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## Potentialities of dairy goat farming in Nepal

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Dairy goat production is an alternative livestock enterprise suitable for many small-scale livestock operators together with commercial one. A pilot study regarding the potentialities of dairy goat farming was conducted. Information was obtained from four different groups: Government organization, dairy farm entrepreneurs, interested farmers and consumers. Information mainly focuses the questions which include different aspects such as habitat and acclimatization, socio-cultural aspects, technological aspect, nutritional aspect, management aspects, consumption demand and market rate, productivity, economic aspect and institutional aspect. The answers were collected, analyzed and interpretations were made. Interpretations of the information give the following results. Among 35 farmers, 26 (74.29%) rear goat primarily for meat purpose, 9 (25.71%) for both milk and meat and none for milk primarily and 7 (20%) farmers do milking practice in goat. Among the farmer respondent, 23 farmers showed their interest in dairy goat farming to know the idea of milk processing and 30 farmers have expectation on trainings for dairy goat farming. Among the consumers surveyed 54% prefer cheese, 13% milk, 20% both milk and cheese and 13% prefer other products. Government sectors like central sheep and goat promotion center, goat development farm, goat research center and INGOs like Heifer International and different NGOs are providing institutional support. Breeds like Toggenberg, Saanen, Jamunapari and Barbari are the potential dairy breeds in Nepal. But still the limitations like low productivity, low infrastructure, limited supports and increasing costs for less production compared to cattle and poultry has applied brakes in the development of dairy goat farms in the country.

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