



Current Market Insights and Policy Implications for Animal Husbandry in India

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Introduction

India's animal husbandry is at a turning point between tradition and change. Raising cattle has been an integral part of rural livelihoods for ages, providing social identity, revenue and nutrition. In the past, it operated more as a subsistence endeavour, supplying home sustenance, manure and draught power, than as a business. But there has been a significant change in Indian animal husbandry in recent years. The industry is increasingly acknowledged as a vital and strategic driver of food security, rural employment and the national economy. Productivity and sustainability requirements have been redefined by developments in scientific breeding, balanced diet, better housing management and veterinary healthcare. The shift from conventional, survival-based systems to scientifically managed, market-oriented businesses has been sped up by the introduction of contemporary technologies and managerial techniques. Concurrently, a conducive climate for livestock-based entrepreneurship and agribusiness development has been established by shifting consumer tastes, growing local and international markets and encouraging government policies. The animal husbandry industry supports a wide range

of related businesses, such as feed manufacture, veterinary medications and dairy processing, in addition to its direct outputs of milk, meat, eggs, wool and leather. This further solidifies the industry's position as a major force behind India's agrarian growth. Yet, this shift also brings crucial problems. Assuring animal care, regulating the intricate relationships between wildlife, livestock and the environment and striking a balance between ecological sustainability and economic growth have all become top issues. Therefore, the future of animal husbandry in India hinges on the careful blending of market trends, regulatory directives and sustainability principles in addition to technology and genetic advancements. To steer this transition—aligning development with environmental stewardship, profitability with inclusivity and productivity with ethics—it is crucial to comprehend current market findings and policy implications.

1. Market Overview

1.1 The Indian Animal Husbandry Market's Current Situation

With over 70 million rural households supported and a significant contribution to agricultural GDP, India's animal husbandry industry is a vital component of the country's

agricultural economy. The Indian animal husbandry market is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.3% from 2025 to 2033, from its 2024 valuation of INR 1,244.6 billion to INR 2,218.8 billion, according to the IMARC Group (2025). The sector's shift from subsistence-based production to a market-driven, scientifically controlled industry connected with national and international agri-food systems is reflected in this growth.

1.2 Major Subsectors: Dairy, Meat, Poultry and Fisheries

The sector is dominated by the dairy industry, which accounts for more than 60% of total production. India produces around 24% of the world's milk, making it the world leader in this regard (FAO, 2024). The second-ranked poultry sector is distinguished by its quick industrialisation, effective feed conversion and growing demand for grill meat and eggs. The meat industry—which includes bovine, goat and poultry meat—keeps growing as a result of changes in urban diets and strong export prospects, especially for buffalo meat. Animal husbandry benefits from the high-protein food and revenue diversification provided by the fisheries and aquaculture sector, despite its administrative separation. With over 70% of total production coming from inland aquaculture, India is one of the top fish-producing countries in the world (ICAR-CIFE, 2024).

1.3 Growth Trends and Future Projections (2024–2033)

All livestock subsectors are predicted to grow steadily and inclusively between 2024 and 2033. Important trends consist of:

- Dairy: Growth via cold chain networks, digital milk collection and crossbreeding.
- Poultry: Ongoing expansion through vertical integration, contract farming and improvements in biosecurity.
- Small Ruminants: In dry regions, climate-resilient systems will improve the security of livelihoods.

- Fisheries: Initiatives like PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the Blue Revolution will strengthen India's standing as a leader in aquaculture worldwide. It is anticipated that India's livestock sector will continue to grow at a rate of 5–7% per year, making a substantial contribution to the country's 2030 GDP target of USD 5 trillion.

1.4 Principal Causes of Growth

The growing population and urban middle class's demand for animal-based protein are the main factors driving the sector's growth.

- Growing Incomes: Foods high in protein are becoming more popular.
- Genetic selection, increased feed efficiency and AI-based herd management are examples of technological advancements.
- Export Potential: Growing global markets for beef, leather and dairy.
- Policy Support: Government programs promoting modernisation include the DIFD, Rashtriya Gokul Mission and NLM.

2. Market Segmentation

The Share of Species

- Cattle and buffalo: Important producers of milk and meat; genetics and health care are key factors in productivity increases. In marginalised communities, goats and sheep are essential for the security of meat, skin and livelihood.
- Poultry: The industry with the fastest rate of growth, effective feed conversion and large-scale operations.
- Pigs: Possess the potential for waste-based feed systems; significant regionally for ethnic and niche markets. Strong disease and water control are necessary for aquaculture, which is essential for food security and exports.
- Developing as a viable feed source, insect farming still depends on scalability and legal frameworks.

2.2 In terms of products Distribute

The most common products are milk and dairy, then meat, eggs, skins and wool. Health and export demand are driving the rapid growth of value-added products, such as organic dairy, ethnic meats and collagen-based components.

2.3 Performance of Regional Markets

- North India: robust market connections, mechanisation and dairy cooperatives.
- South India: Diverse dairy, poultry and aquaculture; strong feed and R&D assistance.
- East India: Growing potential for small ruminants and aquaculture.
- West India: robust breeds of buffalo that thrive in arid environments, as well as meat and leather.

2.4 New Sectors

Using circular bioeconomy models, insect protein, algae farming and organic livestock products are at the forefront of innovation, balancing sustainability and profitability.

3. The Policy Landscape

Through integrated initiatives, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying's (MFAHD) policy framework aims to improve rural employment, production and disease management.

3.1 The National Livestock Mission (NLM)

Works to create breeds, supply feed and fodder, encourage entrepreneurship and build capacity in line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

3.2 Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) & Dairy Development

Uses NPDD-II and NDLM integration to support the conservation of native breeds (such as Gir and Sahiwal) and contemporary dairy infrastructure.

3.3 National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)

Aims to eradicate brucellosis and FMD through digital disease surveillance and complete livestock tagging.

3.4 Other Supportive Policies

Initiatives for climate-resilient housing, fodder development and genetic upgrading support productivity increases.

3.5 Private Sector and Export Promotion

Through APEDA and AQCS platforms, PPP models in processing, logistics and fintech-driven insurance are increasing export preparedness.

3.6 State-Level Initiatives

Decentralised success is best demonstrated by innovations like State Livestock Missions (Tamil Nadu, Telangana), Pashupalak Samridhhi (Rajasthan) and Amul (Gujarat).

4. Market Drivers and Opportunities

- Technological Innovation: Disease prediction and herd management are being revolutionised by AI, IoT and genomics.
- Protein Demand Surge: The amount of milk, meat and eggs consumed per person is still rising significantly.
- Export Growth: In terms of volume and variety, India leads Asia in exporting dairy products and buffalo meat.
- Public-Private Partnerships: New businesses such as MooFarm and Stellapps are modernising supply chains and facilitating financial access for farmers.

5. Difficulties and Limitations

- Disease and Biosecurity Risks: More personnel and surveillance are needed to combat persistent risks like FMD and LSD.
- Climate Stress: Technologies for adaptability are crucial as heat, water scarcity and fodder shortages restrict productivity.
- Fragmented Value Chains: Post-harvest losses result from inadequate cold storage and logistics.
- Sustainability and Animal Welfare: Ethical production and waste management are

becoming essential components of international trade.

6. Implications for Policy

In order to guarantee sustainable and balanced growth, all initiatives should incorporate social, biological and economic sustainability.

- Boost digital extension networks and veterinary infrastructure.
- Encourage rural entrepreneurship by providing access to microfinance, cooperatives and FPOs.
- Using a One Health approach, match livestock regulations with frameworks for wildlife and biodiversity.

7. Outlook for the Future

7.1 Projected Growth (2024–2033)

By 2033, the market is expected to have grown to INR 2,218.8 billion at a compound annual growth rate of 6.3%. Modernisation and integration into international markets will be accelerated by institutional and technological improvements.

7.2 Innovating and Diversifying

Sustainable diversification will be strengthened by new protein sources (algae, insects), bioenergy from animal waste and small ruminant businesses.

7.3 Research and Academia

For zoonotic resilience, universities and institutes need to concentrate on biotechnological breeding, region-specific models and One Health frameworks.

7.4 The 2033 Vision

The livestock industry in India is envisioned as a climate-smart, welfare-focused and inclusive part of the national economy that strikes a balance between ecological stewardship and productivity.

8. Final Verdict

Animal husbandry in India is a prime example of how market opportunity and policy change may coexist. With a strategic emphasis on innovation, sustainability and inclusivity, the nation is well-positioned to set the standard for

resilience and responsible growth in the global cattle sector.

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