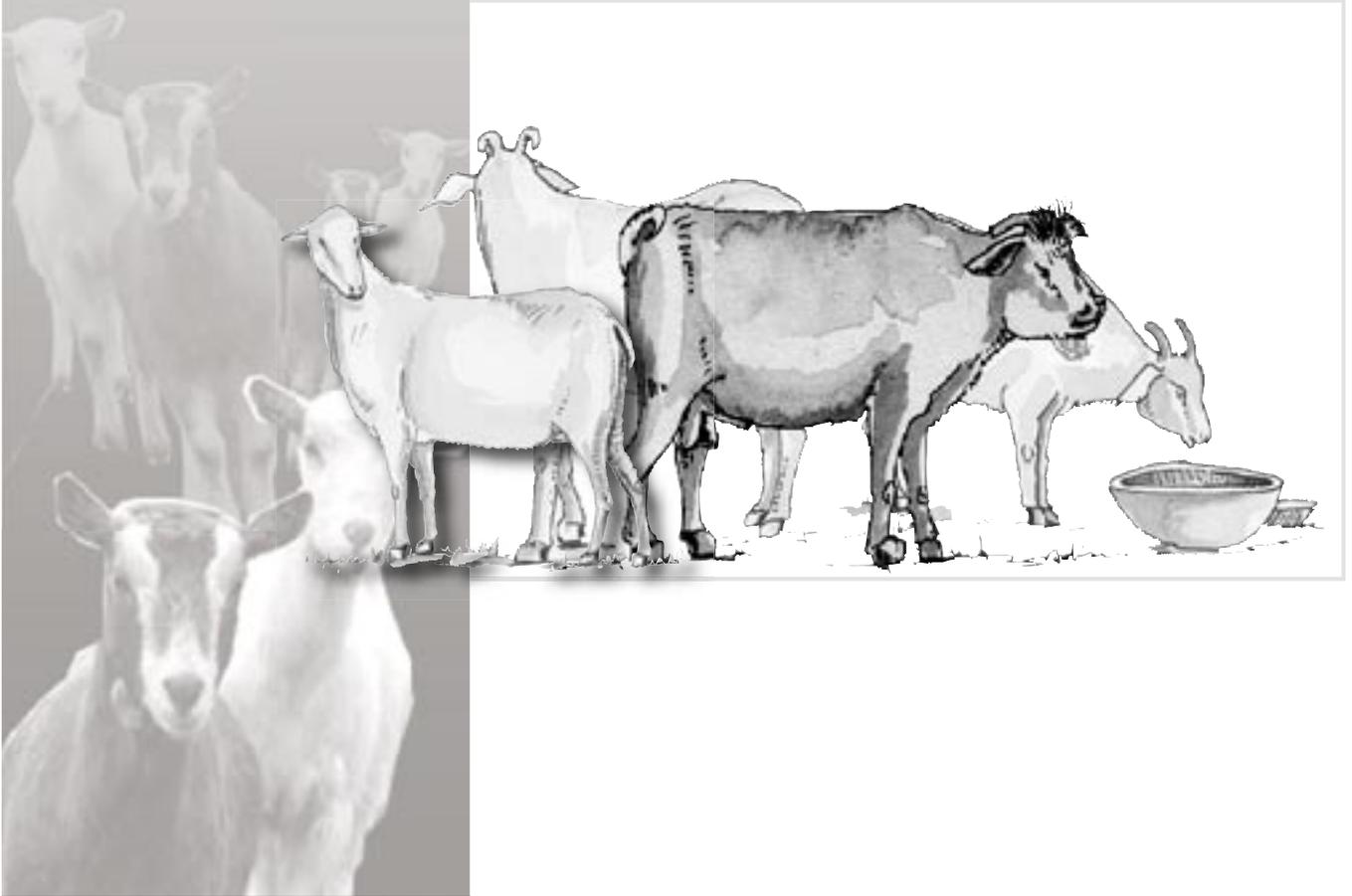


COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION GUIDE SERIES

Goat and Sheep Fattening Technique in Nigeria



United States Agency for
International Development
www.usaid.gov

Information and Communication Support
for Agricultural Growth in Nigeria
www.ics-nigeria.org



Rearing Sheep with Goat in Nigeria

Choice of Land

A well-drained land with a stocking density of 15 animals per hectare.

Breeds

SHEEP

- West African Dwarf (Local)
- Balami

GOAT

- West African Dwarf (Local)
- Red Sokoto (Maradi)

To start a herd, get male animals of above a year of age with wide deep chest, well-sprung ribs, and strong hindquarters. A buck can serve 20 does. A doe should have at least two pairs of teats.

Housing

- Build a house with either bamboo or mud with thatched roof. Space required is about 2 sq. m. per animal. House should be open on one side. Walls up to 1.2 m on the other three, with a gap of 0.5 m to 0.8 m between the walls and roof, to provide sufficient ventilation without drought.
- Housing could be on raised floor made of bamboo with the thatched roof covering mid-way into the pens on both sides. Space could be as above.
- Fencing: Leguminous fodder trees like Gliricidia sepium and Leucaena leucocephala should be planted around the edges of the paddock to form a solid fencing and browse plants for the animals. Slatted bamboo or barbed wires can be used to complete the fencing.

Management procedure

A quarantine period of 30 days should be observed in bringing freshly purchased animals into a flock. This gives ample time for observation and attack by any disease. Animals of about 15 months of age or 12 kg (about half weight of bag of livestock feed) should be purchased. They should be bought from the villages rather than the market. The incidence of pestes des petitis ruminants (PPR) or "Kata" a rinderpest-like viral disease is rampant whenever goats from different sources are gathered in the local markets for sale. Animals are dipped in gammatex or supona solution twice in two weekly intervals. From the first day and for a period of 4 days, the animals should be administered with triple sulphonamide, like theracazan. On the

first day of arrival in the farm, they should be immunized with rinderpest hyper-immune serum followed by vaccination with tissue culture rinderpest vaccine (TCRV) on the 11th day. On the 3rd and 24th days of arrival, they should be treated with broad-spectrum anthelmintic e.g., thiabendazole. In the absence of veterinary drugs, newly purchased animals should be watched closely. If there are signs of disease, such animals should be temporarily culled. If the disease persists the animals should be disposed off.

Feeding

Feed adult animals with hay or crop residue free choice plus legume hay at 1-2 kg/animal/day. Maize, soyabean, cowpea, millet or sorghum straws obtained after harvesting can be collected, treated and given to the animals free choice. Dissolve about 0.5 of ash made from cocoa pod husk or 1 kg ash from palm bunch into a bucket of water to make a lye solution. Soak as much of the straw as possible into the solution and leave it overnight. Feed it straight the next morning or dry for some few hours before feeding, to increase intake. Animals can then be allowed to graze or browse afterwards. For pregnant does, and freshly weaned animals, it may be necessary to feed some concentrate consisting of 40% wheat offals, 25% brewers' dried grains, 25% palm kernel mean, and 10% cassava peels or cowpea husk, 1% vitamin and 1% salt or supplement with 200g DM of legume fodder per day in the last 2 months of pregnancy and up to weaning at 3 months post partum.

Alley farming

Leguminous fodder trees (as under fencing) could be planted in rows on arable land, with food crops planted between the rows. Trees often established by direct seeding may be sown about 2 weeks after food crops like maize, cassava, melon, yam etc. Spacing between trees should be about 25 cm (distance from head to the toe on a foot) with four rows of food crops or 4 strides between two rows of trees. Browsing or cutting could start 1 year after planting. Advantages include provision of high protein fodder for livestock and manure and mulch from the fodder maintain and improve soil fertility for food crops while the trees limit erosion on sloping land.

Diseases

It is better to start a livestock farm during the dry season, as many of the diseases prevalent among small ruminants are commonest during the wet season. In case of outbreak of PPR (Kata), the affected animals should be isolated. Mouth lesions should be treated with dilute solution of potassium permanganate. The animals should be dewormed to control diarrhoea and treated with a potent anti-bacterial agent for 3 days. Always consult your veterinarian.

About ICS-Nigeria

Information and Communication Support for Agricultural Growth in Nigeria (ICS-Nigeria) is a project which aims to increase the quantity and quality of information available for increased agricultural production, processing, and marketing and also strengthen the capacity of farmer assistance organizations to package and disseminate information and agricultural technologies to farmers for the alleviation of rural poverty.

In the recent past, investment in the support services to Nigerian agriculture has been neglected with the result that this sector has not realized its full potential to contribute to the prosperity and economic development of the country. Meanwhile, increasing population pressure and the accompanying need to intensify agricultural production is leading to erosion of the natural resource base on which agriculture depends.

The sustainability of production is threatened by a vicious cycle of declining soil fertility and increasing problems of pests, diseases, and weeds. Moreover, the lack of knowledge on how to add value through proper storage, processing, and marketing impedes agricultural growth.

Promising technologies exist to address these problems, but their adoption is constrained by a lack of information packaged in appropriate formats, and poor communication channels for this information, between farmers and the research, extension, and education organizations that are supposed to address these issues.

ICS-Nigeria aims to assist in meeting these challenges by developing appropriate format materials for disseminating information and agricultural technologies to target user groups, while increasing capacity of farmer assistance organizations to produce information materials. At the same time, communication channels will be reinforced so that information flow is enhanced.

Agricultural technologies have been selected on the basis that they will lead to agricultural commercialization thereby enhancing rapid income generation for farmers and private sector practitioners. The project is taking advantage of existing agricultural development programs in Nigeria, national research institutes, and international research institutes in and out of Nigeria to identify these technologies. The project is also taking advantage of existing successful partnerships arising from recent and ongoing programs to enhance information flow.

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