DISEASE PATTERN OF SHEEP AND GOATS IN AN ORGANISED FARM

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A retrospective analysis of disease conditions of Mecheri sheep, Salem black, Tellicherry, Salem black x Tellicherry cross bred goats that were recorded in Mecheri Sheep Research Station, Pottaneri, Tamil Nadu, during the period from March 2005 to February 2007, was done with an aim to study the prevalence of diseases affecting different body systems during different seasons. The common ailments were classified into six broad categories namely, digestive, respiratory, reproductive disorders, ecto-parasitic infestation, metabolic disorders and miscellaneous disease conditions. A total of 2722 clinical cases were recorded in sheep and goats during the period under study. The highest number of cases was recorded in Mecheri sheep (58.60%), followed by Tellicherry goats (19.94%), Salem black goats (12.45%), and cross bred goats (9.00%). The clinical cases
observed during summer, winter and rainy seasons were 30.16%, 30.78% and 39.05% respectively. The maximum number of cases were due to digestive tract disorders that mainly occurred during rainy season especially enteritis (93.50%) followed by stomatitis (6.48%). The next major clinical problem observed was respiratory disorders mainly due to pneumonia (36.50%). The number of clinical cases due to reproductive, metabolic disorders and ectoparasitic infestation were not significant and the low incidence could be attributed to the good management practices followed in the farm and feeding of formulated diets to sheep and goats. Among the miscellaneous category, abscess formation was commonly found in sheep and goats followed by lameness mostly during rainy season. It could be concluded that based on the disease pattern observed in the retrospective study, suitable preventive measures against diseases should be advised for both sheep and goats before rainy season in particular.

**Key words:** Mecheri sheep, Salem black, Tellicherry goats, disease pattern, rainy season