

#### 176. Brazilian goat breeding programs

Raimundo Nonato Braga Lôbo<sup>1</sup>, Olivardo Facó<sup>1</sup>, Ana Maria Bezerra Oliveira Lôbo<sup>2</sup>, Luciana Cristine Vasques Villela<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation – EMBRAPA / National Goats Research Center - CNPC. E-mails: [lobo@cnpic.embrapa.br](mailto:lobo@cnpic.embrapa.br); [faco@cnpic.embrapa.br](mailto:faco@cnpic.embrapa.br); [luciana@cnpic.embrapa.br](mailto:luciana@cnpic.embrapa.br). <sup>2</sup> Animal Sciences Department / Federal University of Viçosa - MG. Email: [oliveiraana@yahoo.com.br](mailto:oliveiraana@yahoo.com.br)

Historically in Brazil, little has been done by the government and breeder's associations regarding to the development of goat breeding programs. However, the interest demonstrated by breeders has increased recently. In this country, goats are exploited for meat, pelt and milk production. However, studies about breeding objectives and economic values have not been conducted in Brazil. The only breeding program fully dedicated to meat goats in Brazil is the "Programa de Melhoramento Genético de Caprinos e Ovinos de Corte" (GENECOC – Breeding Program for Meat Goats and Sheep). The GENECOC has as main objective to give support to the breeders on the utilization of the available genetic resources to optimize their production systems. At present, 1,516 goats are involved in GENECOC, of the breeds Anglo-Nubian (meat line), Boer, Savanah, Moxotó, Canindé, Undefined Breed ("Criola") and some crossbred animals. The Brazilian Dairy Goat Breeding Program aimed to structure the national dairy goat databank and to conduct progeny testing for the main dairy breeds raised in the country. This organization would also allow carrying out studies about genetic structure of Brazilian goat population, QTL/gene identification and the development of statistical methods for genetic evaluation such as test-day models. This program is already in progress, but there are difficulties to carry it out, mainly for progeny testing. Today, 4,374 goats are involved in this program, of the breeds Anglo-Nubian (dairy line), Saanen, Toggenburg, French-Alpine, American-Alpine, undefined Breed ("Criola") and some crossbred animals. The main difficulties for the developing of these breeding programs in Brazil are the great territorial extension of the country with its large diversity of genetic groups, reduced interest from the private sector, lack of organization of breeders/producers, no breeder sector developed and lack of funding from the government and loans for technological development.