



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY KASHMIR
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Technical Section

The Commissioner/Secretary to Govt.,
Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department,
J&K Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

No.: DSHK/Tech/2018-19/Tour/ 1223-31


Date: 09/05/2018

**Subject: Tour Note of Dr. Mohammad Sharief, Director Sheep Husbandry Department
Kashmir.**

Sir,

The undersigned performed tour to Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal on 23.04.2018.
The detailed tour note is hereby enclosed for your kind perusal.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. Mohammad Sharief)
DIRECTOR
Sheep Husbandry Department
Kashmir

Copy along with enclosure to:-

- The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir for favour of information.
- Joint Director Farms Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir for information.
- The Special Assistant to Hon'ble Minister of State for Forest, Ecology, Environment, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Cooperatives and Fisheries for information of Hon'ble Minister.
- The Additional Private Secretary to Hon'ble Minister for Animal/Sheep Husbandry & Fisheries for information of Hon'ble Minister.
- Assistant Director Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal for information & necessary action.
- Accounts officer Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir for information.
- Administrator Departmental Website for information & necessary action.
- P.A to Director Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir.

Tour Note of Dr. Mohammad Sharief, Director Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir to Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal on 23.04.2018

Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal:

Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal is located at a distance of 49 Kms from Srinagar. The undersigned proceeded to Ganderbal to attend the District Development Board meeting of district Ganderbal, since the Hon'ble Chairman decided to review the plan budget of major departments first, as such I decided to proceed to Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal after seeking due permission from the chairman although District Sheep Husbandry Officer Ganderbal Dr. Ab. Majid Bhat remained present in the board meeting even after my departure from the venue.

It took almost one hour to cover 19 Kms from Ganderbal to Goabal. At Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal, the following officers were present.

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Sofi | Assistant Director |
| 2. Dr. Riyaz Ahmad Khan | Veterinary Assistant Surgeon |
| 3. Dr. Bushra | Veterinary Assistant Surgeon |

Dr. Showket Ahmad (C/O DIL Srinagar), Dr. Suhail Magray (undergoing Ph.D) and Dr. Younus Farooq VASs accompanied the u/sd. to SBF Goabal.

Background of Fec-B gene carrier animals:

The department has been maintaining Fec- B gene carrier sheep at the farm and their reproductive performance is being studied and monitored for higher fecundity and breeding efficiency. The fecundity gene was first isolated from Garrole breed of sheep from Sunderban area of West Bengal and thereafter Central Sheep & Wool Research Institute(CSWRI) Avikanagar Rajasthan crossed Garrole breed of sheep (the carrier of Fec-B gene) with Malpora breed of sheep, though the ewes produced twins and triplets but the lamb starvation resulted into mortalities following poor milk yield of the dam, therefore keeping in view of this factor, the CSWRI decided to cross Garrole with Pattanwadi breed of sheep which is known for its milk yield.

The scientists at CSWRI noticed better survivability of the twins and triplets. The scientists at CSWRI then crossed Garrole x Malpora x Pattanwadi and produced lambs and a breed of sheep having high reproductive performance in terms of fecundity, the new breed was named as "Avishan" and in order to overcome the deficient milk yield of the dam, the scientists formulated a lamb milk replacement which was called as "Aviparash". The CSWRI maintains a flock of Fec-B gene carrier "Avishan" breed of sheep. At Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal, the Fec-B gene carrier sheep population is increasing and satisfactory results have been recorded. The Fec-B carrier sheep produces twins and triplets and are thriving well under Kashmir's agro climatic condition. The undersigned was shown 9 rams & 5 hoggets which were carriers of Fec-B genes besides 19 ewes and 17 female hoggets were also available at the farm in good health conditions. Out of which ewe brand No. 2K-190 was identified as carrier of homozygous gene besides there were many more animals which were carriers of homozygous Fec-B genes. It has always been the aims and objective of the department to fill up the deficient gap of mutton requirement of the valley and have been

striving and working hard to propagate improved breed of sheep which can attain maximum weight in minimum time duration at younger age besides the early planners had focused more on wool production than mutton production and keeping in view of the agro climatic condition of the valley in particular and state in general stabilized a new breed of sheep known as “ Kashmir Merino”. Therefore wool production was their first priority and department was able to achieve the set objectives to great extent, thereby converting approximately 87% of the local sheep into cross bred merinos.

In view of the changing scenario and globalization and free marketing the domestic wool industry experienced downward trend in demand of domestic wool which being more expensive compared to the value added imported wool of China, Australia and African countries, the domestic market failed to compete with the foreign wool industry besides over the year the breed of animals evolved to produce finer apparel wool, have declined in terms of wool quality viz. Fibre length and diameter. At present in Jammu & Kashmir the average diameter of raw, unscoured merino cross wool in the private flock ranges between 24- 26 microns with fibre length 40-45mm while as the imported wool cost less and are scoured and cleaned thus ensures better marketability.

The ever increasing demand of the animal protein in the form of mutton cannot be denied; as a result the Kashmir Butcher Association imports 10-15 lac sheep annually from Rajasthan and outside the state to fill the supply and demand gap, since the department find itself helpless to meet the demand of the mutton production. In order to meet the ever increasing demand of meat and meat products the department either have to increase the total number of animals to meet up the demand which may take few decades and face ultimate limitation of challenges of carrying capacity of the available pasture land or make the present sheep population more productive without increasing their number through scientific intervention which is possible only through genetic manipulation for production of male and female animals capable of production of twins and triplets thereby increasing the total number of sheep. In this regard the option of propagation of Fec-B carrier sheep holds great potential. The department thus aims to propagate maximum number of Fec-B carrier rams and ewes amongst farmers to encourage production of multiple births; with this aim the present fecundity (Fec-B).Research project is initiated at Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal. This way the department shall double the existing population of sheep in few years and shall achieve the set objectives.

As the department have not formulated/ devised/ drafted a technical plan/ programme so far to carry out the Fec-B gene research project at the farm in an organized form however it was urgently felt to draft a technical programme so that the research is carried out in a planned manner, in this regard the following steps needs to be drafted to draw a defined road map for further continuance of the research work at the farm.

1st Stage:

Order/ Sanction Fec-B gene research project to be carried out at Sheep Breeding Farm Goabal in an organized way following a present technical programme and seek approval wherever needed from the administrative department.

(Act within 07 days)

2nd Stage:

Draft technical programme for a period of 5 years.

(Action to be taken within 15 days)

3rd Stage:

- Resource mobilization.
- Creation of infrastructure
- Human resource development/ posting of suitable technical hands/ scientists at the farm.

(Action within 3 months)

4th Stage:

Assigning / appointment of Principal investigator and researchers for the technical programme/ carrying out research with proper documentation and subjecting the generated data to statistical analysis for drawing inferences.

5th Stage:

Identification of model villages for conducting field trials. Practical application of the results in the field/ in the adopted model villages for conducting field trails.

6th Stage:

Generation of data and collection of data/ results as outcome of the field trials.

7th Stage:

Dissemination of the Fec-B germ plasm to other villages and districts.

Inspection of sheep sheds (23.04.2018)**Shed No.1**

The partition door structures within the pens needs to be repaired. The assistance of welder for repair of iron small partition gates be sought. All the ewes were in average health condition. Lambing percentage in Australia x Merino cross is reported to be 95% and amongst Fec-B was 163%. One lamb born in 03.2018 was weighed and body weight of 17.750 Kgs was recorded. One Fec-B carrier ram born in 03.2015 having brand No. 2K-190 (homozygous) was weighed and recorded 59 Kgs.

The farm has 03 (Fec-B) non carrier rams and 15 Fec-B carrier rams for distribution. The farm has 18 non carrier ewes, 03 non carrier male hoggets and 02 non carrier female hoggets. One Fec-B carrier ram born in 02.2011 having brand No. 2F-85(homozygous) weighed 62 Kgs was found in good shape with full mouth dentition.

The Assistant Director reported that few staff members field men and ASMs are on deputation to Gnaderbal district which needs to be relocated. The Assistant Director shall furnish a detailed status report to this effect.

The tour was concluded.


(Dr. Mohammad Sharief)

DIRECTOR

**Sheep Husbandry Department
Kashmir**

9/5/18