

## **Black Bengal goat rearing enhances livelihood security of the rural folk**

**S.K. Pyne, N.K. Tudu and N.Ghosh**

Visva-Bharati University, India

The research work was conducted in Nadia district of West Bengal, located under warm humid environmental conditions, for goat rearing enhances livelihood security of the rural folk. Goats play a significant role in ensuring livelihood security to the millions of small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. An intervention was made to improve the progeny and meat yield in Black Bengal goat through selective breeding by providing 14 farm women each with one Black Bengal female and 2 farm women each with one Black Bengal male of 3 months age. These two proven bucks were used for rendering services to the distributed does and other local does at their breeding ages. The results have been revealed that each farm women keeping buck was able to earn on an average Rs. 3960.00/year through servicing the does at a rate of Rs. 20.00/per service. Besides, it was found that the average birth weight of male kids was 1.77 kg and that of female kids was 1.65 kg and they attained an average body weight of 8.5 kg and 7.85 kg at 6 months of age in male and female respectively. Moreover, twin births being 58.60% were found to occur most commonly as compared to single births recording 32.40% and triple births were rare, being only 9.0%. The tupping and freshening frequencies in Black Bengal goat developed through selective breeding were found to be satisfactory when compared to baseline data. The technology has been well adopted by the farm women due to its easy application method, low cost involvement, compatibility with existing farming systems and better income augmenting potentiality. The most encouraging fact is that other farmer families nearby are also interested to adopt this technology.

sarojpyne@yahoo.com