



Bio Vet Innovator Magazine

Volume 2 (Issue 4) APRIL 2025



WORLD VETERINARY DAY - 26 APRIL 2025

POPULAR ARTICLE

Goat Farming: A Profitable and Sustainable Livelihood

Dr. Priya*¹

Assistant Professor, Department of Livestock Production Management,
College of Veterinary Science, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University,
Rampura Phul-151103 Punjab.

*Corresponding Author: dhattarwalpriya@gmail.com

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15332885>

Received: April 03, 2025

Published: April 08, 2025

© All rights are reserved by **Priya**

Introduction:

Goats, often referred to as the "Common Man's Cow," play a vital role in India's livestock sector. They are a major source of meat, milk, fibre, and manure. With the rising demand for goat products, commercial goat farming has become an attractive enterprise for farmers, entrepreneurs, and unemployed youth. The industry has seen significant growth, especially with the adoption of intensive and semi-intensive rearing systems.

Benefits of Goat Farming:

- Nutrient-Rich and Easily Digestible Products:** Goat milk and meat are highly nutritious, making them valuable dietary components. Goat milk is known for its medicinal properties and is often recommended for individuals with digestive disorders, allergies, and chronic illnesses.
- Low Investment and Easy Management:** Goat farming requires minimal initial investment and can be managed with limited resources. Women and children can also participate in daily tasks like feeding and milking. Many financial institutions offer loans to support aspiring goat farmers.
- Minimal Space Requirements:** Due to their small size, goats can be raised in confined spaces or alongside other livestock, making them suitable for mixed farming systems.
- Fast Reproduction and High Growth Rate:** Goats reach maturity within 7 to 12 months and reproduce quickly, with some breeds capable of giving birth to multiple offspring per cycle. This ensures steady herd expansion and profitability.
- Resilience and Low Risk:** Compared to other livestock, goats are more resilient in harsh climates and drought-prone regions. They require fewer resources and can be milked as needed, reducing storage issues.
- High Market Demand and Profitable Returns:** Both male and female goats hold significant market value, and there are no cultural restrictions on goat meat consumption. The industry

presents lucrative opportunities for local sales as well as export markets.

7. **Adaptability and Disease Resistance:** Goats thrive in diverse environmental conditions and are less prone to diseases compared to larger livestock. This makes them a more sustainable farming option.
8. **Premium-Quality Milk Production:** Often called the "Foster Mother of Humans," goat milk is highly digestible and considered superior to cow's milk for human consumption. It is also widely used in medicinal and Ayurvedic treatments.

Success Story: Transforming Goat Farming into a Profitable Venture

Mr. Deepak Patidar, a young agricultural graduate from Sundrail village, Madhya Pradesh, found success in goat farming after attending a specialized training program at CIRG, Makhdoom, in 2000. Inspired by the guidance of agricultural scientists, he established his own farm, **Ekta Agronomic and Livestock**, in 2001 with 60 goats.

Initially, he faced numerous challenges, including high mortality rates and low market prices. With expert recommendations, he shifted to rearing Sirohi goats, introduced better breeding practices, and improved herd management techniques. These changes drastically reduced mortality rates, from 40% in kids to just 3-8% annually.

Currently, he manages 180 goats and sells breeding stock at Rs. 120-200 per kg of live body weight. His farm generates an annual revenue of Rs. 4-5 lakhs, with net profits ranging from Rs. 2-3 lakhs. Over the years, he has trained over 1,000 farmers and is recognized as a leading commercial goat farmer in the Indore region.

Challenges in Commercial Goat Farming:

Despite its growing potential, commercial goat farming in India faces several obstacles:

- **Transportation and Regulatory Issues:** Farmers often encounter difficulties in transporting live goats due to a lack of standardized transport policies and bureaucratic hurdles.
- **High Mortality Rates in Early Stages:** Inadequate access to veterinary services, lack of vaccinations, and improper management contribute to high mortality rates among young goats.
- **Limited Access to Quality Breeding Stock:** Many farmers struggle to obtain purebred goats, which are essential for profitable farming. The absence of organized breeding programs further aggravates this issue.
- **Vaccine Shortages:** Essential vaccines like PPR and ET are often unavailable in key goat-farming states, leading to disease outbreaks.
- **Unorganized Market and Price Fluctuations:** Goat farmers often receive lower prices due to the dominance of middlemen in the market. Pricing is not always based on live body weight, which leads to financial losses.

- **Lack of Institutional Credit:** Small-scale farmers struggle to access bank loans, as financial institutions often require collateral or prefer large-scale projects.

The Future of Commercial Goat Farming:

To ensure the long-term success of commercial goat farming, the following steps should be considered:

- **Breed Improvement and Selective Breeding** to produce high-quality goats for breeding stock and meat production.
- **Better Market Integration** through direct farmer-to-consumer sales and organized trade channels.
- **Increased Veterinary Support and Vaccination Programs** to reduce mortality rates and improve overall herd health.
- **Encouragement of Private Sector Investments** in modern slaughterhouses and processing facilities.
- **Policy Support and Financial Assistance** for small and medium-scale farmers to expand their businesses.

Summary:

With improved breeding techniques, efficient resource management, and better marketing strategies, goat farming has the potential to become a highly profitable and sustainable livelihood in India.