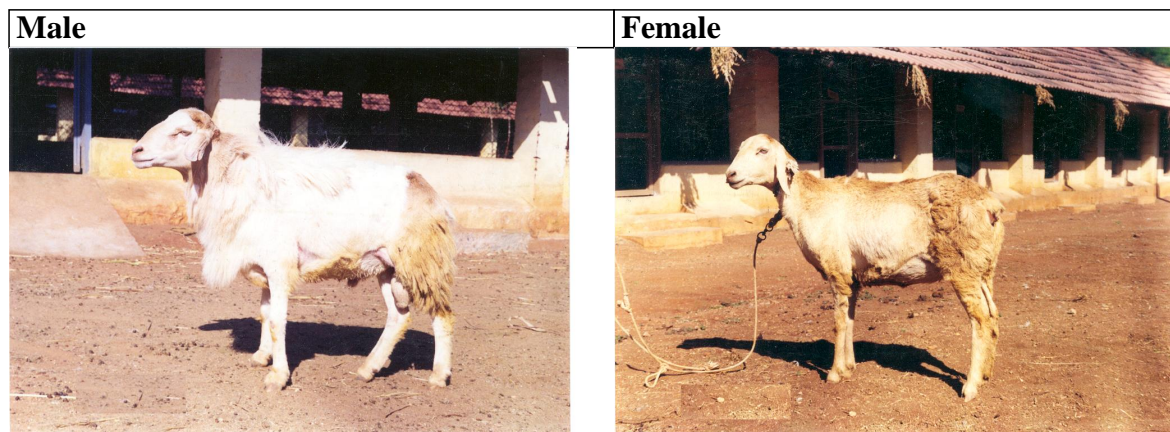


Breed Descriptor of Mecheri (Sheep)



Breeding Tract			
State: Tamilnadu	Namakkal		
	Karur		
	Erode		
	Dharmapuri		
	Salem		
Location			
Longitude (deg.)	76.05 - 78.05		
Latitude (deg.)	10.55 - 12.53		
General Information			
Synonyms	Mailyambadi, Thuvaramchambali, Kannivadi		
Origin	Named after the name of breeding tract.		
Major utility	Food - Meat; Others - Skin		
Comments on utility	The Skin is of the finest quality among all the sheep breeds in India and is highly priced.		
Comments on breeding tract	Typical Mecheri sheep are available in Tharamangalam, Omalur, Kolathur and Mecheri blocks of Salem district and Perundurai Taluk of Erode district.		
Adaptability to environment			
Population			
	Year	Population	Other information
	2001	1282372	Estimated population in the breeding tract. Final Report (2001-03) Network Project Mecheri Sheep, Pottaneri, TANVASU, Chennai

	2013	1212225	Source: Estimated Livestock Population Breed Wise Based on Breed Survey 2013. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India, New Delhi
Management			
Management system	Extensive		
Mobility	Stationary		
Feeding of adults	Grazing		
Comments on Management	These sheep are reared under sedentary system of management. They are grazed for about 7-8 hours in uncultivated areas. Sheep are fed with cultivated fodder or concentrate only during scarcity periods. Animals are housed mostly during night. Deworming is practised at regular intervals.		
Morphology			
Colour	Generally body colour is light tan with darker shade over the neck. White patches are also seen in many animals.		
Horn shape and size	Both polled.		
Visible characteristics	Animals are medium in size with leggy stature. Nose line is slightly roman. The chest is broad. Ears are of medium size. Body is covered with very short hairs.		
	Male	Female	Overall
Height (avg. cm.)	68.9	65.86	
Body Length (avg. cm.)	65.73	62.79	
Heart girth (avg. cm.)	73.99	70.9	
Body weight (avg. kg.)	32.0	28.0	
Birth weight (avg. kg.)	2.88	2.77	2.82
Performance			
	Average	Minimum	Maximum
Litter size born	1.0		
Age at first parturition (months)	17.35	15.0	23.0
Parturition interval (months)	7.4	6.0	8.8
Dressing percentage	54.0		
Any Peculiarity of the breed	The tensile strength of Mecheri sheep skin is 22.5 N/sq. mm. Grain crack strength and tear strength are 28 Kg and 38.1 N respectively. The Skin strength characteristics are better as compared to other sheep breeds. The skin is also better in terms of softness, grain tightness, fullness, surface smoothness, uniformity of colour and general appearance.		