

SMALL RUMINANT FARM MANAGEMENT IN THE NORTHEAST OF THAILAND*Pramote Paengkoum**School of Animal Production Technology, Institute of Agricultural Technology, Suranaree
University of Technology, Muang, Thailand*

This paper presents an overview of goat and sheep production and development in Thailand with special attention to small ruminant in the northeast region. Small ruminant production in the northeast Thailand as the tropical zone is a low-input, minor farm enterprise offering potentially good but highly variable returns. Goats and sheep depend on their ability to select an adequate diet from the naturally available vegetation. The management systems used can be classified into five types: 1) tethering, 2) controlled grazing, 3) free-to-roam, 4) cut-and-carry, and 5) Cut and carry, supplements with tree leaves systems. Small ruminants commonly grazing natural grasses and weeds available in the areas. Supplements, mostly in the form of tree leaves in the wet season and at low level. Tree leaves, foliages or fodder supplements such as; leucaena, neem, madras thorn and legumes, these foliages can be used for small ruminant in the tropics as high protein sources.

Keywords: goat, sheep, farm management, Thailand