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Q2

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.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · GS III · 12 marks · Indian Economy

Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.

Core demand of the question

- Show why livestock can give rural non-farm income and jobs
- **Suggest measures:** breed, feed, health, credit, markets and dairy institutions

Revision summary

Livestock gives year-round cash, especially to small and land-poor rural households.

Dairy cooperatives and **NDDB** already proved a scalable non-farm income model.

National Livestock Mission, **Rashtriya Gokul Mission** and the **National Dairy Plan** are the present Union tools.

Feed, vaccination, insurance and milk-meat markets decide whether animals actually raise income.

Women and landless workers gain most from backyard poultry, goats and dairy if extension reaches them.

Introduction

Livestock - cattle, buffalo, goat, sheep, pig, poultry and fishery-allied backyard stock - is the main **non-crop** livelihood in many Indian villages. Milk, meat, eggs, hide and draught power spread income through the year, including for women and land-poor households. The potential is large; the constraint is weak **breed, feed, veterinary care and markets**.

Body

Why the potential is large

- Livestock contributes a large share of **agricultural gross domestic product** and a smaller but useful share of national GDP, with less monsoon risk than a single crop.
- **Dairying** under cooperatives (Amul pattern, National Dairy Development Board) already showed that smallholders can earn daily cash without owning much land.
- Goats, sheep and backyard poultry suit **landless and women** workers and need less capital than a tractor.
- Demand for milk, eggs and meat rises with income and urbanisation, so the market is not only a monsoon mandi.
- Manure and biogas link livestock to **soil health and household energy**.

Measures to promote the sector

- **National Livestock Mission (2014-15)** should be used for fodder, breed improvement, and extension rather than left as a budget line.
- **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (2014)** and progeny testing can raise indigenous and crossbred productivity without reckless exotic import.
- **National Dairy Plan** and dairy cooperatives plus producer companies should reach eastern and rainfed districts, not only the old milk-sheds.
- Universal **vaccination** (foot-and-mouth disease, peste des petits ruminants, brucellosis) and more field veterinarians cut the biggest income shock: animal death.
- **Feed and fodder:** denotified wasteland for silage, mineral mixture, and crop-residue management so the cow is not competing with the stove.
- Credit, **livestock insurance**, and Kisan Credit Card coverage for animals, plus organised mandis and cold chain for milk and meat, so the farmer is not stuck with a village trader.
- Strict **food-safety and slaughter** hygiene with FSSAI so domestic and export demand is not lost to disease scares.

Flow diagram

Livestock potential -> Dairy cooperatives NDDB
Livestock potential -> Small stock poultry goat
Dairy cooperatives NDDB -> Rural non farm income
Small stock poultry goat -> Rural non farm income
Rural non farm income -> Mission breed feed vet credit market

Conclusion

Livestock is already India's widest rural non-farm enterprise. It will yield jobs and income if breed, fodder, veterinary cover, dairy institutions and fair markets move together. A scheme on paper without a vaccinator and a milk route will not change the village.

Facts & figures

NDDB

National Dairy Development Board: the institutional core of India's cooperative dairy network after Operation Flood.

National Livestock Mission

Union scheme from 2014-15 for sustainable livestock development, including fodder, breed and extension.

Rashtriya Gokul Mission

2014 programme to conserve and develop indigenous cattle breeds and raise productivity.

National Dairy Plan

World Bank-assisted plan to raise milk productivity through better breeding and village milk procurement.

FMD

Foot-and-mouth disease: a major preventable cause of milk and cattle-income loss; mass vaccination is the core control.

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