INDIGENOUS GOAT BREEDS IN ZIMBABWE

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Introduction

- Livestock prod. in the region needs to double by 2030
- Zimbabwe: 4 million goats to a human population of 16 million, ratio of 1:4
- Majority of goats are owned by small-scale farmers in the mixed crop-livestock systems, households realize most on-farm income from livestock
- The livestock commercial sector provides an opportunity for farmers to make use of the existing infrastructure, local and regional markets to commercialize goat production

Introduction

- Commercial markets for goats are undeveloped
- Erratic climate and frequent droughts result in dry season feed shortages and high mortalities
- Demand for animal products is increasing
- Livestock is key to poverty alleviation on the continent and for economic growth

Goat Population

- 4.8 million: 38% livestock population
- Indigenous type
- CA areas: 94%
- Resettlement areas: 5%
- Large scale farming areas: 1 %
- 80% goats are in region IV and V
- Flock sizes: 4 in region II to >20 in region V

YEAR	GOAT POP.
2022	4 865 754
2023	5 087 155
2024	4 883 669

Challenges In Goat Production

- Carcass quality /grade
- Commercial trade marketing,
- Market linkages, (middlemen)
- Uninformed , negative consumer attitudes
- Lack of capital/ credit on easy terms
- High transport costs
- Local authority fees / taxes / levies
- Lack of shelter in goat markets

Challenges In Goat Production

- High mortalities
- Low offtakes
- Poor animal quality
- Climate change impacts
- Diseases, e.g PPR, heartwater, internal parasites, (FMD)
- Low product prices
- Low participation by small-scale farmers in the formal sector

Challenges In Goat Production

- Limited service capacity
- Natural resources management
- Lack of policy and advocacy
- Poor market access, organization and infrastructure
- Limited grazing areas
- No feedlots
- No goat meat exports

Opportunities In Goat Production

- Commercialization of goat meat: chevon is becoming popular among rural and urban populations
- Commercial feeds: goat fattening schemes
- Currently carcasses for export 12kg plus
- Goats are prolific, goat populations therefore recover quicker after population crashes and households are able to build goat flocks faster than cattle herds

Opportunities In Goat Production

- Goat populations are steadily increasing
- Govt. departments and development workers provide training in goat production.
- Development of competitive goat production systems in Zimbabwe
- Chevon is considered as health meat: low levels of cholesterol

Opportunities In Goat Production

- Products: mince meat,
- Livestock Traceability
- Govt. progs. e.g Presidential Goat Scheme
- SADC markets: DRC, Angola
- Foreign markets include UAE, Indonesia

Breeds

- A breed is a group of goats that can be distinguished from other groups by characteristics that are genetically controlled
- Most goat breeds are not well recorded in the tropics and are often defined by the
  - Geographical area in which they live.
  - Origin
  - Function: milk, meat, fibre
  - Appearance: ear shape and length, body size, height at withers, colour, horned / polled, shape of face and horn shape

Breeds

- In Zimbabwe, the majority of goats are of the indigenous type: the larger type known as the ‘Matabele goat’ and the smaller type as the Small East African goat, also known as ‘Mashona goat’.
  - The indigenous goat types come in all sizes and all sorts of colours.

Breeds: The Matabele Goat

Type

Synonyms / Local Names: Nguni, Ndebele

- **Origin**
  - The goat population is derived from various breeds which were brought from Bantu tribes in the North
- **Distribution**
  - Mainly found in the drier parts of Matabeleland North and South provinces, and some parts of Midlands province
- **Purpose of the Breed**
  - Meat (and milk)

Conformation

- They are heterogenous and larger. There are animals whose ears are long or have pendulous/drooping ears with turned-up tips (lopped) and many of intermediate-type ears, varied hairiness and wide range in coat colours. Tassels or toggles or wattles hanging under the neck are common. Culturally a goat with toggles is said to be very “fertile”.

Breed Standards

- Breed standards are based on fertility, hardiness and visual appraisal for lack of genetic defects. Conformation is related to functional efficiency without affecting the inherent traits. Breed standards increase the economic value of a breed.
- General Appearance
  - The first impression of a goat must be impressive, and showing qualities described below.

Matabele Goat Type







Matabele Goat Type

HEAD

- **Face profile** is straight, flat, convex and dished (concave), no roman nose such as the Boer goat
- **Horns** occur in both sexes. In males they are flattened in cross-section erect, directed backwards with little lateral tendency, in females they are finer and scimitar-shaped. Horns may be short to moderately long (about 25 cm).
- **Ears** are medium to large , long and drooping with or without turned up tips
- **Beards** do exist in both sexes

Matabele Goat Type

HAIR SKIN COVERING

- Hair must be short and straight
- White , black, brown and cream colours or mixed/pied
- A recognized association to agree on which colours to promote at a time. Farmers free to choose which colour pattern to promote. Colour variations are allowed.

NECK AND FOREQUARTERS

- Long and moderate neck and in proportionate to the body
- Withers well fitted
- Front legs are of medium length, strong and well placed

Matabele Goat Type

BARREL, HINDQUARTERS AND BELLY

- Back profile: hollow, straight
- Rump profile: sloping

LEGS

- Must be strong and long , not looking weak or bowed
- Hoof colour: dark, striped

BODY

- Frame: medium
- Shape: lanky/leggy, in between

TAIL

- Length: short
- Thickness at the base : narrow

Matabele Goat Type

SEXUAL ORGANS

- Bucks/Rams: Two big balanced, healthy looking testes in one scrotum. The scrotum must not be split by more than one centimetre.
- Does/Ewes: well developed udders with strong , protruding teats. Udders should not droop.
- *A good doe should have a 'wedge' shape when viewed from the side, having as much depth as possible in front of the hind legs, giving her a triangular look: deep in the hind quarters, narrowing towards the front.*

CULLING

- If the animal does not conform to the above, has to be culled.

Matabele Goat Type





Matabele Goat Type

- Mature wt. 45kg
- Twinning rate 62%
- Triplets 1.6%
- Prolificacy (litter size) 1.7
- Weaning rate 119%
- Kidding throughout the year, with 60% in the dry season

Mashona Goat Type











Mashona Goat Type

HEAD

- **Face profile** is straight, flat, convex and slightly concave.
- **Ears** are short and are usually erect but sometimes carried horizontally
- **Horns** are medium in length; they bend backward and upward or slightly outward. Horns exist in both sexes. Horns are erect and are scimitar-shaped, heavy at the base and fine at the tip.
- **Beards** exist in both sexes.

Mashona Goat Type

HAIR SKIN COVERING

- Hair must be short, fine and males have a ridge of long hair along the spine.
- White , black, brown and cream colours or mixed/pied.
- A recognized association to agree on which colours to promote at a time. Farmers free to choose which colour pattern to promote. Colour variations are allowed.

NECK AND FOREQUARTERS

- Strong and moderate length. No knock legs.
- Front legs of medium length and proportionate to the rest of the body.

Mashona Goat Type

BARREL, HINDQUARTERS AND BELLY

- Back profile: straight
- Rump: sloping, roofy

LEGS

- Strong and long. No knock knees

BODY

- Frame: small and medium
- Shape: short/compact

TAIL

- Length: short
- Thickness at base: narrow

Mashona Goat Type

SEXUAL ORGANS

- Bucks/Rams: Two big balanced, healthy looking testes in one scrotum. The scrotum must not be split by more than one centimetre.
- Does/Ewes: well developed udders with strong , protruding teats. Udders should not droop.
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Other Goat Breeds in Zimbabwe - Kalahari Red



- Mature weights
  - Males : 115kg
  - Females : 75kg

Other Goat Breeds in Zimbabwe - Boer Goat



- Birth weight: 3-5kg
- Litter size: 1.64
- Mature weights:
  - Males: 110-135 kg
  - Females: 90-100kg

Defects



Crossbreeds





Short Ears





Dentition: To Determine Age Of A Goat

- Dentition is often used to determine the ages of goats.
- Goats have no teeth in the upper jaw but have eight front teeth (incisors) in the lower jaw.
- Towards the back of the mouth goats have large teeth called molars used for chewing.

MILK TOOTH STAGE

- At **less than one year**, the front teeth are small and sharp



TWO TOOTH STAGE

- At **one year** the centre pair of teeth drops out and two large ones replace them



FOUR TOOTH STAGE

- At about **two years,** the two small teeth on each side of the first centre pair drop out and two large ones emerge



FULL MOUTH STAGE

- At **4-5 years**, the last two milk teeth drop and two large ones emerge, the goat now has eight permanent teeth



ADULT STAGE

- From **six years**, the teeth start to wear off, spread apart, become loose, and finally drop out



BROKEN MOUTH

- All teeth have dropped out at **old age**

