

Class Notes	
Class: XI	Topic: Importance of livestock in Agriculture, National Economy and Nutritional security
Subject: AGRICULTURE	

### Importance of Livestock in Agriculture, National Economy and Food Security

Livestock plays an important role in Indian economy. About 20.5 million people depend upon livestock for their livelihood. Livestock contributed 16% to the income of small farm households as against an average of 14% for all rural households. Livestock provides livelihood to two-third of rural community. It also provides employment to about 8.8 % of the population in India. India has vast livestock resources. Livestock sector contributes 4.11% GDP and 25.6% of total Agriculture GDP.

#### **Live Stock Resource**

- India is world's highest livestock owner at about 512.05 million
- India is first in the total buffalo population in the world - 105.3 million buffaloes
- India is second in the population of cattle and goats - 140.5 million goats
- India is second largest poultry market in the world - production of 63 billion eggs and 649 million poultry meat.
- India is third in the population of sheep (72 millions).
- India is fifth in the population of ducks and chicken.
- India is tenth in camel population in the world.

#### Contribution of livestock in India Economy:-

The livestock provides food and non-food items to the people.

**Food:** The livestock provides food items such as Milk, Meat and Eggs for human consumption.

India is number one milk producer in the world. It is producing about 156 million tones of milk in a year (2015-16). Similarly it is producing about 74.75 billions of eggs, 8.89 million tones of meat in a year. The value of milk group and meat group at current prices was Rs 4,06,035 corers in 2013-14.

**Fiber and skins:** The livestock also contributes to the production of wool, hair, hides, and pelts. Leather is the most important product which has a very high export potential. India is producing about 47.9 million Kg of wool per annum.

**Draft:** Bullocks are the back bone of Indian agriculture. Despite lot of advancements in the use of mechanical power in Indian agricultural operations, the Indian farmer especially in rural areas still depend upon bullocks for various agricultural operations. The bullocks are saving a lot on fuel which is a necessary input for using mechanical power like tractors, combine harvesters etc.

**Dung and other animal waste materials:** Dung and other animal wastes serve as very good farm yard manure and the value of it is worth several corers of rupees. In addition it is also used as fuel (bio gas, dung cakes), and for construction as poor man's cement (dung).

**Storage:** Livestock are considered as "moving banks" because of their potentiality to dispose off during emergencies. They serve as capital and in cases of landless agricultural laborers many time it is the only capital resource they possess. Livestock serve as an asset and in case of emergencies they serve as guarantee for availing loans from the local sources such as money lenders in the villages.

**Weed control:** Livestock are also used as Biological control of brush, plants and weeds.

**Cultural:** Livestock offer security to the owners and also add to their self esteem especially when they are owning prized animals such as pedigreed bulls, dogs and high yielding cows/ buffaloes etc.

**Sports / recreation:** People also use the animals like cocks, rams, bulls etc for competition and sports. Despite ban on these animal competitions the cock fights, ram fights and bull fights (jalli kattu) are quite common during festive seasons.

**Companion animals:** Dogs are known for their faithfulness and are being used as companions since time immemorial. When the nuclear families are increasing in number and the old parents are forced to lead solitary life the dogs, cats are providing the needed company to the latter thus making them lead a comfortable life.

### Role of Livestock in Agriculture

The livestock plays an important role in the economy of farmers. The farmers in India maintain mixed farming system i.e. a combination of crop and livestock where the output of one enterprise becomes the input of another enterprise thereby realize the resource efficiency. The livestock serve the farmers in different ways.

**Income:** Livestock is a source of subsidiary income for many families in India especially the resource poor who maintain few heads of animals. Cows and buffaloes if in milk will provide regular income to the livestock farmers through sale of milk.

**Employment:** A large number of people in India being less literate and unskilled depend upon agriculture for their livelihoods. But agriculture being seasonal in nature could provide employment for a maximum of 180 days in a year. The land less and less land people depend upon livestock for utilizing their labour during lean agricultural season.

**Food:** The livestock products such as milk, meat and eggs are an important source of animal protein to the members of the livestock owners.

**Social security:** The animals offer social security to the owners in terms of their status in the society. Animals are used for various socio religious functions. Cows for house warming ceremonies; rams, bucks and chicken for sacrifice during festive seasons; Bulls and Cows are worshipped during various religious functions. Many owners develop attachment to their animals.

**Draft:-** The bullocks are the back bone of Indian agriculture. The farmers especially the marginal and small depend upon bullocks for ploughing, carting and transport of both inputs and outputs.

**Dung:** In rural areas dung is used for several purposes which include fuel (dung cakes), fertilizer (farm yard manure), and plastering material (poor man's cement).

### Role of livestock in food security

If food security is defined as "Access to enough food for an active healthy life" livestock can make a major contribution. An adequate quantity of balanced and nutritious food is a primary indicator of quality of life, human welfare and development. Animals are an important source of food, particularly of high quality protein, minerals, vitamins and micronutrients. The value of dietary animal protein is in excess of its proportion in diets because it contains essential amino acids that are deficient in cereals. Eating even a small amount of animal products corrects amino acid deficiencies in cereal-based human diets, permitting more of the total protein to be utilized because animal proteins are more digestible and metabolized more efficiently than plant proteins

### **Production of Livestock in 2015-2016**

Si. No.	Product	Quantity	Ranking in the world production
01	MILK in million tonnes	155.5	FIRST
02	EGGS in billions tones	82.93	THIRD

03	MEAT million tones	7020	-
04	WOOL in million kgs.	43.6	-
05	FISH in lakh tonnes	107.90	SECOND

**Note: This content has been prepared at home.**