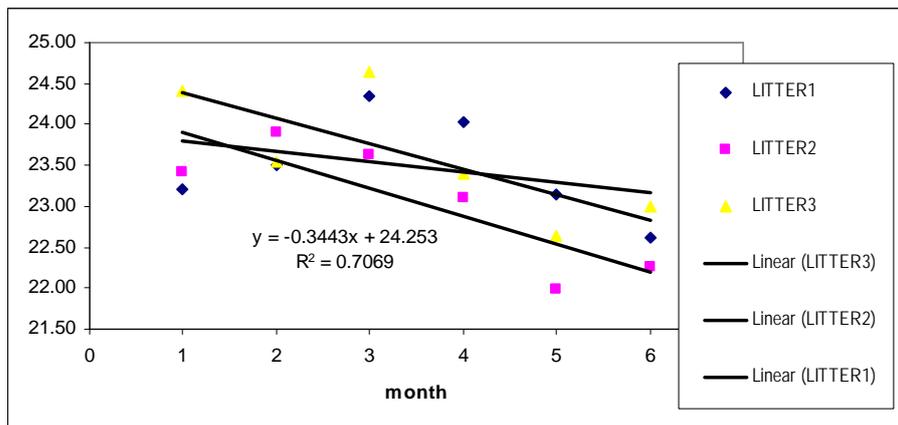


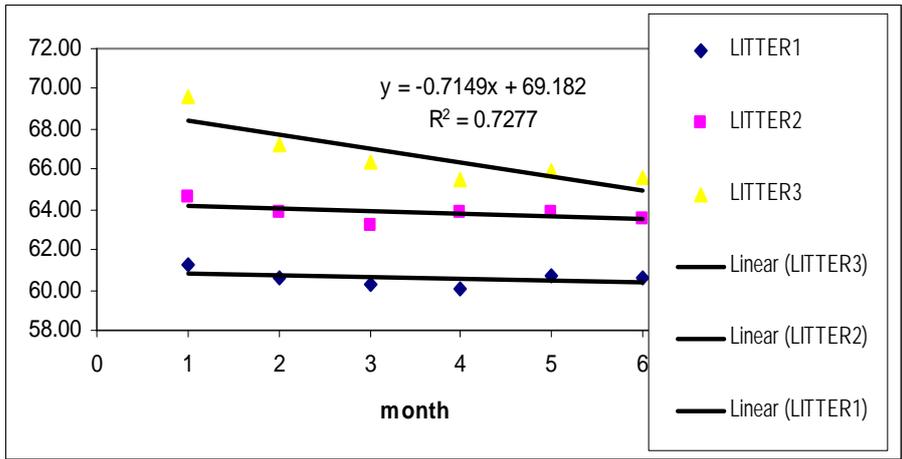
## Ongoing Research Programme

### i) Phenotypic characterization for variation in kidding size in Black Bengal goats

Two-stage stratified random sample survey based monthly phenotypic data on 281 pregnant Black Bengal goats were recorded during 5 months of pregnancy period and one set of observation after kidding in 2 districts of Tripura viz., West Tripura and South Tripura. The mean comparison through one-way analysis of variance has detected significant differences among most of the linear body measurements in Black Bengal goats during different months of pregnancy. The incidence of multiple births (either twin or triplet) has been recorded so far to be 71.89% with a prolificacy of 181.13%. Based on stepwise discriminant analysis, body weight and height at withers were found to be good indicators for higher litter size. 47.0 % of goats with black hair color and 43.0 % of goats with white skin colour were recorded to give twin birth though such association was not significant ( $p>0.05$ ). The goats with bigger ear as well as longer neck showed the tendency to give birth of more kids. The fitted linear trend or simple regression lines for descriptors indicated that udder height (from ground) decreased significantly due to advancement in pregnancy (months) for litter size two (Fig. 1). Curved head-rump length was found to decrease significantly due to advancement in pregnancy (months) for litter size three (Fig. 2). The present information indicated the trend of the result. As the collection of data is still going on, the present findings might be changed with the final sample size.



**Fig. 1 Regression lines for 'Udder height (from ground)' for different litter sizes**



**Fig. 2 Regression lines for 'Curved head-rump length' for different litter sizes**