

Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Goat Production System in Chattogram District in Bangladesh



A production report submitted by

Syeda Subrina Akhter

Roll: 16/29

Intern Id: 26

Reg. No: 01643

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Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University

Khulshi, Chittagong-4202

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Signature of Author

Syeda Subrina Akhter

Roll No: 16/29

Reg. No: 01643

Intern ID: 26

Session: 2015-16

.....

Signature of Supervisor

Meherunnesa Chowdhury Sumy

Professor

Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Social Sciences

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences

University, Khulshi, Chittagong-4225

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ABSTRACT

The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated lockdown for a long period have created a significant adverse impact on different sectors, including that of the agriculture and other allied sub-sectors in Bangladesh. The present study aimed to depict the impact of this pandemic on goat production system in the country, which has been one of the fastest-growing sectors in recent years. Data were collected randomly from 30 goat farms from Khulshi, Pahartoli, Ak Khan areas of Chattogram metropolitan area., Bangladesh.

The study reveals that majority (53.33%) of the farmers were middle aged and 66.67% had no training about goat farming. About experiencing of goat farming, 73.33% farmers fell into the category of having 3 to 6 years of experiences and 26.67% of the famers had more than 6 years of farming experience. The data also shows that the prices of feed both roughages and concentrates increased during covid-19. Total cost per goat per month escalated during pandemic to taka 2266.8 from taka 1822.26 while total return reduced to taka 8145.16 from taka 9356.18. Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) on cash cost basis was 6.03 before covid-19 and 4.34 during covid-19. BCR on full cost basis was 5.13 before covid-19 and 3.59 during covid-19.

Paired sample test indicates that there is a significant relationship between the monthly income from goat production before and during covid-19 in the selected farms. The mean value of monthly income between 2020 and 2019 is -1251.38, indication of a highly significant ($P < 0.001$) negative impact on profitability and a lower income during the covid-19 scenario.

Regarding problems in goat rearing, data indicated that among the 11 major problems, 'high feed cost due to covid-19' ranked first with 106 problem index (PI). Other major problems are lack of credit facility, Wholesale price fall due to pandemic, Decreased market demand of goat meat, Insufficient and inadequate veterinary services, Lack of government assistance, etc. The government should introduce evidence-based strategies with the implementation on small scale goat farming and livestock development projects that could cover the emerging needs of the future.

Key words: COVID-19, goat, impact, production, profitability, problem index.