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Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis of Goat Farming

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INTRODUCTION

At the present globally, agriculture and food sector is facing an uncertain future. They have to confirm to be capable of dealing with sustainability in order to play a key role in ensuring food sufficiency and well-being of rural populations, present economic viability, prevent social exclusion, promote social equity and preserve natural resources by preventing environmental degradation. In this context, it's necessary to identify problems and opportunities as well as the weaknesses and strengths found and developed by the farmers in order to identify the conditions/factors/situations/practices that can enable the sustainability of goat farming.

Following are the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of Goat Farming:

1. Economic:

Strength:

- Final products of the farm are, in some cases, the main source of income of farm families, by selling the kids increased with monetary support in other cases, animal products consist of an additional source of income
- Production of a kid with unique flavour, benefiting of the combination of the breed with the soil, the climatic conditions, the flora and the extensive rearing system
- Low production costs

- Minimal or no additional expenditure in feeds
- Low dependence on external inputs
- Low initial investment

Weaknesses:

- Low profitability of the system
- Low income/ productivity/ production efficiency
- High mortality rate of goat kids
- System financial support dependent
- Absence of a fixed monthly salary
- High prices of inputs
- Lack of accounting records
- Low productivity of land (low land quality)

Opportunities:

- Contributes to the maintenance and valorisation of abandoned areas
- Collection of food for own-farm households
- Low production costs compared to other breeds and animal species (food, veterinary)
- Low initial investment per animal compared with other breeds and animals species (buildings and equipment)
- Existence of a National Association giving technical support

Threats:

- Weak role of the association of producers in outflow this product a good price, ensuring sanitary conditions of food safety
- Farmers dependence of a cooperative whose operation is ineffective
- Lack of competitiveness of products in the markets
- Higher product price than other competitors breeds and species

1. Environmental:**Strength:**

- Preservation of animal breed at risk of extinction
- Extraordinary hardiness and ability to adapt to the most harsh regions and facility of movement in rugged and harsher terrains
- High use of available resources by goats
- Control of weeds through grazing animal
- Low animal stocking
- Agro-forestry system is a carbon sink

Weaknesses:

- Villages soiled with animal droppings
- No paths or inaccessible paths to the shepherd
- Behaviours few environmentally responsible, due to the lack of livestock husbandry (sleeves, tanks, pediluviums)

Opportunities:

- Contributes to the maintenance and valorisation of abandoned areas
- Rational agricultural and livestock planning
- Natural clean of woods and fallow land by grazing animals, reducing fire risk
- Conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem and landscape
- Opening paths by the implantation of wind turbines

Threats:

- Increase of newly forested areas
- Grazing areas of difficult access
- Problems relating to the commons management
- Existence of roads on grazing course
- Lack of monitoring of the measures applied to the conservation of wild species (wolf)