

AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL TECHNOLOGY PACKAGES FOR INCREASING MEAT GOAT PRODUCTION IN CEARA STATE NORTHEAST BRAZIL

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A one year survey of 32 hair sheep and meat goat producers was carried out during 1980/81 in Ceara State, Northeast Brazil. All farms studied were mixed farms with various combinations of crops and cattle as well as sheep and/or goats. Farms ranged in size from 80 ha to more than 600 ha. A general description of the most important characteristics of the farms and levels of goat production technology were used to group the farms into various classes based on their potential for improving goat production. Criteria used were farm size, capital resources, grazing and general feeding practices, land

tenure, and levels of technology used to examine the impact of various technical packages currently being developed by EMBRAPA researchers at the National Goat Research Center in Sobral. The model is constructed to examine various investment and technology package options over a 20 year time horizon and uses weather and price conditions as stochastic variables influencing gross returns and variance of returns. The rates of return to the resources invested for these packages is compared to the current rates of return realized for sheep, goats, cattle and crops and found to be generally favorable.