

Challenges in Livestock Sector of India

Omika Balkrishna Pinjari*

Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University, Nagpur, India

***Corresponding Author:** Omika Balkrishna Pinjari, Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University, Nagpur, India.

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In recent years livestock contribution to agricultural sector GDP has increased than crop sector. Due to increasing population and urbanization demand for livestock products is rising. Livestock share about 6 percent to the Gross Domestic Product and around 25 percent to the Agricultural Gross Domestic Product. The Global market for animals' based-food has been expanding rapidly. Livestock sector in India is grown by 8.15 percent rate at Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) from last 5 years. Livestock farming provides livelihood to about 66 percent of rural community.

Challenges faced by livestock sector

Low productivity of livestock animals is because of lack of awareness among the farmers about livestock technology related to improving productivity, breeding and vaccination. Higher incidence of animal disease also contribute to lower livestock production. Poor quality of veterinary infrastructure as shortage of number of Veterinary hospitals, polyclinics, Veterinarians and other skilled staff in veterinary services. Inadequate number of veterinary colleges throughout the country leads to lack of health and welfare needs.

Livestock sector faces huge financial loss due to inadequate production of vaccine, vaccination setup, unavailability of cold storage facilities, poor quality of vaccine and delay in vaccination routine. Shortage of nutritional fodder has affected the animal health which. Diversion of feed and fodder for industrial use has led to shortage of fodder in livestock field. Due to urbanization and development grazing lands are degraded. Less than 5 percent of cropped area is use for fodder in India. India is deficit by 11 percent in dry fodder, by 35 percent in green fodder and by 28 percent in concentrates feed.

Markets for livestock products are irregular, underdeveloped and lack transparency. Except for some poultry and milk products

market for other livestock products is uncertain. Inadequate access to organized market deprive farmer of proper milk prices.

What are the adjustment pressure to emerging market forces? Globalization has provided chance for increased participation in international trade event though stringent food safety and quality norms retard potential export growth in livestock sector of India.

Livestock sector has been neglected by financial institutions. Insurance- As of now only 6 percent of animal heads are provided insurance cover. Weak institutional mechanism to protect animals against risk and inadequate availability of institutional credit affects the livestock sector.

Slaughtering facilities are poor. About 50 percent of the total meat production comes from unregistered slaughter houses. Availability of quality breeding bulls is limited. Crossbreeding of breeds to enhance genetic potential of different species is successful only up to limited extent. Artificial insemination rate is usually low due to deficiency in good quality germplasm, skilled manpower and poor conception rate.

Government schemes aimed for growth of livestock sector in India

Developmental programs like National Livestock Mission to enhance the nutritional levels and standard of living in livestock farmers, National programme for Dairy Development to increase quality of milk and milk products, Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) for encouraging farmers to rear indigenous breeds.

Disease control programs as National Animal Disease Reporting System (NADRS) for reporting of animal disease, Scheme of livestock health and disease control (LH and DC) provide financial assistance for control of animal diseases and National Animal

Disease Control Program for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis (NADCP) to keep control on FMD and Brucellosis and try to eradicate them by 2030 through vaccination. Program has received 100 percent funding.

Some of the Infrastructural development funds like Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund with corpus of Rs. 15000 crore for investment to companies, farmers, etc. to establish meat and dairy processing and Animal Feed Plant. Dairy Processing and infrastructure Development Fund with corpus Rs. 8004 crore to provide loan to modernize the milk processing plants.

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