

PRODUCTION OF WOOL AND HAIR IN HIGHLAND BALUCHISTAN, PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Livestock provides the motive power for agricultural operations, meat and milk for the human consumption and by-products such as skins, wool, hair, manure for local use and contributes largely to export earnings as well. There are 24.7 millions of sheep and 54.7 millions of goats in Pakistan, and in Baluchistan 10.64 millions of sheep and 11.4 millions of goats. These subsist about 30 million hectares of heavily degraded rangelands with different production systems, with an annual increase rate of about 7%. The proportions of adult and young sheep were 44 and 21% and the proportions of adult and young goats in their flocks were 20 and 15%, while the proportion of adult goats was 1.5 times more than it's young one. The sheep/goat ratio in the flocks was 1.91. In Baluchistan *Balochi*, *Bibrik*, *Harnai* and *Rakshani* are major breeds of sheep while *Kajli* and *Khurasani* are two major breeds of goats. *Harnai* breed of sheep is mainly raised for wool production while, *Kajli* and *Khurasani* breeds of goats are mainly raised for mutton and hair. Shearing is done by the professional shearers or by the flock owners themselves twice a year for sheep and once a year for goats.

Keywords: Breeds, goat, hair, population, sheep, valley, wool.