

Village Goat Production in Southern Thailand :

1. Number and Distribution of Goats

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Abstract. Saithanoo, S., Kuprasert, S., Di Donato, R-M., Suttiyotin, P., Choldumrongkul, S., and Pralomkarn, W. 1985. Village goat production in Southern Thailand : 1. Number and distribution of goats. *Songklanakarin J. Sci. Technol.* 7 : 267-270.

The number and distribution of goats in 14 provinces in southern Thailand have been surveyed. The total number of goats in the South in 1983, excluding pre-weaning kids, was 65,685 head. The closer the area to the Thai-Malaysian border, the higher the number of goats in the area. The total goat population in the South was distributed among a five province border zone (76.92%), a west coastal zone (17.89%) and an east coastal zone (5.19%). Among the 14 provinces, Pattani province had the highest number of goats, viz. 14,028 head or 21.36%. The relationship between goat and Thai-Muslim population and changes in goat population during 1978-1983 are discussed.

Key words : goat, Southern Thailand, Distribution of Goats.

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The livestock industry in Thailand is linked to a complex of agricultural systems. Within the livestock industry, goats are of less importance than other animal species such as swine, cattle and buffaloes. However, in the southern region of Thailand, goats are considered to be an important species, particularly so in the Muslim villages close to the Thai-Malaysian border.

According to the 1978 Agricultural Census Report presented by the National Statistical Office⁽²⁾, 73,979 goats, or 87.59% of total goat population in Thailand, were found in the South with the remainder scattered over other parts of the country. Out of the total goat population in the South, 71.21% was reported to be in five provinces close to the border, viz. Songkhla, Satun, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat. Within these provinces, the proportions of goats to swine, cattle and buffaloes were 1.04, 7.17 and 0.96, respectively. This indicates that goats are one of the most important species in this region and hence deserve considerable attention.

The total number of goats in Thailand in 1978 as reported above is much higher than that of 31,000 goats given by the Department of Livestock Deve-

lopment⁽¹⁾ for the same year. Even though the DLD's figures included only goats after weaning, the discrepancy is rather confusing. However, we have to accept the fact that, in the past, very little attention was paid to goats and therefore population estimates based on official records might have been unreliable.

The overall objective of this study is to obtain base-line data about goat production at a village level in southern Thailand. In this paper, the number and distribution of goats are considered.

Material and Methods

The survey was carried out from March to May, 1984, in the 14 provinces of southern Thailand. The main sources of information were Provincial Livestock Offices and Provincial Agricultural Extension Offices, where data and progress reports concerning livestock in villages were recorded. However, in some provinces, information obtained from each of the two sources differed. Therefore, in provinces where the goat population was reported to be high, i.e. in Songkhla, Satun, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat, interviews were made and information collected also from government officials at district, sub-district and village levels so as to confirm and/or elaborate the information from

the above mentioned sources and thereby minimize errors.

The data presented in this paper are the number of goats after weaning (older than approximately 3 months) and their distribution in southern Thailand during the first half of the year 1983.

Results and Discussion

The number of goats for each province in southern Thailand is presented in Table 1. It was found that, in 1983, there were 65,685 head of goats in the South. The South can be divided into 3 zones (Figure 1), i.e. a five-province-border zone (composed of Songkhla, Satun, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat), an east coastal zone (composed of Ranong, Phangnga, Phuket, Krabi and Trang) and a west coastal zone (composed of Chumporn, Surat Thani, Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Phatthalung). Table 1 and Figure 1 show that the total number of goats in the five-province-border zone is 50,523 head or 76.92% of the total goat population in the South. The total number of goats in an east coastal zone and a west coastal zone were 3,410 head (5.19%) and 11,152 head (17.89%), respectively.

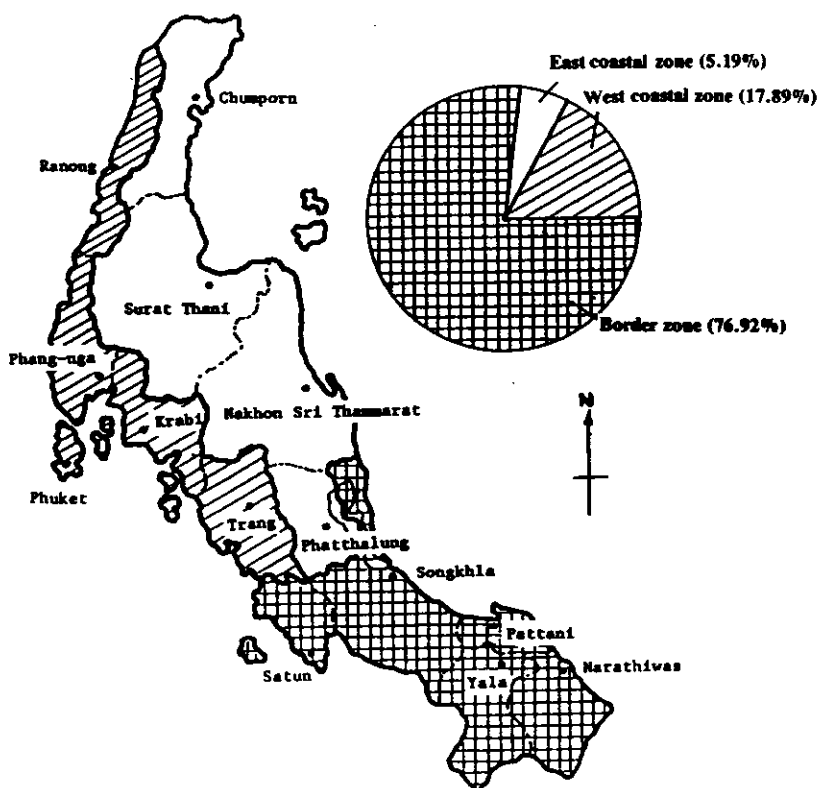


Figure 1 Distribution of goats in southern Thailand in 1983.

Table 1. Number and distribution of goats in southern Thailand in 1983.

Zone/Province	Number (head)	Percentage
East coastal zone	3,410	5.19
Chumporn	142	0.22
Surat Thani	661	1.01
Nakhon Sri Thammarat	1,930	2.94
Phatthalung	677	1.02
West coastal zone	11,752	17.89
Ranong	803	1.22
Phang-nga	1,268	1.93
Phuket	1,218	1.86
Krabi	4,053	6.17
Trang	4,410	6.17
Five - province - border zone	50,523	76.92
Songkhla	9,453	14.39
Satun	4,269	26.50
Pattani	14,028	21.36
Yala	11,027	16.79
Narathiwat	11,746	17.88
Total of 14 provinces	65,685	100.00

Since the goat population was highest in the five - province border zone, the number of goats for each district of Songkhla, Satun, Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat provinces are presented in Tables 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, respectively. The province and the district which have the highest number of goats in the South (and, presumably, in Thailand) are Pattani and Betong (Yala province), respectively.

Discussion with livestock officials indicated that the number of goats reported by DLD⁽¹⁾ is much lower than that reported by NSO (1980) and by this survey because DLD's figures excluded not only a number of pre - weaning kids but also a number of unvaccinated goats.

Even though the number of goats presented in this paper is somewhat lower than that reported by NSO⁽²⁾, the zonal distribution of goats is almost the same (Table 7). The differences in the numbers may be due either to the differences in the survey methods or to the fact that the goat population really decreased during 1978 - 1983. It seems that the former hypothesis is an unlikely explanation of such a difference, unless the missing data of goat population in four districts of Pattani province are significantly high to account for the difference. If we accept the latter hypothesis, which seems more likely, it means that goat population in the South has decreased about 11.21% over the past 5 years, or a rate of 2.38%

Table 2 Number and distribution of goats in Songkhla province in 1983.

District	Number (head)	Percentage
Muang	1,875	19.84
Hat Yai	1,700	17.98
Sadao	480	5.08
Rattaphum	816	8.63
Ranot	0	0.00
Sathing Phra	47	0.50
Chana	1,926	20.37
Na Thawi	475	5.02
Thepha	1,328	14.05
Saba Yoi	806	8.53
Total	9,453	100.00

Table 3. Number and distribution of goats in Satun province in 1983.

District	Number (head)	Percentage
Muang	2,050	48.02
Khuan Ka Long	243	5.69
Langu	355	8.32
Thung Wa	844	19.77
Khuan Don	430	10.07
Tah Phae	347	8.13
Total	4,269	100.00

Table 4 Number and distribution of goats in Pattani province in 1983.

District	Number (head)	Percentage
Muang	2,658	18.95
Yaring	952	6.79
Sai Buri	3,753	26.75
Mayo	3,515	25.06
Khok Pho	1,265	9.02
Nong Chick	-	-
Panare	-	-
Yarang	1,332	9.49
Mai Kaen	553	3.94
Kapor	-	-
Toong Yang Dang	-	-
Total	14,028	100.00

-Incomplete data

per year. The reduction was greatest in the east coastal zone (41.80%) and least in the five - province border zone (4.29%).

The causes of reduction in the goat population

Table 5 Number and distribution of goats in Yala province in 1983.

District	Number (head)	Percentage
Muang	2,383	21.61
Banang Sata	666	6.04
Betong	4,070	36.91
Raman	2,261	20.50
Yaha	777	7.05
Thanto	870	7.89
Total	11,027	100.00

Table 6 Number and distribution of goats in Narathiwat province in 1983.

District	Number (head)	Percentage
Muang	1,783	15.18
Bacho	2,033	17.31
Rangae	1,045	8.90
Ruso	1,060	9.02
Si Sakhon	410	3.49
Sungai Kolok	1,304	11.10
Sungai Padi	1,154	9.82
Tak Bai	1,336	11.37
Waeng	830	7.07
Yi-ngo	761	6.48
Sukhirin	30	0.26
Total	11,746	100.00

are not clear and therefore need more investigation. At present, it is believed that possible explanations are (1) some farmers stopped raising goats because goats received less attention from government bodies compared with other species, (2) a lot of breeding does and bucks were slaughtered for meat or sold to Malaysia since demand, and hence price, there are high, and (3) the mortality rate in kids is high.

Information presented in the tables demonstrated that the number of goats per administrative area is very high in those areas close to the Thai-Malaysian border. These areas have large numbers of Thai-Muslim communities, and the goat population in the South is distributed in a similar way to the Thai-Muslim population³.

It is expected that, had the survey been conducted at a village level and all goats of very age group included, the total number of goats would be at least 25% higher than those reported by NSO⁽²⁾ and in this survey.

Table 7 Changes in goat population in southern Thailand from 1978 to 1983.

Zone/Province	Number (head)		Change (%)
	1978	1983	
East Coastal zone	5,860	3,410	-42.80
Chumporn	134	142	5.97
Surat - Thani	401	661	64.83
Nakhon Sri Thammarat	3,373	1,930	-42.78
Phatthalung	1,952	677	-65.32
West coastal zone	15,330	11,752	-23.34
Ranong	558	803	43.91
Phang - nga	1,608	1,268	-21.14
Phuket	1,307	1,218	-6.81
Krabi	8,049	4,053	-49.65
Trang	3,808	4,410	15.81
Five - province - border zone	52,789	50,523	-4.29
Songkhla	9,502	9,453	-0.86
Satun	7,428	4,269	-42.53
Pattani	13,707	14,028	2.34
Yala	9,075	11,027	21.51
Narathiwat	13,979	65,685	-11.18
Total of 14 provinces	73,979	65,685	-11.18

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จากการสำรวจจำนวนและการกระจายของประชากรแพะใน 14 จังหวัดภาคใต้พบว่า จำนวนแพะทั้งหมดในภาคใต้ (ไม่รวมลูกแพะก่อนหย่านม) ในปี พ.ศ. 2528 มีเท่ากับ 65,685 ตัว ความหนาแน่นของประชากรแพะในพื้นที่ที่จะเพิ่มมากขึ้นหากพื้นที่นั้นอยู่ใกล้กับชายแดนไทย-มาเลเซียเข้าไป ในจำนวนแพะทั้งหมดของภาคใต้มีประมาณร้อยละ 76.92, 17.80 และ 5.19 จะกระจายอยู่ในเขตทั้งจังหวัดชายแดนภาคใต้, เขตจังหวัดชายฝั่งตะวันตก และเขตจังหวัดชายฝั่งตะวันออก ตามลำดับ จังหวัดที่มีแพะมากที่สุด คือ จังหวัดปัตตานี ซึ่งมีแพะจำนวน 14,028 ตัว หรือร้อยละ 21.36

ภาควิชาสัตวศาสตร์ คณะทรัพยากรธรรมชาติ มหาวิทยาลัยสงขลานครินทร์ วิทยาเขตหาดใหญ่