

## LIVELIHOOD AND SOCIO-CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF AFAR GOAT BREED INTENDED FOR BREED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

FEKI MISBAH & BERHANU BELAY

*Animal Science Department, Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, Jima, Ethiopia, Africa*

### ABSTRACT

*Characterization is the first step in any breed improvement and conservation strategy. This study was undertaken in Afar Region, Aysaita District with the aim of investigating livelihood, social and cultural contribution Afar goat breed. Stratified random sampling techniques were employed to select the peasant associations and households. Semi-structured questionnaires and Participatory Rural Appraisal tools were employed to collect the data. A survey was conducted with 124 respondents (83 from two pastoral and 41 from one agropastoral peasant associations). Descriptive and inferential statistics were employed to analyze the data. Indexes were calculated for all ranking data. The survey result showed livestock and livestock products as the major source of income. The main reasons mentioned for breeding goats were milk production ( $I = 0.36$ ), income source ( $I = 0.24$ ), saving and insurance ( $I = 0.21$ ) and fulfillment of social and cultural affairs ( $I = 0.14$ ). Some of the socio – cultural function of goats in the community include weeding gift, compensation payments, help to poorer relatives and inheritance. It could be concluded that, goats are kept for multiple purpose, prioritizing improved milk production. However, the socio – cultural practice of the community that directly and indirectly affects the gene pool of the population should be considered for success in any breed improvement programs.*

**KEY WORDS:** *Afar, Breed Characterization, Breeding Purpose, Pastorals*

**Received:** Jun 04, 2016; **Accepted:** Jul 01, 2016; **Published:** Jul 23, 2016; **Paper Id.:** JASRDEC20162