

TEC- IVRI Pune organised training on *Scientific Goat Farming* and follow-up visit at Nashik (Maharashtra) under TSP programme during 6th and 7th February 2024

TEC-IVRI Pune along with Maharashtra Animal Husbandry Department, Nashik, organized one day training programme on '*Scientific Goat Farming*' under TSP programme on 7th February 2024 at *Pathardi* in Nashik district of Maharashtra. One hundred ninety one (191) farmers including 141 farm women participated in the programme.

During the inaugural function, Dr Akash O Thakre, LDO, Trimbakeshwar, welcomed the guests and participants of the training programme. Dr SK Das, Principal Scientist, TEC Pune, briefed about the activities and achievements of IVRI Pune Centre, the impact of TSP programme in Nashik district and prospects of goat farming for income generation in rural areas. Dr Sanjay Shinde, District Animal Husbandry Officer (DAHO), Zilla Parishad, Nashik, in his address, informed the trainees about the importance of training programme in educating the farmers about the latest knowledge and benefits of goat farming. Dr Prashant Dharmadhikari, District Deputy Commissioner of Animal Husbandry (DDCAH), Nashik and Chief Guest of the function motivated the participants to take up goat farming. He also appreciated the efforts of TEC Pune and local officers of State Department of Animal Husbandry for organizing the training programmes for the benefit of resource poor tribal farmers of Nashik district.

The training included lectures from different experts. Dr Sahaji R Deshmukh, Retd ACAH, Nashik delivered a lecture on '*Housing and general management for goats*'. Dr Akash O Thakre spoke on the topic '*Goat breeds and breeding practices of goats*'. Dr Kavita A Patil, LDO, Harshul, delivered a talk on '*Feeds and feeding management of goats*'. Dr Arun J Kulkarni, Retd LDO, Nashik, delivered a lecture on '*Diseases and health management of goats*'. Ms Anuradha Londe, Official from Bank of Maharashtra spoke on various bank schemes and kisan credit card. All the lectures were delivered in local Marathi language, which was followed by discussion and interaction. One progressive farmer motivated the participants by sharing his experience and views on income generation and livelihood support through goat farming. At the end, certificates were distributed to the trainees, and the programme ended with formal vote of thanks proposed by Dr Akash Thakre.

On 6th February, the team consisting of Dr SK Das from TEC Pune and Dr Akash O Thakre from State AH Department organized a follow up visit to the goat units of 17 ST farmers at Vinyaknagar village of Trimbakeshwar taluka. The team interacted with the farmers and found that all the farmers were doing well. The goats were healthy and productive. All the goats were dewormed by broad spectrum anthelmintic, and mineral and vitamin mixture was distributed to all the farmers for feeding of debilitated, pregnant and nursing goats. During the last six months, 204 goat kids were born, 43 kids died, and 114 goats were sold with remaining stock of 322 goats. All the 15 farmers together earned Rs 7.30 lakh by selling goats.

Dr SK Das from TEC Pune and Dr Akash Thakre from State AH Department coordinated both the programmes.



Dr Sanjay Shinde, DAHO, addressing the participants of the training



Dr SK Das addressing the participants



Lecture by Dr Akash O Thakre, LDO, Trimbakeshwar



Participants of training programme on 'Scientific Goat Farming' at Pathardi



A farmer of Vinayaknagar is feeding silage made of maize to her goats



Distribution of mineral mixture and anthelmintics to the farmers



A progressive farmer with his healthy stock of goats at Vinayaknagar