

TEC Pune distributed goats at *Alwand* village and organised a training on goat farming at *Khokripara* village of Nashik (Maharashtra) during 1-2 March 2023 under SCSP programme

Training and Education Centre, ICAR-IVRI, Pune, along with Maharashtra Animal Husbandry Department, organized a programme on distribution of inputs such as goats, feed and mineral mixture to 15 Scheduled Cast farmers under SCSP programme on 1st March 2023 at Alwand village of Trimbakeshwar taluka in Nashik district, Maharashtra. During the programme the local *Sarpanch* welcomed the guests and beneficiary farmers and expressed her gratitude to IVRI for helping the farmers to improve their livelihood through goat distribution. Dr SK Das, Principal Scientist, TEC Pune, informed in his address to farmers about the objectives and progress of SCSP programme in the region. About 65 farmers and 3 officials of Veterinary Dispensary, Alwand and Trimbakeshwar attended the programme.

Before selection of beneficiaries and distribution of goats and other inputs, baseline survey of farmers was undertaken to assess their socioeconomic status. The cast certificate and ID proof of all the beneficiary farmers were verified and an MOU was signed for proper maintenance of distributed goats. Live weight of all the animals was measured and health of goats was checked. Afterwards, one unit of healthy Osmanabadi goats consisting of one male and four female adult goats along with 200 kg of pellet goat feed and 2 kg of mineral mixture were distributed to each of the 15 SC beneficiary farmers selected. Subsequently, all the SC farmers were visited, checked their goat sheds and necessary instructions were given for proper housing, feeding and health management of goats.

On 2nd March 2023, a training programme on “*Goat farming for the livelihood improvement*” was organized at Khokripara village of Peint taluka in Nashik district. 115 farmers including 96 women participated in the training programme. At the outset, during the inaugural function, the local *Sarpanch* welcomed all the guests and participants, and thanked the scientists of TEC and the officers of Department of Animal Husbandry for choosing their village for organising the training programme. Dr SK Das in his address informed about the importance of the training and the benefit of goat farming for the economic upliftment of the resource poor farmers. Dr Amol Bhalerao, Scientist, TEC Pune, gave lecture on entrepreneurship development through goat farming. Dr Sunil D Dhande (LDO), Dr Santosh U. Shinde (LDO), Mr Pravinkumar M Kurhe (LSS) and Mr Sandeep N Narale (LSS) delivered lectures in local Marathi language on different aspects of goat farming such as housing, feeding, breeding, general management, health management and marketing of goats. One woman progressive goat farmer beneficiary shared her experiences and views on goat farming. The participants actively involved in the discussion and got clarified their doubts. Afterwards, all the participants were taken to a field visit for practical demonstration of goat farming, to boost their confidence.

Dr SK Das, Principal Scientist and Dr Amol K Bhalerao, Scientist from TEC Pune, and Dr Santosh U Shinde, Livestock Development Officer from the Department of Animal Husbandry Trimbakeshwar, Nashik coordinated the events.



Welcoming of Dr SK Das during the input distribution programme at Alwand village



Verification of documents before the distribution of inputs



Recording of live weight of goats before their distribution



Distribution of inputs to SC farmers at Alwand village



All the 15 SC farmer beneficiaries who received goat units and other inputs



Visit to the shed of a beneficiary farmer after the goat distribution



Participants of the training programme at Khokripara village



Dr SK Das addressing the participants of the training



Address by Dr Amol Bhalerao during the training



Dr Sunil Dhande, delivering a lecture during the training



A progressive woman farmer beneficiary expressing her views on goat farming