

SEGMENTING THE SMALL RUMINANT MEAT PRODUCTION IN TAMIL NADU INTO HOMOGENOUS ZONES: A MULTI DIMENSIONAL SCALING APPROACH

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An attempt was made in this study to segment small ruminant meat production in the state of Tamil Nadu into homogenous meat zones based on the resource endowments favourable for the development of small ruminant meat sector. Based on the results of multi dimensional scaling, four distinct groups of districts were carved out based on their proximity and the districts were identified in different zones. In the first zone, there were seven districts as Erode, Vellore, Thiruvannamalai, Villuppuram, Tirunelveli, Thiruvarur and Salem districts. In the second zone there were seven districts namely Nilgiris, Karur, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Thiruvallur, Thoothukkudi and Kanniyakumari districts. The third zone comprises fourteen districts viz., Thanjavur, Nagappttinam, Thiruchirappalli, Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Theni, Dindigul, Namakkal Thiruppur, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, and Kanchipuram Districts. The districts in the Zone IV included Cuddalore, Madurai and Coimbatore districts. The multiple discriminant function analysis was used to check whether the groups of districts (Zones) are homogenous or not. The results of the Eigen values and percentage variance explained by the three discriminant functions showed that the first function has the highest percentage of variance (81.84 per cent), followed by the second function (14.01 per cent) and the third function has the least percentage of variance (0.415 per cent). These three functions together could explain 100 per cent of the variation and the estimated discriminant functions have effectively discriminated the districts in four zones and the districts in each of the four zones were of homogenous nature.