Evaluation of some production parameters in Kabyle local rabbit population

Moula N.[1,2], Michaux C.[1], Luc D.D.[1,3], Saidj D.[4], Farnir F.[1] , Antoine-Moussiaux N.[1,2] and Leroy P.[1,2]

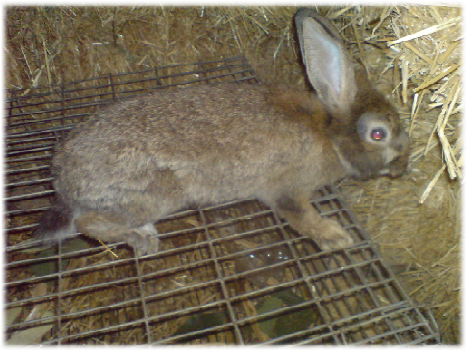
[1] Département de Productions Animales, FMV, ULg; [2] Institut Vétérinaire Tropical, FMV, ULg; [3] Université Agronomique de Hanoi (UAH), Vietnam; [4] ENSV, Algérie.

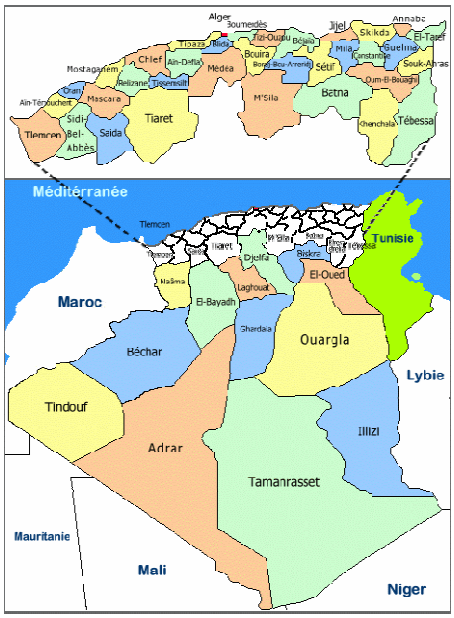
INTRODUCTION

In Algeria, the rabbit production is mainly based on local population to ensure the supply of urban markets. This sector may represent an important source of proteins, that are at present mainly imported. The rabbit production can be a strategic sector in this regard, due to its short life cycle and high prolificity.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The objective of the present study is to evaluate production performances of Kabyle local rabbit population. Litter size, growth rate, body slaughter weight, feed conversion ratio and mortality rate are considered. The experiment was carried out on 30 animals (6 males and 24 females) for reproduction in the Ath Waghlis region (north-east Algeria). Rabbits have been raised in pens with 1 male and 4 females per pen. The commercial feed was supplied *ad libitum* to animals.





RESULTS

On a total number of rabbits born of 7.1, the number of born alive is 6.3 and 5.3 reach weaning. The slaughter weight at 84 days is 1.9 kg, with a feed conversion ratio (from weaning to slaughter) of 3.16. Survival rate from birth to slaughter is 73%.

Reproduction and production performance

Variable	Mean ± SD	Median	Max.	Min.
Total born (n)	7.1±2.1	7	11	4
Born alive (n)	6.3±1.8	6.5	9	3
Weaned (n)	5.3±1.8	5.5	8	2
Survival rate (%)	72.7±11.6	73.9	88.9	50
Weight at 84 days (kg)	1.9±0.8	2	2.6	0.8

CONCLUSION

Rabbit production is an economic activity that is readily available to rural and urban households. The local rabbit population tends to show satisfying production performances in such rudimentary conditions. Simple improvement in feeding and housing could allow a first increase of production based on the indigenous rabbit, adapted to the poor production means of households. Genetic improvement could be considered but would first call for the definition of a local breed, recognized by the breeders gathered in an association.

Corresponding author: pascal.leroy@ulg.ac.be; nantoine@ulg.ac.be

3rd Scientific Meeting of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, ULg, Belgium, October 2013