# SMALL RUMINANTS DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

## 5.1 INTRODUCTION

The sheep and goat rearing is an important livelihood activity for the rural poor. Apart from providing regular income, they act as an asset which could easily be converted into cash. Many rural families plan their yearly financial activity such as meeting out the educational expenses and marriages, *etc.,* through selling the young ones. Sheep and Goat rearing is an important means of livelihood in the rural areas. Along with supporting agricultural activities, it provides supplementary employment and income to rural communities. Especially at time of failure of agriculture due to drought, animal husbandry activities such as sheep and goat rearing sustain and supplement the rural households. The skill and resource requirements are minimal. Further, being traditionally women centric activity, they empower women besides improving the family food security and quality of life. Sheep and goat rearing are sustainable rural livelihood activities which could generate and supplement the rural income.

Demand for and production of livestock and livestock products in less developed countries are expected to double in 2020 from that of 1999. Further, as livestock production has been growing faster than any other agricultural sub-sector, it is predicted that by 2020 livestock will account for more than half of total global agricultural output in financial terms. The other dimension of the livestock revolution has been the industrialization, with the production changing from the traditional local multi-purpose activity to an increasingly market-oriented and vertically-integrated business. Various technological interventions introduced after the independence in the livestock sector of the Country and the State have made significant improvements in production, productivity and per capita availability of livestock products. Deworming was intensified in small ruminants rearing from 1980s which improved the meat yield. Likewise vaccines were developed against dreadful diseases such as Anthrax, Enterotoxaemia, PPR *etc*., which reduced the mortality and losses due to diseases.

To evaluate implementation of various small ruminant development programmes in Tamil Nadu, the present study is being done with the following objectives;

## 5.2 OBJECTIVES

- Review the past performance of major Sheep and Goat (Small Ruminant) Development Schemes by analysis of secondary data

- ❖ To identify the approach, mandate, target and present status of the Sheep and Goat (Small Ruminant) Development Schemes
- ❖ To identify the gaps, constraints – SWOC analysis of the schemes
- ❖ To get feedback from the stakeholders through interactions and Focus Group Discussions
- ❖ To suggest measures for further development which will serve as inputs for twelfth plan document

## 5.3 SMALL RUMINANT DEVELOPMENT SCHEME ACTIVITIES DURING ELEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN PERIOD

***Important Government Orders***

**G.O. Ms. No.69 / Dated : 29.05.2008, Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fishers (AH.2) Department, Government of Tamil Nadu**

Animal Husbandry Department – Part II Scheme for the year 2008-09 – Providing better Livelihood opportunities in rural areas through Sheep rearing at a cost of Rs. 60.00 lakhs Sanction – Orders Issued.

The main objective of the project was to introduce and develop Sheep rearing as a major livelihood opportunity. The purpose was, as the rural poors follow only traditional methods of livestock rearing and do not have adequate experience in the scientific practices, to create awareness , group mobilization and motivation and capacity building. As many as 23 Self Help Groups in Thoothukudi District (12) and Ramanathapuram district (11) each consisting of 15 motivated women members interested in Sheep rearing preferable from below poverty lines families were selected. The project was implemented during 2008-09 with the financial outlay of Rs. 60.00 lakhs.

**G.O. Ms. No. 47 / Dated : 08.03.2010 Agriculture (AP1) Department, Government of Tamil Nadu**

Agriculture – National Agriculture Development Programme (RKVY) – Implementation of project proposal of Animal Husbandry Department of Genetic Upgradation of Livestock Development of Small Ruminants under National Agriculture Development Programme for the year 2009-10 – Sanctioned – Orders – Issued.

During the fourth State Level Sanctioning Committee meeting of NADP held on 13.07.09, the Commissioner of Animal Husbandry and veterinary Services had submitted a project proposal for genetic upgradation of livestock development of Small Ruminants at a cost of Rs. 247.50 lakhs. The scheme was implemented in the backward districts of Pudukottai, Sivagangai, Virudhunagar and

Thriunelveli through 55 Self Help Groups . The total cost for 825 units (20 ewes + one ram - one unit) in 55 blocks in four districts was 247.50 lakhs.

**G.O. Ms. No.265 / Dated 03.11.2010 of the Agriculture (AP1) Department, Government of Tamil Nadu**

Agriculture – National Agriculture Development Programme (RKVY) – Implementation of project proposals for the year 2010-2011 – "Supply of 10+1 goat units of the SHG's" at a cost of Rs. 297.00 lakhs under National Agriculture Development Programme – Orders – Issued.

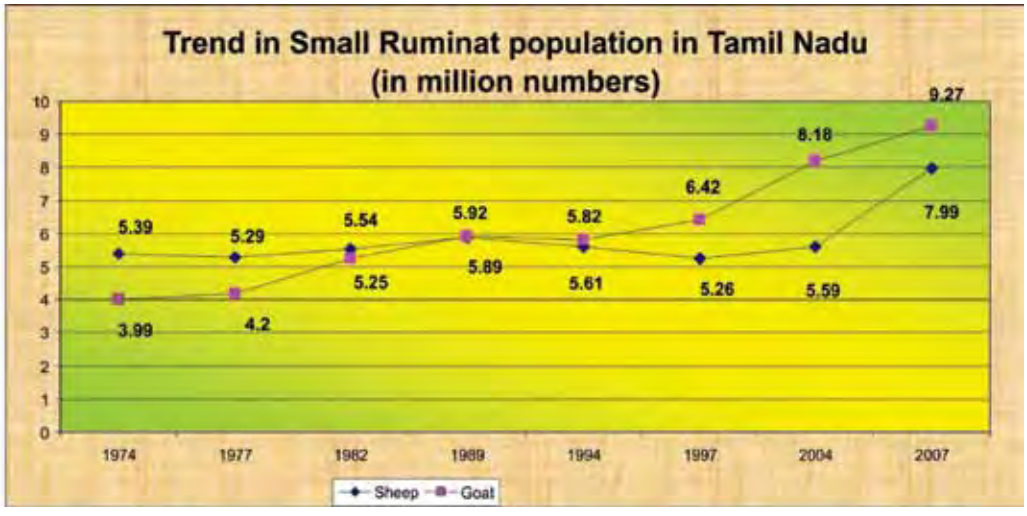
During the fifth State Level Sanctioning Committee meeting of NADP held on 12.04.10, the Commissioner of Animal Husbandry and veterinary Services had submitted a project proposal for Supply of 1350 goat units (10+1 goat units) for the SHG's" at a cost of Rs. 297.00 lakhs and was sanctioned.

## 5.4 GROWTH TRENDS OF SHEEP AND GOAT POPULATION IN TAMIL NADU

**Annual Compound Growth Rate of Small Ruminants Population in Tamil Nadu from the year 1977 to 2008** (in per cent)

| Species | 1977 - 82 | 1982 – 89 | 1989-94 | 1994-97 | 1997-2004 | 2004-2007 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sheep | **0.92** | **0.87** | -0.93 | -2.14 | **0.89** | **12.62** |
| Goat | **4.53** | **1.74** | -0.18 | **3.04** | **3.53** | **4.29** |

The sheep population in the state had always registered a positive growth rate except during 1989–94 and 1994–97, while that of goat population had always registered a positive growth rate except during 1989–94. The sheep and goat population had registered an impressive growth during the last decade.



**Annual Compound Growth Rate of Small Ruminants Population in various districts of Tamil Nadu from the year 2004 to 2007** (in numbers)

| S. No. | District | Sheep | | | Goat | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2004 | 2007 | ACGR (%) | 2004 | 2007 | ACGR |
| 1 | Chennai | 301 | 7027 | 185.80 | 3330 | 3148 | -1.86 |
| 2 | Coimbatore | 206835 | 122813 | -15.95 | 286499 | 230599 | -6.98 |
| 3 | Cuddalore | 57607 | 47225 | -6.41 | 251160 | 241378 | -1.32 |
| 4 | Dharmapuri | 266720 | 297945 | 3.76 | 277311 | 188084 | -12.14 |
| 5 | Dindigul | 214143 | 266401 | 7.55 | 351211 | 258242 | -9.74 |
| 6 | Erode | 506015 | 584373 | 4.92 | 562270 | 533036 | -1.76 |
| 7 | Kancheepuram | 131183 | 308342 | 32.96 | 173304 | 389190 | 30.95 |
| 8 | Kanyakumari | 1143 | 1238 | 2.70 | 100698 | 118304 | 5.52 |
| 9 | Karur | 218514 | 302490 | 11.45 | 173591 | 166747 | -1.33 |
| 10 | Krishnagiri | 294230 | | - | 149744 | | - |
| 11 | Madurai | 216416 | 438276 | 26.52 | 238588 | 512405 | 29.02 |
| 12 | Nagapattinam | 33054 | 18701 | -17.29 | 429924 | 453781 | 1.82 |
| 13 | Namakkal | 146217 | 151666 | 1.23 | 388832 | 462329 | 5.94 |
| 14 | Perambalur | 96175 | 58458 | -15.29 | 372142 | 155731 | -25.20 |
| 15 | Pudukottai | 151078 | 794594 | 73.91 | 177816 | 498989 | 41.05 |
| 16 | Ramnad | 245304 | 358633 | 13.50 | 234727 | 290541 | 7.37 |
| 17 | Salem | 371026 | 355053 | -1.46 | 497814 | 360336 | -10.21 |
| 18 | Sivagangai | 227672 | 243791 | 2.31 | 234746 | 227029 | -1.11 |
| 19 | Thanjavur | 42123 | 51736 | 7.09 | 339807 | 432078 | 8.34 |
| 20 | The Nilgris | 4593 | 1658 | -28.80 | 18841 | 17751 | -1.97 |
| 21 | Theni | 52247 | 87489 | 18.75 | 83454 | 109370 | 9.43 |
| 22 | Thiruvallur | 103821 | 92970 | -3.61 | 197795 | 321462 | 17.57 |
| 23 | Thiruvannamalai | 198318 | 366752 | 22.74 | 150141 | 272823 | 22.03 |
| 24 | Thiruvarur | 13251 | 5881 | -23.72 | 375318 | 311183 | -6.06 |
| 25 | Thoothukudi | 202419 | 540768 | 38.76 | 342180 | 318399 | -2.37 |
| 26 | Tiruchirapalli | 257271 | 212745 | -6.14 | 366753 | 486748 | 9.89 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27 | Tirunelveli | 487273 | 1222310 | 35.87 | 390570 | 461300 | 5.70 |
| 28 | Vellore | 295135 | 249682 | -5.42 | 232315 | 248273 | 2.24 |
| 29 | Villupuram | 227455 | 365307 | 17.11 | 471428 | 495213 | 1.65 |
| 30 | Viruthunagar | 325946 | 362282 | 3.59 | 305111 | 444878 | 13.40 |
| 31 | Ariyalur | | 73981 | - | | 265237 | - |
| | **Tamil Nadu** | **5593485** | **7990587** | **12.62** | **8177420** | **9274584** | **4.29** |

Note : ACGR – Annual Compound Growth Rate in percentage

The growth trend in different districts across the state shows that, barring a few districts, sheep and goat population has increased markedly in all other districts. This might be due to the facts such as the change in life style pattern and consumption habits induced by the industrialisation, urbanization and sustained increase in the per capita income. Naturally, the demand for livestock products which are income elastic are continuously on the rise and this is being termed as 'Livestock revolution'.

## 5.5 STATUS OF MUTTON AND CHEVON PRODUCTION IN TAMIL NADU

**Mutton and Chevon Production in Tamil Nadu (in thousand kgs.)**

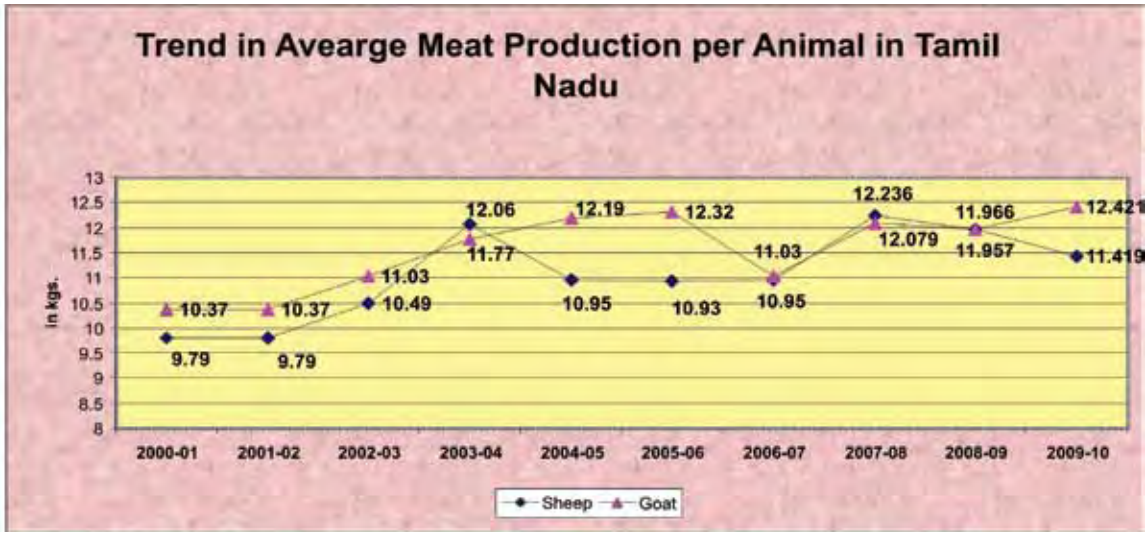
| Year | Meat Type | Registered Slaughter Houses | Unregistered Slaughter Houses |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 - 01 | Mutton | 9015.24 | Data not available |
| | Chevon | 8240.54 | |
| 2001 - 02 | Mutton | 10008.70 | |
| | Chevon | 8933.34 | |
| 2002 - 03 | Mutton | 12101.17 | |
| | Chevon | 11164.63 | |
| 2003 - 04 | Mutton | 13761.98 | |
| | Chevon | 12771.32 | |
| 2004 - 05 | Mutton | 7863.37 | |
| | Chevon | 7625.16 | |
| 2005 - 06 | Mutton | 10321.00 | |
| | Chevon | 7055.00 | |
| **Annual Compound Growth Rate (in per cent)** | **Mutton** | **0.45** | |
| | **Chevon** | **2.04** | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006 - 07 | Mutton | 10995.00 | 6336.00 |
| | Chevon | 6754.00 | 16350.00 |
| 2007 - 08 | Mutton | 10753.871 | 5677.81 |
| | Chevon | 8647.61 | 17422.68 |
| 2008 - 09 | Mutton | 10167.59 | 5158.724 |
| | Chevon | 8692.782 | 17802.14 |
| 2009 - 10 | Mutton | 10198.33 | 4371.27 |
| | Chevon | 9561.05 | 17971.05 |
| **Annual Compound Growth Rate (in per cent)** | **Mutton** | **-1.02** | **-11.39** |
| | **Chevon** | **8.98** | **3.10** |

The meat production details in the state of Tamil Nadu indicates that the Chevon production had been continuously increasing, while mutton production had been declining which might be because of the people's preference for chevon meat when compared to mutton.

**Productivity (average meat yield per animal in registered slaughter houses) of sheep and goat in Tamil Nadu**

Data on estimated productivity yield of sheep (average meat yield per animal) from the registered slaughter houses shows that except in Coimbatore district, the average productivity of sheep in the state had increased in the last decade with the overall annual compound growth rate of 2.00 per cent.



**Average mutton production in registered slaughter houses in Tamil Nadu (in kg.)**

| Districts | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | ACGR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chennai | 9.7 | 9.83 | 11.21 | 14.16 | 12.61 | 12.76 | 13.48 | 12.98 | 11.87 | 11.66 | 2.19 |
| Coimbatore | 9.7 | 9.80 | 11.15 | 14.26 | 11.35 | 11.36 | 10.16 | 9.19 | 8.35 | 8.07 | -2.84 |
| Cuddalore | 9.8 | 9.77 | 9.96 | 10.22 | 10.52 | 13.3 | 12.82 | 10.55 | 10.36 | 10.88 | 1.56 |
| Dharmapuri | 9.7 | 9.87 | 9.27 | 9.54 | 10.2 | 9.74 | 11.89 | 17.00 | 17.39 | 19.52 | 8.79 |
| Dindigul | 9.4 | 9.63 | 9.03 | 11.21 | 11.82 | 13.18 | 11.35 | 13.49 | 9.76 | 9.44 | 1.39 |
| Erode | 10.1 | 9.80 | 10.50 | 10.86 | 8.83 | 9.36 | 10.08 | 9.28 | 9.49 | 10.97 | -0.16 |
| Kancheepuram | 9.8 | 9.87 | 9.19 | 8.72 | 13.25 | 12.46 | 11.69 | 11.47 | 12.24 | 10.27 | 2.36 |
| Kanyakumari | | | | 3.76 | 10 | 10.53 | 13.82 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | - |
| Karur | 9.7 | 9.77 | 9.55 | 9.54 | 10.84 | 10.6 | 12.69 | 12.42 | 12.13 | 12.48 | 3.66 |
| Kirishnagiri | | | | | 9.46 | 11.76 | 13.29 | 7.70 | 9.79 | 13.36 | - |
| Madurai | 9.5 | 9.73 | 8.81 | 7.81 | 8.47 | 7.98 | 7.56 | 13.42 | 11.47 | 10.76 | 2.59 |
| Nagapattinam | 9.8 | 9.80 | 11.28 | 13.46 | 13.41 | 14.66 | 10.02 | 10.74 | 12.40 | 15.45 | 2.89 |
| Namakkal | | | | | 9.03 | | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | - |
| Perambalur | 10.1 | 10.37 | 9.52 | 9.88 | 10.6 | | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | - |
| Pudukottai | 9.6 | 10.17 | 10.46 | 9.68 | 16.79 | 9.96 | 10 | 10.01 | 9.95 | 10.11 | -0.20 |
| Ramnad | 9.4 | 9.60 | 10.04 | 10.09 | 10.97 | 10.93 | 12.23 | 12.37 | 12.18 | 12.87 | 3.77 |
| Salem | 9.4 | 9.60 | 10.61 | 12.42 | 12.07 | 7.00 | 11.69 | 15.63 | 16.95 | 16.33 | 6.35 |
| Sivagangai | 10.2 | 10.20 | 10.93 | 11.48 | 9.99 | 10.21 | 12.57 | 11.65 | 13.40 | 12.68 | 2.76 |
| Thanjavur | 9.5 | 9.47 | 12.20 | 13.64 | 11.7 | 20.01 | 14 | 12.79 | 14.33 | 15.01 | 4.88 |
| The Nilgris | 9.6 | 9.77 | 11.41 | 14.97 | 10.56 | 12.80 | 11.36 | 10.08 | 14.50 | 10.94 | 1.64 |
| Theni | 9.3 | 9.87 | 11.63 | 12.66 | 10.59 | 11.75 | 11.39 | 10.99 | 12.46 | 12.80 | 2.46 |
| Thiruvallur | 9.4 | 9.77 | 12.98 | 13.15 | 10.41 | 10.20 | 13.27 | 11.05 | 13.66 | 17.70 | 4.49 |

| Districts | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | ACGR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thiruvannamalai | 9.8 | 9.87 | 9.39 | 11.18 | 10.2 | 9.53 | 10.16 | 7.16 | 11.66 | 11.58 | 0.58 |
| Thiruvarur | 9.2 | 9.47 | 9.44 | | 8.65 | 13.57 | 14.44 | 10.61 | 11.61 | 11.39 | -1.00 |
| Thoothukudi | 9.5 | 9.77 | 10.59 | 10.82 | 10.01 | 8.14 | 7.87 | 9.20 | 8.50 | 9.07 | -1.95 |
| Tiruchirapalli | 9.5 | 9.77 | 11.15 | 11.34 | 6.67 | 9.16 | 8.69 | 9.16 | 17.13 | 8.98 | 1.20 |
| Tirunelveli | 9.4 | 9.67 | 9.32 | 11.45 | 11.91 | 9.98 | 11.22 | 8.51 | 11.54 | 10.48 | 0.93 |
| Vellore | 9.7 | 9.73 | 11.09 | 13.56 | 11.47 | 12.42 | 12.06 | 13.14 | 14.54 | 14.26 | 4.24 |
| Villupuram | 9.6 | 9.77 | 13.38 | 11.52 | 7.15 | 12.17 | 12.65 | 19.74 | 16.14 | 17.68 | 7.39 |
| Viruthunagar | 9.1 | 9.63 | 9.27 | 9.70 | 10.51 | 11.12 | 11.25 | 11.03 | 13.01 | 17.49 | 5.83 |
| **Tamil Nadu** | **9.79** | **9.79** | **10.49** | **12.06** | **10.95** | **10.93** | **10.95** | **12.24** | **11.96** | **11.42** | **2.00** |

Note : ACGR – Annual Compound Growth Rate in percentage

**Average Chevon production in registered slaughter houses of Tamil Nadu (in kg.)**

| Districts | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | ACGR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chennai | 10.3 | 10.26 | 12.34 | 15.58 | 14.25 | 15.08 | 13.09 | 14.31 | 12.39 | 12.35 | 1.98 |
| Coimbatore | 10.6 | 10.37 | 12.47 | 15.50 | 11.5 | 12.09 | 11.05 | 10.19 | 11.93 | 10.72 | -0.54 |
| Cuddalore | 10.9 | 10.40 | 11.07 | 10.52 | 11.39 | 9.22 | 8.49 | 9.48 | 7.51 | 8.02 | -3.96 |
| Dharmapuri | 10.8 | 10.60 | 10.30 | 10.32 | 12.56 | 12.11 | 13.94 | 13.49 | 13.34 | 20.40 | 5.95 |
| Dindigul | 10.6 | 10.50 | 10.04 | 8.82 | 13.15 | 11.21 | 11.29 | 13.92 | 10.20 | 8.32 | -0.10 |
| Erode | 10.4 | 10.25 | 10.29 | 9.85 | 10.57 | 8.49 | 9.07 | 8.10 | 9.70 | 10.44 | -1.22 |
| Kancheepuram | 10.7 | 10.60 | 10.00 | 7.84 | 12.76 | 14.92 | 10.91 | 10.90 | 9.78 | 10.24 | 0.38 |
| Kanyakumari | 10.6 | 10.16 | 10.48 | 13.15 | 14.17 | 10.22 | 11.37 | 12.86 | 12.53 | 13.82 | 2.53 |
| Karur | 10.5 | 10.30 | 10.11 | 8.47 | 9.74 | 19.21 | 11.77 | 10.98 | 10.85 | 11.07 | 1.78 |
| Kirishnagiri | | | | | 10.77 | 11.47 | 13.67 | 9.29 | 7.64 | 16.16 | - |
| Madurai | 10.4 | 10.40 | 10.12 | 8.89 | 9.79 | 9.32 | 6.67 | 13.69 | 11.55 | 16.17 | 3.27 |
| Nagapattinam | 10.9 | 10.63 | 10.15 | 11.07 | 12.03 | 13.32 | 10.81 | 14.01 | 11.07 | 10.27 | 0.84 |
| Namakkal | 10.5 | 10.47 | 10.46 | 8.62 | 8.79 | 9.45 | 6.65 | 8.53 | 12.12 | 8.50 | -1.56 |
| Perambalur | 10.4 | 10.15 | 9.39 | 8.55 | 11.3 | | | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | - |
| Pudukottai | 10.7 | 10.26 | 11.07 | 13.18 | 12.92 | 9.52 | 10.11 | 10.10 | 9.85 | 11.65 | -0.65 |
| Ramnad | 10.1 | 10.13 | 10.85 | 10.07 | 10.67 | 10.65 | 12.13 | 12.92 | 10.41 | 9.46 | 0.63 |
| Salem | 10.4 | 10.33 | 11.20 | 12.70 | 13.83 | 7.21 | 9.97 | 12.01 | 12.42 | 14.24 | 1.89 |
| Sivagangai | 11.0 | 10.47 | 11.22 | 12.66 | 10.99 | 12.48 | 12.64 | 11.84 | 11.79 | 12.53 | 1.46 |
| Thanjavur | 10.4 | 10.27 | 11.61 | 11.78 | 8.88 | 10.55 | 10.42 | 8.48 | 9.47 | 10.00 | -1.62 |
| The Nilgris | 10.6 | 10.53 | 12.06 | 15.52 | 8.99 | 10.39 | 11.41 | 10.49 | 16.67 | 11.67 | 1.59 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Theni | 10.1 | 10.12 | 10.55 | 12.06 | 10.84 | 9.32 | 11.16 | 10.98 | 8.75 | 10.72 | -0.40 |
| Thiruvallur | 10.7 | 10.60 | 11.61 | 12.00 | 11.79 | 11.73 | 11.41 | 11.23 | 9.40 | 10.87 | -0.62 |
| Thiruvannamalai | 10.5 | 10.53 | 10.22 | 7.41 | 11.65 | 10.45 | 10.47 | 7.05 | 8.98 | 10.51 | -1.22 |
| Thiruvarur | 11.1 | 10.64 | 11.75 | 11.54 | 9.47 | 10.87 | 10.74 | 10.05 | 9.91 | 12.13 | -0.34 |
| Thoothukudi | 11.0 | 10.30 | 11.57 | 9.16 | 13.37 | 13.09 | 11.98 | 12.68 | 13.16 | 11.44 | 2.02 |
| Tiruchirapalli | 10.4 | 10.23 | 12.08 | 12.59 | 17.87 | 19.61 | 10.12 | 9.37 | 16.71 | 10.64 | 1.10 |
| Tirunelveli | 10.8 | 10.08 | 11.91 | 11.80 | 14.01 | 11.34 | 12.63 | 10.02 | 0.00 | 10.31 | - |
| Vellore | 10.6 | 10.33 | 9.65 | 10.55 | 11.45 | 11.45 | 11.64 | 12.30 | 15.06 | 15.08 | 4.54 |
| Villupuram | 10.5 | 10.36 | 11.12 | 12.00 | 10.24 | 7.44 | 9.27 | 10.44 | 13.20 | 15.33 | 2.26 |
| Viruthunagar | 10.9 | 10.50 | 9.97 | 12.35 | 11.07 | 12.45 | 11.98 | 10.87 | 10.34 | 16.60 | 2.54 |
| **Tamil Nadu** | **10.37** | **10.37** | **11.03** | **11.77** | **12.19** | **12.32** | **11.03** | **12.08** | **11.97** | **12.42** | **1.77** |



Note : ACGR – Annual Compound Growth Rate in percentage

The productivity of goat was found to be increased over the last decade in most of the districts of Tamil Nadu with an overall growth rate of 1.77 per cent. The data related to productivity showed that there had been a gradual increase in the average meat yield of sheep and goat which might be because of the technological interventions such as deworming, vaccination *etc*., undertaken by the Government through various schemes.

**5.6 RESPONSE GROUP DISCUSSION**

Response Group Discussion Meeting was held at Thirunelveli on 24.03.2012 with the beneficiaries and the officials of the department of Animal Husbandry and the feedback of them are detailed as follows.

- The beneficiaries (Women Self Help Group members) highly appreciated and thanked the Government of Tamil Nadu for providing them with the small ruminants as it provides regular income and improved their livelihood status.
- Many have expressed that the scheme was an unexpected bonanza for them and was very useful.
- The officials involvement was also highly appreciated by the women members
- The members had expressed that the input amount allotted for the purchase of sheep and goat were inadequate and has to be raised.
- They are engaging two or three aged persons for grazing the animals, which implied the employment generation capacity of the schemes
- Some farmers felt that the feed was supplied as a single lot and as a result some of the bags were spoiled and hence it is better to supply the feed in two installments rather than one.
- An official involved in the purchase of sheep and goat have expressed the constraint in the purchase of sheep at 6 months of age as most of the sheep farmers were not willing to sell sheep at that age.
- The Veterinarians involved in the scheme felt that incentive may be given to progressive farmers based on the performance. They also stressed that provision may be provided for construction of shed. In some areas reselling of the feed by the beneficiaries were noticed

and in those areas vitamins / mineral tonics / deworming drugs may be given to the beneficiaries which can not be resold. Further, they also felt that flock size of the scheme may be increased to 50 + 2 or 60 +3 so as to employ the labourers effectively.

- ❖ Another major constraint was the availability of fodder as there was acute shortage of fodder throughout the state. It may be prudent to establish fodder bank in all the villages with the help of progressive farmers and they may sell these fodder to the needy farmers. Efforts may be made to establish fodder facilities at the common property resources.

- ❖ Proper monitoring and reporting every month would be highly useful for the success of the scheme.

- ❖ Mobile veterinary clinics may specially be established to monitor the health of the animals and would act as a deterrent from selling the animals.

- ❖ Training facilities may be arranged for the beneficiaries and may be included in the scheme component itself.

## 5.7 SWOC ANALYSIS OF SMALL RUMINANT DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

### Strengths

- Supply of high quality germplasm to the farmers
- Provision of balanced feed in a single lot along with the animals leading to elimination of malnutrition and improvement in productivity of the small ruminants.
- Continuous monitoring by Veterinary doctors which resulted in effective implementation
- Provision of Deworming, treatment and vaccination facilities which reduced the incidence of diseases, mortality and resulted in weight gain.
- Sincere and holistic involvement of line department officials which resulted in successful implementation and appreciation by the beneficiaries
- Basic knowledge about sheep and goat rearing among women self help group members
- Creation of year around employment to the rural women self help group members
- Improvement in net income level of the scheme beneficiaries

**Weaknesses**

- Difficulty in purchase of six months old sheep (specified) as most of the sheep farmers were not selling the six months old sheep
- Mismatch between the scheme allotted amount and existing price of sheep or goat leading to purchase of low quality animals
- Most of the farmers does not have shed facilities which resulted in diseases and death of some of the animals
- Spoilage of feed, as the feed lot was given as a single lot
- Inadequate supply of inputs
- Supply of inputs is not in time

**Opportunities**

- Increase in population, per capita income, change in life style and food habits have resulted in the increased demand for meat
- Traditional rearing of small ruminants by most of the farmers and hence, they may expand the business as a group
- Investment is less when compared to other types of animal rearing and involves less skill and could be adopted in low input conditions
- Provide regular income and employment opportunities to the rural women members.
- Effective utilization of unutilized family labour

**Challenges**

- No allotment for construction of sheds for small ruminants
- Availability of good quality animals for parent stock
- Access to shandies or farms for purchase of base stock

- Fodder shortage was widespread and acute as most of the common property resources were dwindling and the agricultural lands are being converted into residential plots.
- Non-availability of labour is also an important constraint in sheep and goat rearing. Most of the farmers were not able to transport the animals during disease outbreaks due to labour shortage.
- Higher wage rate even if labour is available
- Sporadic disease outbreaks which resulted in reduced weight gain
- Animal mortality

**5.8 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ✓ The scheme could be replicated and expanded in all areas where women SHG members are willing
- ✓ Increase in input amount for the purchase of sheep and goat from time to time and also provision for construction of sheds for the animals in the input would further strengthen the scheme
- ✓ Fodder development activities has to be vigorously implemented
- ✓ Grazing land may be improved and protected to help landless sheep and goat farmers
- ✓ Incentives may be given to progressive farmers in a locality based on parameters such as lambing percentage, ram quality *etc*., which could act as a catalyst for others
- ✓ The unit size may be increased from 20+1 to 50+2 or 60+3 so as to efficiently utilize the labour manpower.
- ✓ Insurance coverage may be extended to 3 years as the farmers felt that would benefit them from any unforeseen calamities.
- ✓ Landholders in all areas may be identified and fodder slips and seeds may be distributed at free of cost. All other necessary infrastructural facilities such as irrigation, manures may also be provided and this could be implemented in a large scale on PPR model.

- ✓ If more than 10 units of sheep / goat unit is given in a panchayat, one progressive farmer in that locality may be identified and fodder bank may be created in his farm by providing necessary inputs and this could serve the entire scheme animals in that area

- ✓ The District Livestock Farms may be strengthened with necessary infrastructural facilities so as to cater to the needs of the local farmers. If the animals required for the schemes could be supplied from the District Livestock Farms, it would be beneficial for the farmers. This would also avoid the malpractices done by the intermediaries while selling the animals and would also reduce the incidence of diseases and deaths as animals are reared under scientific management practices.

- ✓ More and more mobile veterinary clinics may be established in the rural areas and they may regularly vaccinate and deworm the scheme animals which could improve the productivity.

- ✓ Skill development - All the women Self Help Group members enrolled in the scheme should be given training on rearing animals. Respective Veterinary University Centres may be entrusted with this job. Scientific management practices, if followed would reduce the incidence of diseases, improve the quality of production and would enhance the productivity.

- ✓ Proper monitoring and reporting about the scheme activities would further ensure the successfulness of the scheme.

- ✓ The feed inputs may be distributed in two or three installments as this would reduce the wastage or spoilage of feed. In some areas, reselling of the feed by the beneficiaries were noticed and in those areas vitamins / mineral tonics / deworming drugs may be given to the beneficiaries which can not be resold.

- ✓ Timely release of funds and raw materials.

- ✓ All the infrastructural facilities required for successful implementation of the programmes have to be provided to the implementing agencies.

## RESPONSE GROUP DISCUSSION - SMALL RUMINANTS

Distribution of Sheep to the beneficiaries

Distribution of Livestock feed to the beneficiaries

Response Group Discussion

Feedback from the beneficiary