



Senegalese Ladoum sheep: phenotypic and zootechnical characteristics and husbandry practices

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1 ABSTRACT

Ladoum sheep farming is emerging in Diourbel, Senegal, but husbandry-related productivity and operational challenges may constrain the breed's zootechnical performance. This study, conducted via surveys of 20 Ladoum sheep farmers. It aimed to update knowledge about the Ladoum Sheep breed by analyzing its phenotypic, zootechnical characteristics and farming practices. The results showed that farming is carried out intensively with well-equipped sheep pens. It is a secondary activity practiced predominantly by men, who are often well-educated. However, the sheep are affected by various diseases that limit production performance. The study identified three types of Ladoum sheep based on morphobiometric characteristics. Males (type 1) exhibit the largest biometric traits (weight, body length, thoracic perimeter), confirming the strong sexual dimorphism. In contrast, females display higher variability (type 2) represent average sized reproductive stock kept for fertility and maternal qualities, while larger ewes (type 3) point to progressive selection. These characteristics reveal a diversity of individuals among females and young stock, whereas rams exhibit more uniform traits. The study suggests that the farmers' strategy is to produce large- framed animals by using high performing rams with a more diverse female population.