



## LIVESTOCK SECTOR IN INDIA - GS III MAINS

**Q.** Livestock sector plays an important role in the Indian economy and rural development. In this context, suggest measures to alleviate the problems in the livestock sector. (10 marks, 150 words)

**News:** Focus on livestock sector for income growth

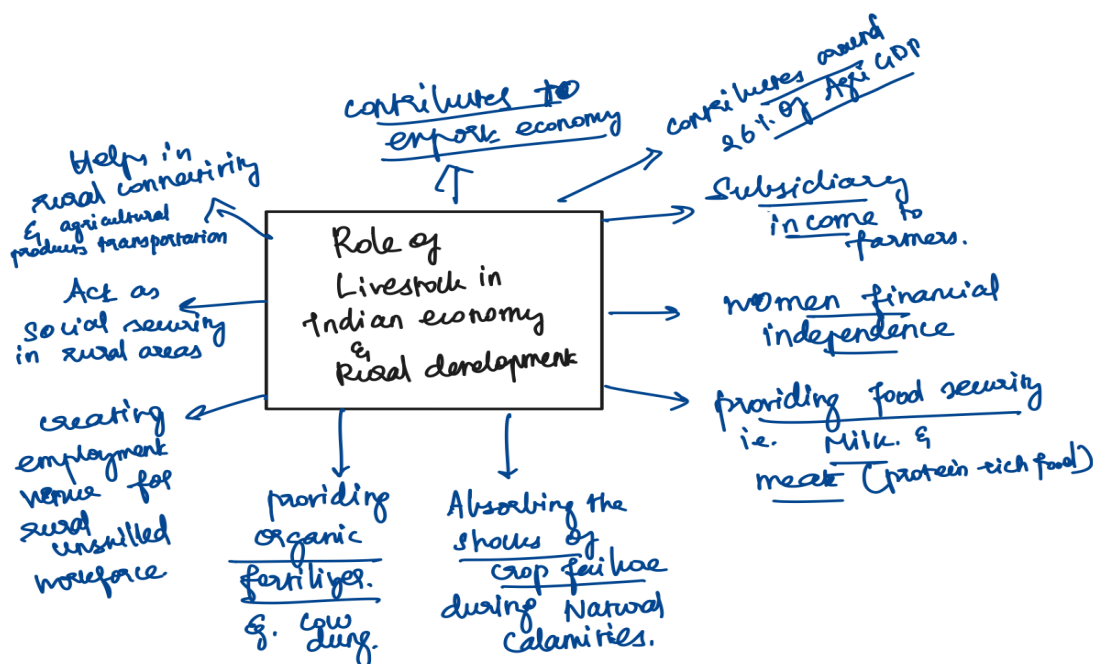
### What's in the news?

- Despite an increased share (30%) of livestock in the agricultural GDP, most of the big-ticket budget items in agriculture, such as food subsidy and fertiliser subsidy, cater to the crop sector.

### Key takeaways:

- India's livestock sector is one of the **largest in the world**. About **20.5 million people depend upon livestock for their livelihood**.
- Livestock provides livelihood to two-third of rural communities.
- It also provides **employment to about 8.8 % of the population** in India.
- India has vast livestock resources. **Livestock sector contributes 4.11% of GDP and 25.6% of total Agriculture GDP.**

**Livestock sector plays an important role in the Indian economy and rural development:**





## Suitable measures to promote Livestock sector in India:

1. **Sufficient resources:** Providing sufficient fodder and drinking water is the need of hour to increase productivity of livestock rearing in India, in the rain-shadow region.
2. **Marketing:** Trade Policies like marketing have to be more effective for promotion of various livestock products like egg, fish, milk etc. and providing sufficient price to farmers by reducing the influence of middlemen.
3. **Infrastructure:** improving the infrastructure in the dairy and animal husbandry sector. It will reduce the logistics cost and increase the export due to increased competitiveness.
4. **Promoting indigenous breeds:** Our indigenous breed of cattle shall be promoted, because most foreign breed cattle are not suitable to our climate and even provide low quality. There are some exceptions like Jersey cows, but overall introduction of foreign breeds has not been very successful.
5. **Training:** Necessary training and subsidies shall be provided to farmers to adopt livestock rearing as an alternate source of income.
6. **Research and development:** Government shall also focus on Research & Development in the livestock sector to increase per livestock productivity to provide more benefits to small & marginal farmers.

### Important Initiatives by the Government:

*Rashtriya Gokul Mission: It aims to develop and conserve indigenous breeds of bovine population. This is important to enhance milk production and to make it more remunerative to the farmers.*

*National Livestock Mission: Its objective is to ensure quantitative and qualitative improvement in livestock production systems and capacity building of all stakeholders.*

*National Artificial Insemination Programme: To suggest novel methods of bringing about impregnation in female breeds. Also, to prevent the spread of certain diseases which are genital in nature, thereby enhancing the efficiency of the breed.*

*National Cattle and Buffalo Breeding Project: To genetically upgrade important indigenous breeds on priority basis with a focus on development and conservation.*

*Animal Husbandry Startup Grand Challenge: To appreciate innovations coming from the villages to expand the dairy sector in India.*

*Dairy infrastructure development fund*

*Animal husbandry infrastructure development fund*

There is a need to encourage livestock husbandry to reap its full potential. If implied with utmost priority, this advice can boost the production. Thus, would further attract the landless and small farmers to take advantage of this sector for sustaining their livelihood and make India competent in the global market.