

Economic Analysis of Diversified Farming on Tribal Farms in Himachal Pradesh

R.C. Oberoi and R.L. Sharma

*Department of Agricultural Economics, H.P. Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur 176 062,
District Kangra (H.P.), India*

KEYWORDS Ecology. Himachal Pradesh. *Gaddis*. Tribe. Economic. Sheep and Goat Farming

ABSTRACT The data collected through two-stage stratified random sampling design from Bharmaur tehsil of Chamba district (H.P) reveals the existence of diversified farming on tribal farms. In addition to growing traditional cereals. Off-season vegetables and milch animals, the *Gaddi* tribals were further found to diversify their enterprises-mix by rearing sheep and goats. These small ruminants together accounted for nearly fifty-two percent of the total farm income of *Gaddi* farms. The *Gaddi* are semi-nomadic and semi-pastoral tribe who constantly move, with their flocks of sheep and goats, in an annual circle from winter pastures in plains to the alpine lush green pastures in the summer. The impact of sheep and goat farming on the ecology and environment of the state has been a quite controversial issue with one school of thought advocating the environmental degradation whereas the other school negates it and favours the socio-economic gains associated with sheep and goat rearing. However, in the wake of various obstacles, problems and complications associated with sheep and goat farming, the *Gaddi* shepherds are dispirited, depressed, frustrated and dejected. They are carrying out their profession in a half-hearted manner. The study brought out the fact that state Government should come forward to tackle the day by day extinction of this profession of herding as it would create heavy imbalances in the economy of the tribal households in particular and the state in general.