

DYNAMICS OF MICRO LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS IN ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA

P.R.D.M. Jayasooriya¹, S.C. Somasiri¹ and S.P. Dissanayaka²

¹*Department of Animal and Food Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.*

²*Department of Agricultural Systems, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.*

Micro livestock species provide many benefits to the farmers in addition to a cheap source of animal protein. A survey was undertaken in 08 divisional secretariat divisions at *Anuradhapura* district to find out the present status, constraints, potentials and market participation of small ruminant and non-popular poultry species rearing systems. A stratified random sampling method was used to select seventy-two respondents with the aid of a pre-tested structured questionnaire. The factor analysis, descriptive statistics, and logistic regression were performed in the data analysis. The results indicated that the most popular micro livestock species was village chicken (85%) followed by ducks (22%), turkey (11%), quails (8%), and guinea fowls (7%). Other than that rabbit (6%) and indigenous goats (4%) were also reared. The majority of the farmers used the semi-intensive method (83%) as animal management system. Availability of multi-purpose species, wide range of feeds, lands, alternative markets to sell excess production and low labour cost were identified as the major potentials in present production system. The identified constraints were grouped into four categories namely (i) inefficient supportive services (lack of technical support and poor extension), (ii) production constraints (severe disease conditions, lack of market, high labour cost for commercial production, low production), (iii) environmental constraints (predators and climatic changes) and (iv) social constraints (religious beliefs). Logistic regression results revealed that farmer's decision to participate in the market was significantly ($p < 0.05$) affected by age [Odd Ratio (OR) = 0.62], training participation (OR = 32.82), distance to market (OR = 0.18) and gender (OR = 321.35). Thus, it can be concluded that utilization of micro livestock species is a feasible option to cater the increasing demand for animal protein. Further, study emphasized the importance of fostering the supportive services and infrastructure development among farmers for the maximization of benefits from micro livestock farming industry.

Keywords: Constraints, Market participation, Micro livestock species