

349 GOAT PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY IN THE STATE OF CEARA,
1980-1981

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Goats are the important component of agricultural production systems in many areas of Northeast Brazil. The results of 17 months intensive study of a sub-sample of 32 farms from the principal small ruminant producing micro-regions in a state are presented in this paper. The goat herd on the sample farms was composed mainly of the following breeds: SRD (nondescript breed), 81%, Anglo-nubian, 13.6% and Bhuj, 4.44%. Other native species account for less than 1% (i.e. Marota, Moxoto, Caninde and Repartida). Net production per female maintained (kids weaned) was 1.15. Seventy-six percent of the goats were born during the months of March to September in 1980 and April to October in 1981. The birth pattern was apparently influenced by the distribution of rainfall throughout the year, showing a positive correlation between monthly precipitation and number of births five months later. The mortality rate in goats was estimated to be 19.9% for the year; 14.2% and 5.7% during the dry and wet season, respectively. Herd offtake was 35% with 11% destined for home consumption and 24% destined to be sold. Male goats were sold at an average age of 14 to 16 months while female goats were sold at an average age of 5 or more years of age. Sales were made either to middleman at the farm gate or directly by the farmer at the central market.

KEY WORDS: Goats, off-take, mortality, sales, dry and wet season, Ceara.

350 STUDIES OF GROWTH RATE AND SOME CARCASS TRAITS UNDER THREE SYSTEMS OF FEEDING MANAGEMENT IN GOATS.

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Effect of intensive, semi-extensive and extensive systems of feeding management on growth rate in weaners of Barbari and Jamunapari goats from three to 12 months of age was studied under a semi-arid climate. The growth rate (g/day/animal) was significantly lower under the extensive system (51.78 ± 7.86) in Barbari and (39.33 ± 8.02) in Jamunapari in comparison to that in the intensive system (73.33 ± 12.87) in Barbari and in comparison to both in the semi-extensive (66.22 ± 4.22) and intensive system (69.33 ± 6.79) in Jamunapari goatlings during six to nine month