



A Monthly e Magazine
ISSN:2583-2212

April 2024 Vol.4(4), 1444-1447

Popular Article

The Booming Landscape of Animal Husbandry in India: Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Anmol

MVSc. Animal Genetics and Breeding, NDRI, Karnal

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10996635>

The word “Animal” includes various organism belonging to the animal kingdom *Animalia*, characterized by centralized nervous system, non-photosynthetic nutrition methods, and non-cellulosic cell membrane however the term “animal husbandry” means only those domesticated animals which are reared mostly for economic or for recreation purposes in any particular region such as cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, yak, camel, pig, horse, dog, poultry etc. The word “Husbandry” comes from the management of domestic affair, but in present scenario the word is also used in management of farming such as crop husbandry and animal husbandry. The term animal husbandry may be defined as a science as well as an art of management including scientific feeding, breeding, health care, housing of common domestic animals, targeting for maximum returns. Animal husbandry also plays a pivotal role in India's agriculture sector. India has a rich tradition of livestock rearing, and it continues to be a significant contributor to the country's Gross Value Added (GVA). In 2020-21, the share of livestock at constant prices in Agriculture Sector and total GVA was 30.13% and 4.9% respectively. In recent years, the growth of animal husbandry has outpaced that of crop farming, offering both economic opportunities and challenges.

Relevance of Animal Husbandry in India

Socio-economic development: With the majority of establishments concentrated in rural India, this sector is vital for socio-economic development. Around 87.7% of livestock is owned

1444



Official Website

www.thescienceworld.net

thescienceworldmagazine@gmail.com

Published 19.04.2024

by farmers of marginal, small, and semi-medium holdings. It provides employment to a significant portion of the rural population, with approximately 50% of direct and indirect jobs held by women.

1. **Economic contribution:** Animal husbandry contributes significantly to India's economy. It has witnessed a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.9% from 2014-15 to 2020-21. Its contribution to the total agriculture GVA has increased from 24.3% in 2014-15 to 30.1% in 2020-21.

Employment generation: Animal husbandry provides year-round employment, offering an alternative to the seasonal nature of crop farming. More than 100 million people are employed in this sector, with the milk industry alone supporting approximately 80 million dairy farmers.

Food and Income security: Livestock serves as a source of food and income security. Even when crops fail due to adverse weather or other reasons, animals continue to provide food and income through products like milk, eggs, wool, or meat. In unusual circumstances, live animals can be sold to generate cash.

Present scenario:

- Total milk production in the country during 2021-22 is **221.06 million tonnes, which is highest in the world.**
- In the current year 2021-22, the milk production has registered an annual growth rate of **5.29%**.
- Top five major milk producing States are Rajasthan (15.05%), Uttar Pradesh (14.93%), Madhya Pradesh (8.06%), Gujarat (7.56%) and Andhra Pradesh (6.97%).
- In 2021-22, the total egg production in the country is **129.60 billion numbers** which has increased by **6.19%** as compared to previous year.
- Total five major egg producing States are Andhra Pradesh (20.41%), Tamil Nadu (16.08%), Telangana (12.86%), West Bengal (8.84%) and Karnataka (6.38%).
- The total meat production in the country is **9.29 million tonnes** for the year 2021- 22 with an annual growth rate of **5.62%**.
- The total five major meat producing States are Maharashtra (12.25%), Uttar Pradesh (12.14%), West Bengal (11.63%), Andhra Pradesh (11.04%), and Telangana (10.82%).
- The total wool production in the country during 2021-22 is **33.13 thousand tonnes**



which has decline by 10.30% as compared to previous year.

- The top five major wool producing States are Rajasthan (45.91%), Jammu and Kashmir (23.19%), Gujarat (6.12%), Maharashtra (4.78%) and Himachal Pradesh (4.33%).
- The per-capita availability of milk is **444 gram/day** during 2021-22 increased by 17 gram/day over previous year (ICMR recommendation 280 gram/day)
- In 2021-22, the per-capita availability of egg is **95 nos/annum** increased by 5 nos/annum over previous year.
- The per-capita availability of meat is **6.82 kg/annum** during 2021-22 increased by 0.30 kg/annum over previous year.
- During 2014-15 and 2020-21, the value addition of sector grew at a compound annual growth rate of 7.93%.

Challenges:

- **Low Productivity:** Despite having a vast livestock population, productivity remains low, particularly in ruminants. The average annual milk yield of Indian cattle is only about 50% of the global average.
- **Disease Outbreaks:** Contagious diseases among animals, such as Foot and Mouth Disease and Black Quarter infection, have adverse effects on livestock health and productivity.
- **Feed and Fodder Scarcity:** The shortage and high cost of feed and fodder pose significant challenges, with natural pastures diminishing and cultivated fodder prices rising.
- **Inadequate Policy Support:** The livestock sector receives fewer subsidies compared to crop farming, impacting its growth potential. Animal products lack price and marketing support.
- **Limited Institutional Finance:** Livestock receives a small share of agricultural credit, and risk protection mechanisms are not robust.
- **Government Initiatives:**
- **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM):** Focused on the development and conservation of indigenous bovine breeds to enhance milk production.
- **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF):** Provides financial support and interest subventions to improve animal husbandry infrastructure.
- **National Livestock Mission (NLM):** Aims to promote entrepreneurship, breed improvement, and feed and fodder development.



➤ **Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC) Scheme:**

- Prevents and controls animal diseases through vaccination.
- **National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP):** Targets the complete vaccination of livestock against Foot & Mouth Disease and brucellosis.

Sustainable growth of animal husbandry

To ensure the sustainable growth of animal husbandry in India, the following steps are essential:

- **Improve Productivity:** Focus on good breeding, health care, and feeding practices to enhance livestock productivity.
- **Secure Feed and Fodder:** Ensure adequate availability of affordable feed and fodder, utilizing crop residues effectively.
- **Disease Management:** Enforce mandatory primary vaccination and maintain rigorous veterinary surveillance.
- **Policy Support:** Increase budget allocation and support for the livestock sector, including price and marketing support.
- **Vaccine Production:** Strengthen vaccine production, quality standards, and vaccination schedules.

Animal husbandry is emerging as a significant contributor to India's agriculture sector offering economic opportunities and contributing to rural development. To overcome challenges and sustain growth, it is essential to prioritize productivity improvement, disease management, and policy support. With the right initiatives and investments, India can continue to harness the potential of animal husbandry for its socioeconomic development.

