



## Animal Husbandry and Dairying

**For Prelims:** [Rashtriya Gokul Mission](#), [milk](#), [Kisan Credit Cards \(KCC\)](#), [soil-less cultivation](#)

**For Mains:** Role of dairy and livestock sector in Indian economy, Related issues and Initiatives taken to promote the sector.

### Why in News?

The Union Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India recently highlighted the achievements and initiatives of the Department, emphasizing the **importance of animal husbandry** in boosting rural incomes and supporting agricultural diversification.

- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in India has undertaken significant initiatives in the past nine years to enhance productivity.

### What are the Achievements in Animal Husbandry and Dairy?

- **Livestock Sector:**
  - **Livestock sector** contributes significantly to the Indian economy, with a **compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 7.93% from 2014-15 to 2020-21**.
  - The livestock sector's contribution to the total agriculture and allied sector **Gross Value Added (GVA)** has increased from **24.38% in 2014-15 to 30.87% in 2020-21**.
  - Livestock population in India includes 303.76 million bovines, 74.26 million sheep, 148.88 million goats, 9.06 million pigs, and 851.81 million poultry **as per 20<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census**.
- **Dairy Sector:**
  - **Dairy** is the **largest agricultural commodity in India**, contributing **5% to the national economy** and employing over 8 crore farmers directly.
  - India ranks **1<sup>st</sup> in milk production**, accounting for 23% of global milk production.
  - Milk production has increased by 51.05% in the past eight years, reaching 221.06 million tonnes in 2021-22.
  - Milk production is growing at the annual growth rate of **6.1% over the past 8 years** whereas world milk production is growing at 1.2% per annum.
  - **Per capita milk availability in India is 444 grams per day**, surpassing the world average of 394 grams per day.
- **Egg and Meat Production:**
  - India ranks **3<sup>rd</sup> in egg production and 8<sup>th</sup> in meat production globally**.
  - Egg production has increased from 78.48 billion in 2014-15 to 129.60 billion in 2021-22, growing **at a rate of 7.4% per annum**.
  - Meat production has risen from 6.69 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 9.29 million tonnes in 2021-22.

### What are Key Initiatives Taken to Enhance the Livestock Sector?

- **[Rashtriya Gokul Mission](#):**

- **Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme:** Over 5.71 crore animals covered, benefiting 3.74 crore farmers.
  - Artificial insemination is a novel method of bringing about impregnation in female breeds.
- **Promotion of IVF Technology:** Production of **viable embryos and birth of calves.**
- **Sex Sorted Semen Production:** Introduction of sex sorted semen with up to 90% accuracy for producing female calves.
  - Only **female calves can be produced** (with more than 90% accuracy) which will help double the growth rate of milk production in the country.
- **DNA-based Genomic Selection:** Genotyping of animals for selection of elite indigenous breeds.
- **Animal Identification and Traceability:** Identification and registration of 53.5 crore animals using **unique identification label (UID) tags.**
- **Progeny Testing and Pedigree Selection:** Implemented for specific cattle and buffalo breeds.
- **National Digital Livestock Mission:** Enhance livestock productivity, control diseases, and ensure quality for domestic and export markets.
- **Breed Multiplication Farms:** Subsidy of 50% (up to Rs 2 crore per farm) on capital cost (excluding land cost) is provided to private entrepreneurs under this scheme for establishment of breed multiplication farms.
- **Supporting Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations:** Soft working capital loans are provided to assist dairy cooperative societies during **adverse market conditions or natural calamities.**
- **Dairy Processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF):** Creation and modernization of milk processing, chilling, and value addition infrastructure.
- **National Livestock Mission:** **Direct subsidies** to individuals, FPOs, and others to establish poultry farms, sheep and goat breed multiplication farms, piggery farms, and feed and fodder units.
- **Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund:** Incentivizing investments for dairy and meat processing, animal feed plants, and breed improvement technology.
- **Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme:**
  - **Animals ear tagged:** Approximately 25.04 crores.
  - **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination:** 24.18 crore animals vaccinated in the second round, ongoing vaccination for Round III with 4.66 crore animals vaccinated.
  - **Brucella vaccination:** 2.19 crore animals vaccinated.
  - **Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs):** 1960 MVUs flagged off in 16 States/UTs, with 1181 operational in 10 States.
- **Livestock Census & Integrated Sample Survey Scheme:**
  - **Integrated Sample Survey: Provides estimates of major livestock products (Milk, Egg, Meat, Wool)** published in the Annual Publication of Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS).
  - **Livestock Census:** Provides species-wise and breed-wise livestock population data at the household level in rural and urban areas.
    - **20<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census completed in 2019**, with the publication of the "20th Livestock Census-2019" report containing species-wise and state-wise the population of livestock. Breed-wise reports on Livestock and Poultry were also published.
- **Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) for Dairy Farmers:** More than 27.65 lakh fresh KCCs sanctioned for AHD farmers in milk cooperatives and milk producer companies.

## What are the Challenges in Animal Husbandry and Dairying?

- Disease management and **animal health issues.**
- Availability and **quality of feed and fodder.**
- Lack of **modern infrastructure** and technology.
- Shortage of skilled personnel and **veterinary services.**
- **Financial constraints** and limited access to credit.
- **Marketing and distribution** challenges.

## Way Forward

- **Strengthen veterinary services** and infrastructure, promote vaccination programs and regular health check-ups, and **enhance disease surveillance** and early detection systems for livestock.
- Promote **cultivation of high-quality fodder crops**, encourage adoption of modern techniques like **hydroponics and silage production**, and establish feed processing units for a consistent supply of quality feed.
  - Hydroponics is a **soil-less cultivation** method using nutrient-rich water, while silage production involves fermenting and preserving **high-moisture fodder crops for livestock feed**.
- Upgrade and **modernize livestock farms, dairy processing units, and veterinary clinics**; promote adoption of advanced technologies, and invest in research and development.
- Formulate and implement **supportive policies and Provide incentives** for investments in animal husbandry and dairying.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### **Prelims**

**Q.1 Consider the following crops of India: (2012)**

1. Cowpea
2. Green gram
3. Pigeon pea

**Which of the above is/are used as pulse, fodder and green manure?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (a)**

### **Mains**

**Q.1** 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**