

## **SOME EFFECTS OF NATIONWIDE SMALL RUMINANT BREEDING PROJECT UNDER THE BREEDER CONDITIONS ON GOAT FLOCKS AND THEIR OWNER**

**MUSTAFA SAATCI, ÖZKAN ELMAZ, AYKUT AKBAS, ÖZGECAN KORKMAZ  
AĞAOĞLU, MEHMET SARI, MAHIYE ÖZÇELİK METİN**

Mehmet Akif Ersoy University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,  
Department of Animal Science,  
Istiklal Campus, Burdur, Turkey  
m\_saatici@hotmail.com

Generally, small ruminants reflect the characteristics and the culture of a population or vice-versa. As farm animals, goats have special qualifications in terms of breeding, production, culture and social perception. The nationwide small ruminant breeding project under the breeder condition has been started in the year of 2005. To find the solution for inadequate productivity, lack of organisation, insufficient collaborations, low education, and unreliable registration system were the main parts of the mentioned project. The goat flocks were examined from the year of 2011 up to 2016. Study aimed to detect and illustrate all the defined changes for both goats and breeders, using the data and situations before and after the mentioned project.

The project was employed in West Mediterranean region of Turkey, in the cities of Antalya, Burdur and Muğla. Local Hair and Honamlı goat flocks were chosen on Taurus Mountains. Studied area was the best place to see the entire characteristics of extensive goat rearing system. Project personal have been educated with successive seminars according to project objectives. Also, breeders have been gathered several times to explain the details of project. The best 10% of male kids and 20% of female kids have been selected from each member flock according to 90 days' performance. Those animals were not allowed to be sold and kept in the flock for breeding. Performances of goats were measured beginning and at the end of the project. Birth and 90 day weights (kg) of Hair goats in the years 2012 and 2016 were 3.25, 3.24, 15.40 and 16.74 respectively. Similarly, birth and 90 day weights (kg) of Honamlı goats in the years 2012 and 2016 were 3.49, 3.46, 17.50 and 18.91 respectively. Number of evaluated kids and litter size of Hair and Honamlı goats in the years of 2012 and 2016 were 8990, 9761, 1.05, 1.10 and 8425, 11680, 1.12, 1.27 respectively.

Investigated production and reproduction traits showed tiny increases between the evaluated years. Modest increase in production and reproduction traits has been observed in the last year of the project. Selecting the best bucks and best

does and culling the weak animals according to record, learning how to keep the pedigree and performance records and avoid form inbreeding might cause these increases. With these defined increases, breeders understood the effectiveness of the applied techniques in the project. This situation can be used for the new applications on the small ruminant sector with an important criterion that "In order to make the breeders believe for new applications, the best way is to show them the objective results." The project was successful to teach record keeping and its application. Breeders also realized the importance and the differences of pedigree and performance records. With this project, the State showed a valuable interest to the small ruminant breeders. This interest is priceless for the breeders and made their confidence durable and their hope alive for the future of this business.

At the end of the project the region and whole Turkey have a bunch of educated small ruminant breeders who are ready for teamwork and scientific collaboration. Project has made many changes in the performance of goats, on the houses of breeders and the barns of animals. The project was created noteworthy awareness for both, state and breeders in term of small ruminant sector.