

Goat Project

To give the financial helping hand the poor families, YPS has launched the goat project. A revolving fund has been established to run this program on permanent basis. The farmers who are selected for this project have to undergo training in goat rearing before starting the unit. Then he is given a unit of 5 she and 1 he goats.

Within two years farmer has to return 6 goats (newly born) which is in turn given to another farmer.

After repaying within two years farmers still maintain foundation stock of 5+1 and about 8-9 kids! Veterinary experts from YPS crew provide regular extension services. They also monitor the growth of the unit.

YPS also maintain a Goat central service unit. There are 70 goats which are maintained Scientifically but in a very simple way. The excellent performance of this unit is not only useful to YPS supported families but has also caught the attention of many outsiders who are approaching YPS for guidance.

Goat farming and fodder cultivation project for empowering women and protecting environment

The aim if the goat project is to support for Securing Sustainable Livelihoods for Destitute Women by supporting them to take up Goat Rearing activity.

Objectives:

- To engage destitute women in such an income generating activity which suits her educational level, environment , local situation, her socio—economic and family condition.
- To bring harmony among privileged and under-privileged women from rural community.
- To elevate her position in her family as well as community.
- To boost the confidence of poor women by exposure.
- To build the capacity of under-privileged women by imparting training.
- To improve economic condition of destitute women.
- To support destitute women to earn her “Own Money”
- To ensure education of her children.
- To ensure good health of the woman and her family.
- To support under-privileged women so that they become role models for other women who are suffering from the similar situation.



Activities :

The project has been divided into four major groups of activities

A. Capacity Building

1. Exposure visits : Though goat rearing is being traditionally done in the area, it is very important to show the women how the professionally managed goat units are run. Visits of those women who participate in the programme are organised at 2-3 places where Goat farming is done professionally. These visits are mainly to the universities as well as private farms. Women have seen and understood the standard methods of goat rearing. They see the construction of shelters needed for the goats, layout of goat farm, feeding systems, watering system etc. They also study how the records are maintained and how to analyse the records etc.

2. Training: After the exposure visit women undergo a training of 2 days at YPS campus, Jalihal. YPS called experts from this field who knows the local conditions, situation. These experts guide women in

- Construction of shelter for Goats
- Selection of breed
- Vaccination
- Feeding methods
- Disease management
- Breeding techniques
- Sorting and disposing unfertile and non productive goats
- Marketing techniques

B. Demonstration : A Central Goat Unit (CGU) is established at Jalihal which will act as Service Provider to all the units established for the beneficiary women. This unit demonstrates the standard methods of goat rearing. Maintain stock of required vaccines, co-ordinate with the beneficiaries, arrange breeding programmes/ vaccination programmes etc.

CGU will begin with 20 she and 2 he goats. This is treated as parent stock and is maintained till the end of their breeding capability. These parent goats are selected very carefully and are brought from well maintained breeding farm.

All the goats from CGU are maintained in a scientific way. Systematic records of all the goats are maintained.

C. Support for Goats :

Local varieties of goats particularly popular breed called “Usmanabadi” which is best suited to the local conditions and is good for meat purpose are being given to the women. Initial lots of goats have been purchased from local market. The selection of good breed is done by a team comprises of one expert, the beneficiary, member of women’s group and YPS social worker.

Services of veterinary practitioner are provided to every project participant. Vet Camps are conducted in every village where the Goat units are given. Beneficiaries bring their weak and sick goats at the central place in the village where the veterinary practitioners treat the goats.

All the goats which are given are insured. If any goat dies, the beneficiary gets a new goat immediately.

When the unit size increase to 21-24, at this point the woman can spare 7 goats, she gives back 6 she goats and one he goat back to the local committee.

D. Bringing unused land (which is prone to desertification) under fodder cultivation by organic inputs :

All the goat farming families involved in the goat project have limited capacity and resources to cultivate the fodder. They want to keep livestock because animals provide security, but are unable to do so because they do not have enough land for large animals so they go for goat rearing. These families are raising goats in pens and we need to promote them to grow fodder to feed them.

For feeding the goats, intensive fodder gardens are being grown. Goats like variety in their diet. They need plenty of fresh, clean fodder each day. In Jalihal area to provide balanced nutrition fodder to 10 goats one acre area under fodder crop. Manure from underneath the goat houses is used to dig into the garden soil to improve fertility. A wide variety of plants are grown including trees, shrubs and grasses. Legume plants or trees are particularly valuable because their leaves are generally high in protein. They also help to improve the soil.

When goats get fresh leaves, their drinking water requirement is also reduced as Goats can live on the water they find in leaves. Females which are pregnant or lactating will raise healthier kids if their diet is nutritious.