

## **TEC ICAR-IVRI Pune organized one-day collaborative training on “Livelihood Improvement through Scientific Goat Farming” under TSP programme at Aahupe village, Ambegaon Taluka of Pune District (Maharashtra) on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

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Training and Education Centre, ICAR-IVRI Pune in collaboration with *Janjati Kalyan Ashram, Pune* organized one-day collaborative training on “*Livelihood Improvement Through Scientific Goat Farming*” at Aahupe village, Ambegaon Taluka of Pune District (Maharashtra) on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025. A total of 36 farmers actively participated in the training programme.

In the beginning Mr Arun, Village Sarpanch and local coordinator welcomed the guests and participants and informed about the livelihood improvement of resource poor ST farmers through goat farming. Dr Amol Bhalerao, Scientist, TEC Pune, in his address informed about the mandate and activities of IVRI Pune Centre. Other dignitaries present during the training and goat distribution programme were Shri Sunil Bhosale, *Janjati Kalyan Ashram, Pune rural*; Shri Anil Ketkar, CSR fund coordinator from EMITECH Solutions India Pvt. Ltd.; and Shri Yogesh Kulkarni, Sachiv, *Janjati Kalyan Ashram, Pune*.



*(Group photo of trainees with the Training coordinators)*

Dr Bhalerao began his session by discussing the economic potential of integrated livestock farming, emphasizing that cost-effective animal feed, structured farm management, and scientific rearing practices can significantly boost income generation for rural farmers. He highlighted the importance of setting up food processing units, which could help farmers add value to their produce, create additional income sources, and reduce dependence on external markets. A key aspect of his talk was the importance of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs). He strongly advocated for tribal farmers to unite under such cooperative models, enabling them to benefit from better market access, collective bargaining power, and financial support from government schemes. He stressed that FPOs and FPCs could help streamline the supply chain, reduce exploitation by middlemen, and allow farmers to invest in modern livestock management techniques.

To reinforce his points, later, Dr Bhalerao shared inspiring success stories of goat farmers from Nashik and Nandurbar districts who had significantly improved their income and quality of life through scientific goat farming practices. These farmers had adopted scientific breeding techniques, proper vaccination schedules, balanced feeding practices, and low-cost housing solutions for their livestock, which led to increased productivity and profitability. Their success demonstrated that small-scale farmers could thrive if they follow

expert guidance and best practices in livestock farming. Dr Bhalerao also highlighted the challenges faced by goat farmers who failed due to improper management. He presented real-life case studies of farmers who suffered losses due to lack of proper disease control measures, inadequate nutrition, and poor housing conditions for their animals. He emphasized that ignoring veterinary advice, neglecting vaccination and deworming schedules, and failing to provide balanced feed could lead to devastating losses. These cases served as a crucial learning opportunity for the attending farmers, illustrating the critical role of scientific farm management in ensuring success.



*(Trainees listening to the experts during the training programme)*

A significant part of Dr Bhalerao's session focused on practical, cost-effective solutions for rural and tribal farmers. He urged farmers to build low-cost, raised-floor housing for goats, explaining that such structures help maintain hygiene, reduce disease outbreaks, and improve overall productivity. Proper housing, he stressed, is often overlooked but is one of the most essential factors in successful livestock farming. Dr Bhalerao also emphasized the importance of home-prepared feed to supplement the nutritional requirements of goats. He explained that commercial feed can be expensive, and many small farmers struggle to afford it. Instead, he encouraged farmers to prepare nutritious goat feed at home using locally available resources, such as crop residues, kitchen waste, and regionally grown fodder crops. By doing so, farmers could ensure a balanced diet for their animals at a fraction of the cost.

Furthermore, Dr Bhalerao urged the farmers to strictly adhere to scientific recommendations provided by the TEC team and local Livestock Development Officers (LDOs). He emphasized that following expert advice on vaccination, deworming, and proper feeding is the key to preventing diseases and maximizing productivity. Neglecting these basic yet crucial practices, he warned, could result in serious economic setbacks. Dr Bhalerao concluded his session by motivating tribal farmers to embrace scientific goat farming practices, utilize local resources efficiently, and work together through FPOs and FPCs to create a sustainable and profitable future for themselves. His session was not just a theoretical lecture but a practical roadmap for rural livestock farmers, equipping them with knowledge, motivation, and strategies to transform their livelihoods.



*(Dr Amol Bhalerao, Scientist, TEC Pune addressing to the farmers)*

Following Dr Bhalerao's session, Shri Sunil Bhosale from Janjati Kalyan Ashram, Pune Rural, addressed the farmers on water harvesting and its importance in goat farming. Recognizing that many tribal villages face water scarcity, he urged farmers to adopt water conservation techniques to ensure a sustainable water supply for their livestock. He highlighted the importance of rainwater harvesting, construction of small farm ponds, and judicious use of available water resources. Shri Bhosale also encouraged farmers to utilize locally grown fodder and other natural resources to feed their goats, reducing dependency on external feed sources and minimizing input costs.

The event also featured a crucial session on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding by Shri Anil Ketkar, CSR Fund Coordinator from EMITECH Solutions India Pvt. Ltd. Shri Ketkar explained the modalities of

CSR funding available for livelihood enhancement through goat farming. He emphasized that corporate support for tribal development is not just financial assistance but an opportunity for long-term sustainability. He urged farmers to treat goat farming as a structured, scalable business model rather than a subsistence practice. Shri Ketkar also stressed the importance of value addition in goat farming, particularly processing goat milk into high-value products. To illustrate this, he cited a remarkable success story from Tamil Nadu, where a multi-crore beauty product company has pioneered the use of goat milk in skincare solutions, particularly face cleansers. This example demonstrated how tribal communities could tap into value-added products to expand their income streams and move beyond traditional farming. Shri Ketkar strongly encouraged farmers to explore goat milk-based value-added products, including medicinal soaps, cosmetics, and dairy products, to diversify their income and strengthen their financial independence.

As a part of the programme's concluding activities, goats were distributed to the local tribal farmers, enabling them to kickstart their goat farming journey with high-quality livestock. This initiative was aimed at providing a practical head start for tribal families, ensuring that they benefit from the scientific guidance provided during the training programme. The financial support was provided by EMITECH Solutions India Pvt. Ltd as part of CSR activity channelized through *Janjati Kalyan Ashram*, Pune rural. Additionally, certificates of participation were distributed to all the attending farmers, recognizing their commitment to learning and implementing improved livestock farming techniques.



*(Glimpse of certificate distribution to the trainees after training program)*

The participants enthusiastically engaged in the discussions and deliberations throughout the training session. Certificates were awarded to all participants upon the successful completion of the programme. Dr Amol Bhalerao, Scientist, TEC, Pune, coordinated the training programme effectively, ensuring its success.

