



India's Livestock Sector

For Prelims: Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Livestock Sector, Animal Husbandry, Economic Survey-2021, Gross Value Added, Dairy, LSD, One Health Approach.

For Mains: Status of India's Livestock Sector, Issues Related to Livestock in India.

Why in News?

Recently, the Ceremony for Distribution of Animal Breed Registration Certificates organised by the [Indian Council of Agricultural Research \(ICAR\)](#) was concluded.

- In the address, the **Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister**, has emphasised the importance of **identifying the large number of indigenous livestock breeds in India** to make the agriculture and animal husbandry sector prosperous.

What is the Status of India's Livestock Sector?

- **About:**
 - [Animal husbandry](#) has historically been an integral part of agriculture in India and is relevant today as a large section of society is actively engaged and dependent on it.
 - India is rich in **livestock biodiversity** and has developed many specific breeds adapted to various climatic conditions.
- **Contribution of Livestock in the Indian Economy:**
 - The **livestock sector grew at a CAGR of 7.9% during 2014-15 to 2020-21** (at constant prices), and its contribution to total agriculture GVA (at constant prices) **has increased from 24.3% in 2014-15 to 30.1% in 2020-21**.
 - Besides their monetary benefit and providing a steady stream of food and revenues for households, **livestock provide employment to the rural family, act as insurance during crop failures** and the number of livestock owned by a farmer determines the social status among the community.
 - **Dairy is the single-largest agri commodity in India**. It contributes **5% to the national economy and employs** 80 million dairy farmers directly.
- **Recognised Indigenous Livestock Species:**
 - **Recently, ICAR** has registered 10 new breeds of livestock species. This has taken the total number of indigenous breeds to **212 as of January, 2023**.
 - The **ten new breeds of indigenous livestock species** are -
 - Kathani cattle (Maharashtra), Sanchori cattle (Rajasthan) and Masilum cattle (Meghalaya);
 - Purnathadi buffalo (Maharashtra)
 - Sojat goat (Rajasthan), Karauli goat (Rajasthan) and Gujari goat (Rajasthan)
 - Banda pig (Jharkhand), Manipuri Black pig (Manipur) and Wak Chambil pig (Meghalaya).
- **Issues Related to Livestock in India:**
 - **Lack of Transparency:**

- Nearly half of the country's livestock is still unclassified. Also, Indian livestock product markets are mostly underdeveloped, **uncertain, lack transparency and often dominated by informal market intermediaries.**
- **Rising Animal Diseases:**
 - There has been an increase in communicable diseases among animals. Most recent is the outbreak of [lumpy skin disease \(LSD\)](#) in cattle across various states of India.
- **Lack of Extension Services:**
 - While the role of extension services in enhancing crop production and productivity is widely recognized, **livestock extension never got the attention it deserves,** and this has been one of the reasons for low productivity of India's livestock sector.

What are the Government Schemes Related to Livestock Sector?

- [Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund \(AHIDF\)](#): Under this scheme, the Central Government provides a **3% interest subvention to the borrower and credit guarantee up to 25% of total borrowing.**
- [National Livestock Mission \(NLM\)](#): This scheme has been restructured for **2021-22 to 2025-26.**
 - The scheme focuses on entrepreneurship development and breeds **improvement in poultry, sheep, goat and piggery,** including feed and fodder development.
- **Livestock Health and Disease Control (LH&DC) Scheme:** It is being implemented to supplement the State/UT governments efforts towards **preventing, controlling and containing animal diseases of economic and zoonotic importance** by vaccination.
- [National Animal Disease Control Programme \(NADCP\)](#): It is being implemented to control **Foot & Mouth Disease and Brucellosis** by completely vaccinating cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat and pig populations against Foot & Mouth Disease and **bovine female calves of 4-8 months of age against brucellosis.**

How India can Enhance its Livestock Sector?

- **Registration of New Breeds:** ICAR's mission to document all animal genetic resources in the country in collaboration with State Universities, Animal Husbandry Departments, NGOs, and others is a good step in this direction.
 - Also, the **Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) has started notifying all registered breeds in the Gazette since 2019** to claim sovereignty over these indigenous breeds.
- **Veterinary Ambulance Service and Compulsory Livestock Vaccination:** In order to provide **immediate primary treatment for injured animals,** ambulance services should be expanded in veterinary hospitals.
 - In addition, **livestock primary vaccination should be made mandatory,** and regular veterinary surveillance should be conducted in a time-bound manner.
- **Towards One-Health Approach:** There is a need to **recognize [One Health Approach](#) and understand the interconnection between people, animals, plants,** and their shared environment and encourage collaborations in research and sharing of knowledge at multiple levels across various disciplines like **human health, animal health, plants, soil, environmental and ecosystem** that can help in health sustainability and tackling **zoonotic diseases** as well.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q.1 Which of the following is the chief characteristic of 'mixed farming'? (2012)

- Cultivation of both cash crops and food crops
- Cultivation of two or more crops in the same field
- Rearing of animals and cultivation of crops together
- None of the above

Ans: (c)

Mains

Q.2 Livestock rearing has a big potential for providing non-farm employment and income in rural areas. Discuss suggesting suitable measures to promote this sector in India. **(2015)**

Source: PIB

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