The status of native goat rearing in East Azarbaijan province

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History of native goat breeding in the province
East Azarbaijan province has suitable land and favorite climate to breed goat. The goat rearing in east Azarbaijan province has a long history. So that carvings and images found in the different places and mountainous regions all indicate to the long history of the goat breeding in the province. Index goat race in east Azarbaijan province is Mahabadi race. It is known as native goat among the stockmen of the province. In Turkish language, the goat and its kid are called “Kechi” and “Chapish” respectively.

Geographic distribution areas
Mahabadi goat is found in different regions of the province.

Population
The population of the Mahabadi goat race in east Azarbaijan is 513000 heads.

The types of rearing systems
Like other regions of the country, the goat rearing in east Azarbaijan province is more carried out by nomadic and traditional ways.

Job creation
Many households are directly involved in goat rearing which plays an important role in their livelihood.

Appearance features
The body size of Mahabadi goat is large. There are different colors in Mahabadi goat race. The dominant color is white or black with white spots. This breed is resistant to diseases and harsh environmental conditions. Twinning percentage of the Mahabadi goat is more than native sheep of the province.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lactation period (Day)</th>
<th>Milk</th>
<th>Fibre</th>
<th>Hair</th>
<th>Carcass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Annual production of native East Azarbaijan goat (Kg)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Live weight (Kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Economic traits of native East Azarbaijan goat

Items use of products
Goats are mainly kept for using of their milk and meat. The goat keepers use the goat’s milk for the production of dairy products including cheese, butter, yogurt and etc. They play a very important role in feeding households. About 6 months from the goat’s milk is used.
Measures for identifying and genetic improvement
So far no breeding program has implemented for Mahabadi goat in the province. Of course, recently experts at east Azarbaijan Research and Education Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources are planning programs to identify and preserve these valuable genetic resources.

Suggestion ways to improve performance
In order to the production of much milk, the crossbreeding plans with other races suggest in the province.

Fig. 1. Male (right) and female (left) of native East Azarbaijan goat