

Morphometric Characteristics and Performance of Totapari Goat

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1. Introduction

The significance of goats in India extends beyond their economic contributions. They are an integral part of the rural economy, providing a stable source of income and nutrition to households that may not have access to more expensive livestock. Goats require less feed and care, making them a sustainable option for resource-poor farmers. Additionally, they contribute to women's empowerment in rural areas, as goat-rearing is often managed by women, thereby enhancing their role in household decision-making and income generation.

Among the various breeds of goats in India, Totapari goat is renowned for its unique appearance, valuable attributes and adaptability, primarily found in Rajasthan regions. This goat is also known as *Alwari* or *Mewati* goat among the farmers. Nowadays, Totapari goats have become increasingly popular among farmers for stall feeding. This breed is recognized for its meat production, high milk yield and sturdy nature, making it a valuable asset to farmers in these areas. Totapari goat is not only a source of milk but also provides meat highly valued in the market, contributing to both nutrition and income for the farmers. The reproductive capabilities of Totapari goats are notable. Does often gives birth to twins, and occasionally even triplets. Their ability to produce offspring in multiple births contributes to their economic value in terms of meat and milk production.

Furthermore, the Totapari goat's ability to thrive in diverse climatic conditions, ranging from dry to humid environments, makes it an ideal breed for the Indian context. Its resilience to diseases and low maintenance requirements add to its appeal, ensuring that it remains a popular choice among goat farmers as a stall feeding goat. As India continues to advance in agricultural innovations, the role of goats, especially unique breeds like the Totapari, will remain central to achieving sustainable and inclusive growth.

Hence, there is an urgent need for detailed characterization of different populations, especially those that are lesser known. Characterization of the Totapari Goat Project (CTGP) at Sri Karan Narendra Agriculture University, Jobner came into functional existence on August, 2023.

The primary objective was to characterize the Totapari goat population, focusing on delineating its natural habitat, recording various body biometric traits, body weight measurements, husbandry practices, and different management techniques, along with their gene characteristics. The information generated will serve as a crucial stepping stone toward gaining deeper insights into this valuable goat genetic resource.

Totapari Goat Breed

- Totapari goats are found in Alwar, Bharatpur, and nearby districts in around eastern plains and hills area of Rajasthan.
- Totapari goat breed was identified between the breeding tracts of Jamunapari and Jakhrana.
- Locally known as *Alwari* or *Mewati* goat.
- Jamunapari breed is the most closely related goat breed to Totapari goat.
- Predominant pure white with small brown spots or a completely pale-red colour on its head, neck and ears.
- Reared across communities in the area (Jat, Gurjar, Mav, Mali and Meena).
- Reared mainly for dual purpose (meat & milk) and manure purpose.
- The goat named "Totapari" is easily recognised by its distinctive parrot mouth appearance, characterised by the pronounced Roman nose, which is a result of their distinctly arched nasal bone and inward-curving upper muzzle and nostrils.
- The nose has a Roman shape (double parrot mouth appearance) with a tuft of hair in males.
- Nowadays, it is popular among goat farmers as a stall feeding goat.