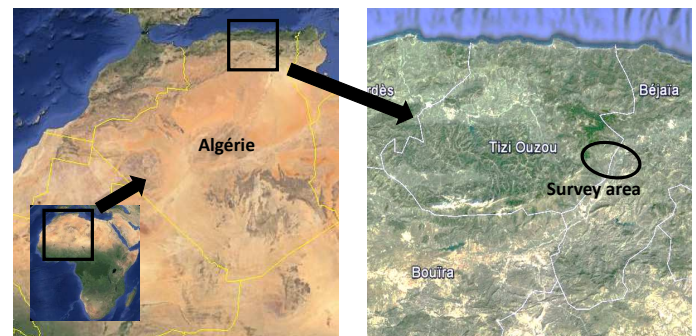


INTRODUCTION

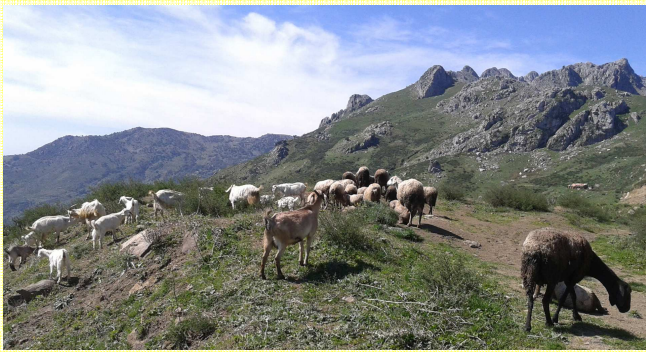
- The livestock sector plays a dynamic role in the economic development of rural areas in Algeria.
- Goat breeding is practiced in many areas of the country, due to its adaptation to harsh environments.
- To the north, it is confined to mountainous areas, but the bulk of the national herd is found in the steppe and semi-desert areas.
- The goat population in Algeria reached 3.8 million heads, ranking second after sheep.
- **Objective** : The present work contributes to a better characterisation of goat breeding in Kabylie for production and reproduction traits.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- The study was conducted in the regions of Chemini (Bejaia province) and Bouzeguene (Tizi-Ouzou province).
- The survey was performed in 29 herds (Bouzeguene: 14; Chemini: 15).
- The questions focused on all agricultural activities including goat breeding.



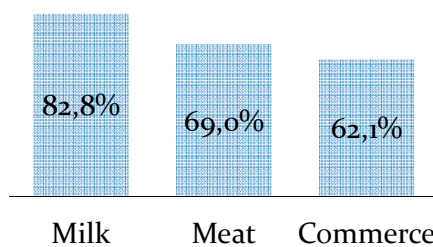
RESULTS



Description

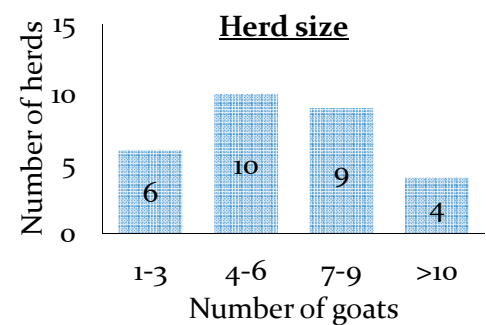
The indigenous goat of Kabylie is small (male: 62.2 cm and female: 58.4 cm) with long hair. Its ears are drooping, its convex profile has a slightly pronounced nasal split and its coat colour ranges from dark brown to black. However, the crossbreeding with exotic breeds (mainly with Saanen goat), controlled or uncontrolled, increased the frequency of white coat.

Purpose of keeping goats



Reproductive performance (in month)

Puberty in males	6.93 ± 1.19
Puberty in females	7.38 ± 1.08
Age 1st kidding	13.03 ± 1.15
Kidding interval	7.83 ± 1.89



CONCLUSION

In Bouzeguene and Chemini, goat farming plays a very important socio-economic role for rural population. The goat herds in the region cannot be considered as a homogeneous entity. They varied in size and performances, as well as regarding the species kept together with goats. In the region, the present development of a small-scale dairy transformation sector calls for an investment in goat breeding itself. Indigenous breeds should find in these developments a significant role as they allow for a sustainable production, valorizing local resources and culture.