

Department of Veterinary Parasitology, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India

R Rajendran

Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

P Gopu

Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India

T Karuthadurai

Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India

Corresponding Author:

M Seevagan

Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, Veterinary College and Research Institute, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India

Socio-economic characteristics of Molai Adu goat farmers in Erode District of Tamil Nadu

M Seevagan, T Ravimurugan, SMK Karthickeyan, T Thamil Vanan, T Anna, R Rajendran, P Gopu and T Karuthadurai

Abstract

The present study was conducted to explore the socio-economic characteristics of Molai Adu goat farmers in the Erode district of Tamil Nadu, providing valuable insights into their livelihoods, challenges, and opportunities. Molai Adu, a native polled goat breed, is predominantly reared in this region and holds significant importance in the rural economy. Data were collected from a representative sample of farmers through structured interviews and field surveys, focusing on demographic profiles, income patterns, educational attainment, and market access. The findings reveal that the majority of Molai Adu farmers belong to marginal and small-scale farming households, with goat rearing serving as a vital source of supplementary income and playing a key role in their socio-economic development.

Keywords: Socio-economic profile, Molai Adu, Goat farmers, Tamil Nadu

1. Introduction

Goat farming is a key component of rural livelihoods in India, especially for landless, small, and marginal agricultural households. It offers significant income opportunities, generates employment, and enhances the socio-economic status of rural communities (Moyo *et al.* 2010) [1]. Tamil Nadu, with its rich diversity of goat breeds, is home to the Molai Adu, a polled indigenous breed predominantly found in the Erode district. The Molai Adu breed is known for its resilience to the region's agro climatic conditions and its contribution to local economies through meat production.

India's goat population stands at 148.88 million, with Tamil Nadu accounting for 9.9 million goats, reflecting a steady increase in population since the previous livestock census (20th Livestock census, 2019) [2]. A majority of goats in the region are either non-descript or mixed breeds, underscoring the need for better breed documentation and management practices. While prominent breeds like Kanni Adu, Kodi Adu, and Salem Black dominate the state, native breeds such as Molai Adu, though lesser-known, have considerable potential to contribute to rural development through their ecological and economic adaptability. The Molai Adu breed, primarily found in the Erode district, is distinguished by its polled trait and its unique grazing methods, with minimal dependency on commercial feed supplements (Seevagan, 2024) [3]. Despite the significant role of Molai Adu goat farming in the region, there is a gap in research regarding the socio-economic aspects of its farmers. These farmers typically rely on traditional grazing practices and face challenges such as limited access to veterinary services, financial limitations, and market instability. Understanding the socio-economic conditions of Molai Adu goat farmers is essential to developing targeted interventions aimed at enhancing the productivity and sustainability of this age-old farming tradition. The present study aims to assess the socio-economic status of Molai Adu goat farmers in Erode district, shedding light on their livelihoods, challenges, and the potential for improving their economic conditions through strategic policies and extension efforts.

2. Materials and Methods

This study was conducted in the breeding region of Molai Adu goats during 2023. A structured survey approach was employed to collect data on the personal and socio-economic characteristics of Molai Adu goat farmers.

Data were obtained through in-depth personal interviews using a pre-tested, detailed questionnaire designed to capture both qualitative and quantitative information. A purposive sampling technique was applied to specifically target farmers actively involved in the rearing of Molai Adu goats. The survey aimed to assess the challenges these farmers face, their strategies for income generation, and the degree to which goat farming contributes to their livelihood.

The collected data were organized systematically and analyzed using descriptive statistical tools, such as frequency distributions and percentages. These methods facilitated a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic conditions and management practices of Molai Adu goat farmers, leading to well-supported and actionable conclusions.

3. Results

The findings of the study are summarized in Table 1 and Table 2, which outline the goat farming practices among Molai Adu goat farmers and their socio-economic profile, respectively. The study revealed that a majority of Molai Adu goat farmers (54.46%) purchased goats directly from farmers'

houses, followed by 29.46% who procured goats from local shandies (markets), and 16.07% who relied on middlemen for goat acquisition. In terms of farming experience, 39.28% of the respondents had less than 5 years of experience, 27.67% had 5-10 years, 13.39% had 10-15 years, and 19.64% had over 15 years of experience.

Among the socio-economic characteristics, 58.93% of the farmers were male, while 41.07% were female, indicating a significant contribution from women in the farming activities. The literacy rate among the farmers was 65.18%, with 34.82% being illiterate. In the southern region Singh *et al.* (2018) [4] stated that 39.40 percent farmers were illiterate, while 38.38 percent completed primary school; this finding is consistent with the current study. Regarding landholding, 25.89% of the farmers were landless, 55.36% owned small landholdings of less than 2.5 acres, 12.50% were medium landholders (2.5 to 5 acres), and 6.25% owned large landholdings of over 5 acres. These results consistent with the earlier studies by Verma *et al.* (2009) [7] in Malabari goats and Berari goats (Verma *et al.*, 2012) [8] stating that 51.90 percent and 53.04 percent of farmers were landless, respectively.

Table 1: Goat farming practices among Molai Adu goat farmers

SL. No.	Respondent (N=112)	Frequency (F)	Per cent (%)
Mode of goat purchase			
1	From farmers house	61	54.46
2	From shandy	33	29.46
3	From middle men	18	16.07
Goat farming experience			
1	< 5 years	44	39.28
2	5-10 years	31	27.67
3	10-15 years	15	13.39
4	> 15 years	22	19.64

In terms of age distribution, 16.07% of the farmers were under 30 years, 51.79% were between 30-50 years, and 32.14% were over 50 years. Regarding occupation, 31.25% of farmers engaged solely in goat farming, 39.29% combined it with agriculture, 25.89% treated goat farming as a secondary occupation, and 3.57% followed integrated farming systems.

The present result was closer to Verma *et al.* (2005) [6] study on goat farmers in the Gujarat region. Finally, a significant proportion of the farmers (91.96%) belonged to nuclear families, while 8.04% came from joint families. This finding is similar to that of Salem Black goat farmers reported by Thiruvankadan and Karunanithi (2006) [5].

Table 2: Socio-economic profile of the Molai Adu goat farmers

SL. No.	Profile (N=112)	Frequency (F)	Per cent (%)
Gender			
	Male	66	58.93
	Female	46	41.07
Literacy rate			
	Illiterate	39	34.82
	Literate	73	65.18
Land holding			
	Landless	29	25.89
	Small (<2.5 acres)	62	55.36
	Medium (2.5 to 5 acres)	14	12.50
	Large (>5 acres)	7	6.25
Age			
	<30 years	18	16.07
	30-50 years	58	51.79
	>50 years	36	32.14
Occupation			
	Goat farming only	35	31.25
	Agriculture + Goat farming	44	39.29
	Integrated farming system	4	3.57
	Secondary	29	25.89
Family type			
	Nuclear	103	91.96
	Joint	9	8.04

4. Discussion

The findings indicate that Molai Adu goat farming is a vital livelihood activity for a substantial portion of the rural population in the Erode district of Tamil Nadu. The preference for purchasing goats directly from farmers' houses and local shandies aligns with the traditional goat trading practices prevalent in the region. Strengthening local market systems and introducing more formalized trading mechanisms could help enhance market access and increase profitability for farmers.

The wide range of farming experience among respondents, with a notable portion of farmers having less than 5 years of experience, points to a need for tailored training programs that cater to both novice and experienced farmers. Specialized training could help improve farming practices, productivity, and sustainability.

The significant participation of women in Molai Adu goat farming underscores the importance of gender-inclusive approaches in agricultural interventions. Initiatives focusing on women, such as skill development, financial literacy, and access to credit, can enhance the productivity of female farmers and contribute to their economic empowerment.

The high percentage of landless and smallholder farmers highlights the crucial role of goat farming in providing a livelihood for resource-poor households. Given that a large proportion of farmers rely on goat farming as a primary or secondary source of income, efforts to improve access to veterinary services, financial support, and market linkages are essential for ensuring the sustainability of these farmers' livelihoods.

The age distribution of farmers reveals that a significant proportion (51.79%) are in the prime working age group (30-50 years), suggesting that goat farming has potential for long-term engagement and income generation for middle-aged individuals. Moreover, efforts to attract younger generations into the sector through entrepreneurship training and capacity-building programs could ensure the continued viability of goat farming.

The prevalence of nuclear families among respondents reflects the changing social structure in rural areas, which may impact labor availability and family dynamics in farm management. Promoting community-based support systems and cooperative models could mitigate challenges related to labor shortages and improve farm efficiency.

Conclusion

Molai Adu goat farming plays a significant socio-economic role in the lives of rural farmers in Tamil Nadu. The findings highlight the need for strategic interventions aimed at improving the productivity, sustainability, and profitability of Molai Adu goat farming, particularly through training, access to resources, and gender-sensitive policies

Conflict of Interest

Not available

Financial Support

Not available

6. Reference

1. Moyo S, Swanepoel FJC. Multifunctionality of livestock in developing communities. In: Swanepoel F, Stroebel A, Moyo S, Editors. *The role of livestock in developing Communities: Enhancing Multifunctionality*. Wageningen: The Technical Centre for Agricultural and

Rural Cooperation (CTA) and University of the Free State, 2010.

2. Ministry of Agriculture, Dept. of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries. 20th Livestock Census-2019, All India Report. New Delhi, 2019.
3. Seevagan M. Characterization of Pallai Adu and Molai Adu goats of Tamil Nadu. Ph.D. thesis, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Tamil Nadu, India, 2024.
4. Singh SK, Singh R, Mandal MK, Pandey G. Socio-economic profile and existing flock structure of goat farmers in villages of Jabalpur District. *J Pharmacogn Phytochem*. 2018;7(1):1080-1083.
5. Thiruvendkan AK, Karunanithi K. Characterisation of Salem Black goats in their home tract. *Anim Genet Resour*. 2006;38:67-75.
6. Verma NK, Dixit SP, Kumar D, Aggarwal RAK, Sharma R, Ahlawat SPS. Jakhra: A high potential milch goat breed of semi-arid region. Monograph, 12. Karnal: National Bureau of Animal Genetics Resources, 2005.
7. Verma NK, Dixit SP, Dangi PS, Aggarwal RAK, Kumar S, Joshi BK. Malabari goats: Characterization, management, performance and genetic variability. *Indian J Anim Sci*. 2009;79(8):813-818.
8. Verma NK, Kuralkar SV, Aggarwal RAK, Dixit SP, Mishra P, Kuralkar P, *et al*. Berari: An important goat germplasm of Vidarbha. Monograph, 76. Karnal: National Bureau of Animal Genetics Resources, 2012.

How to Cite This Article

Vanan TT, Seevagan M, Ravimurugan T, Karthickeyan SMK, Rajendran R, Gopu P, *et al*. Socio-Economic profile of Pallai Adu goat farmers in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu. *International Journal of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry*. 2025;10(1):35-37.

Creative Commons (CC) License

This is an open-access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.