

SHEEP PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

J. L. Gupta





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J.L. Gupta

Former Director,
Sheep Husbandry Department,
Jammu, J&K



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In
reverence and sweet memory of
my inspiring mentor
and brother
Jam Chand Gupta

*"They have condemned me as shepherd,
But aren't thou, O Lord the great shepherd
and we the meek sheep?
Woun't thou protect the lamb against the
wicked bisons and sinful goats?
Would any caste count when the
reckoning is to be made?
Forsake me not thou shepherd Lord
because of my lowly birth."*

— Sri Sri Paramahansa Anjanappa Swamiji





FOREWORD

Livestock products account for around 26 per cent of India's agricultural output. The proportionate contribution of small ruminants to the rural economy is quite significant and a source of sustainable livelihood and employment to millions of poor people. Sheep in particular is a bonhomie friend of poor sections of the society and the tribal. Besides lamb and mutton, sheep, provide wool, skin and other byproducts for cottage and organised industry. Of late, the ecologists too appear convinced of the symbiotic relationship of sheep to vegetation and forestation.

We in India have a diverse sheep germplasm of almost 40 breeds. Though well adapted to the local environment, their genetic quality and productivity is poor in general. Over the last fifty years wide ranging measures have been initiated to improve sheep production. Infrastructure and superior sheep germplasm centres have been created in different states and regions of the country. Various ICAR institutions and Agricultural/Veterinary universities have drawn out programmes and syllabus to train students and research workers to impart knowledge in sheep husbandry. Research and development in wool and mutton/lamb production is gaining momentum.

Under such a developing scenario, the availability of suitable literature and books is considered imperative. It is a matter of great

satisfaction that Dr J.L. Gupta an expert in sheep husbandry and a teacher has ventured to compile the treatise *Sheep Production and Management* to bridge the gap. His long experience and association for almost four decades with small ruminant production and management systems especially in the state of Jammu and Kashmir finds a vivid reflection in the book.

Besides covering status of sheep production, breeds and breeding, pasture and nutrition, rearing and management, the salient aspects of development are encapsulated in this book. Constraints in sheep production and approach to varied related problems on one hand and offering 'food for thought' for the investigators and researchers on other, is another interesting feature of the book.

While appreciating the publication of such a text cum referral book and its presence on the shelves of libraries, I feel confident of its usefulness for the sheepmen, farm managers, students of animal sciences and agriculture, teachers and budding scientists in sheep husbandry and many others in the allied fields.

V. K. TANEJA

Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences)
Indian Council of Agricultural Research
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001

PLATE 1



Fig. 1: Kashmir merino ram from Dacchigam Farm, Kashmir.



Fig. 2: Kashmir merino crop.



Fig. 3: Flock of Kashmir merino ewes.



Fig. 4: Flock of Rambouillet crossbred sheep (ewes).



Fig. 5: Bakerwali sheep (ewe).



Fig. 6: Rams of Bakarwali (centre) and Gaddi (sides) sheepbreeds at a sheep show.

PLATE 2



Fig. 7: Changthang (Changluk) sheep.



Fig. 8: A flock of Changthang (Changluk) sheep.



Fig. 9: Gurez sheep: A ram lamb.



Fig. 10: Gurez sheep: An ewe.



Fig. 11: Gaddi sheep (ewe).



Fig. 12: Kashmir Valley adult ewe.

PLATE 3

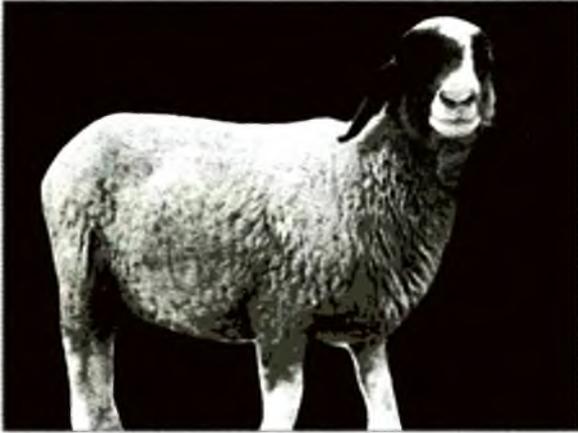


Fig. 13: Kamah sheep (ewe).



Fig. 14: Rampur Bushair sheep (ewe).



Fig. 15: Poonchi sheep (ewe).



Fig. 16: Chokla sheep (ewe).

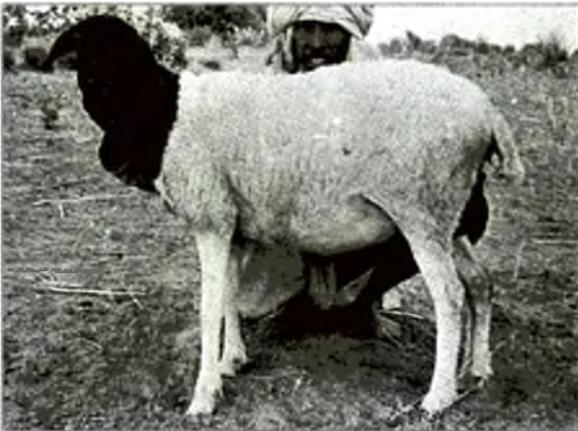


Fig. 17: Jalauni sheep (ewe).



Fig. 18: Muzzafarnagri sheep (ewe).

PLATE 4



Fig. 19: Marwari sheep (ram).



Fig. 20: Malpura sheep (ewe).



Fig. 21: Magra sheep (ewe).



Fig. 22: Nali sheep (ewe).

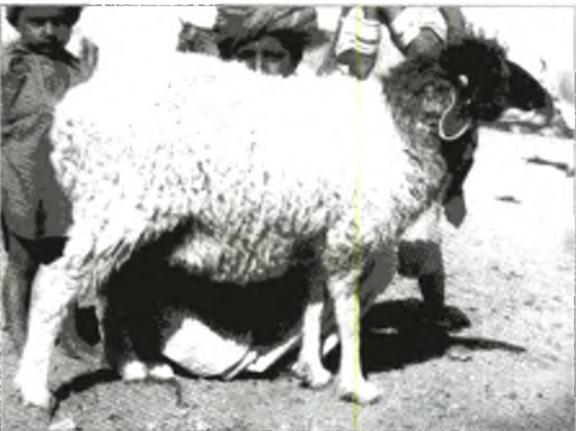


Fig. 23: Pugal sheep (male).

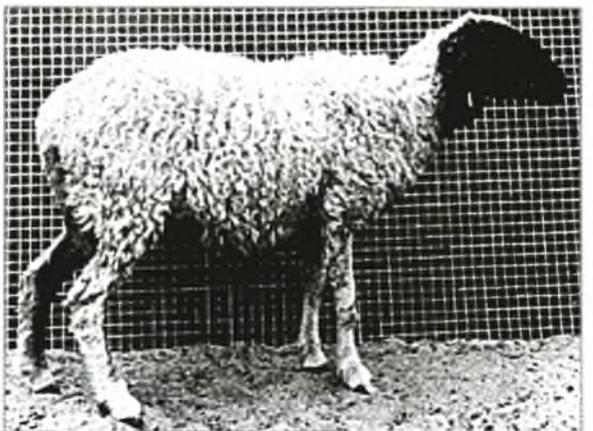
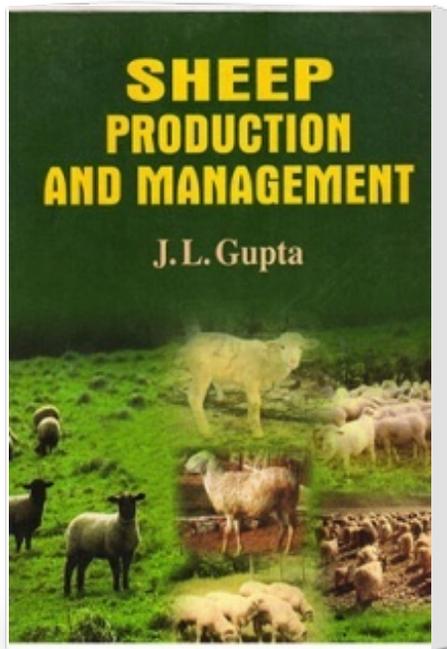


Fig. 24: Jaisalmeri sheep (ewe).

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