

Cattle Farming



A. Industry Classification: Cattle Farming

International Standard Industrial Classification	Code
Animal production	014
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Raising of cattle and buffaloes (raising and breeding of cattle and buffaloes)	0141

Overview

Cattle among other livestock species available in Bangladesh are the most versatile component in relation to existing integrated agricultural farming system. Nearly 24.5 million heads of cattle are distributed throughout the country. These cattle are of multipurpose in providing milk, draught, meat and dung as fuel and organic fertilizer and strongly linked with the livelihood of people. Livestock plays an important role in the national economy of Bangladesh with a direct contribution of around 3 % percent to the agricultural GDP and providing 15 percent of total employment in the economy.

In Bangladesh, around 8% of total protein for human consumption comes from livestock. Hides and skin of cattle, buffaloes, goats and sheep are valuable export items, ranked third in earnings after RMG and shrimp. Surprisingly, Bangladesh has one of the highest cattle densities: 145 large ruminants per km². But most of them trace their origin to a poor genetic base. The average weight of local cattle ranges from 125 to 150 kg for cows and from 200 to 250 kg for bulls that falls 25-35% short of the average weight. Despite highest cattle densities in Bangladesh, the current production of milk, meat and eggs are inadequate to meet the current requirement and the deficits are 85.9, 77.4 and 73.1% respectively. If 5% GDP growth rate is considered then the current production of these commodities need to be increase 2.5 to 3.0 times by the year 2020 to feed the growing population in the country.

This illustrates how urgent is the need to increase the production of milk, meat and eggs. The PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) stresses the importance of the livestock sub-sector in sustaining the acceleration of poverty reduction in the country. The dynamic potential of this emerging sub-sector thus requires critical policy attention.

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Cattle Farming is a business of raising bovine animals, especially domesticated members of the genus *Bos*. A cattle farming is a way of rearing cattle for profitable production of milk and meat. It is also a systematic way of cattle management which deals with proper feeding, breeding,

and housing of the cattle and also taking preventive measures against diseases and parasitic infestations. However, in Bangladesh cattle is mostly reared as a component of traditional crop-based mixed farming or as a source of traction power and manure.

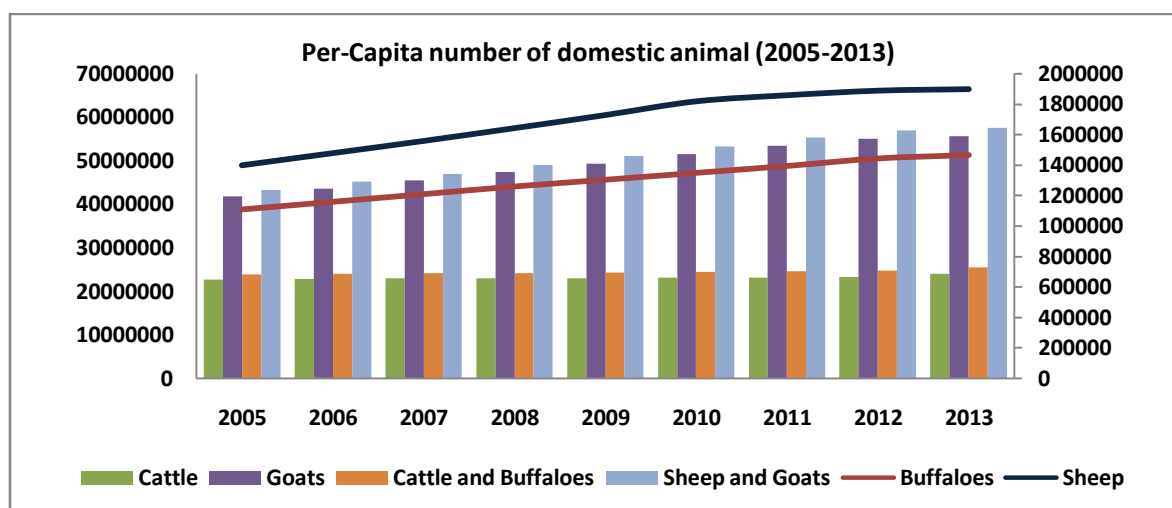
About 90% of cattle of Bangladesh are of non-descript and indigenous in origin with low productivity compared to other existing exotic breeds and their crosses, but they are well adapted in the tropical harsh environment, have ability to maintain their body condition on poor quality feed stuffs and are well resistant to local diseases. Among the indigenous some types of cattle in different region of the country like Red Chittagong, Pabna, North Bengal Grey and Munshiganj are far better producer than other in the existing low input management system. All of them are of Zebu type having developed hump and assumed that they have evolved in the areas over the country.

Bangladesh is rich in farm animal (cattle, buffalo goat, sheep, horse, pig, chicken, duck, geese & pigeon) genetic resources (FAnGR). The proportion of improved cattle in the country is still found less than 3 percent. Goat, sheep and poultry farm was established at the district level for producing improved breed and the supply of these to the farm level. The number was found still insignificant. There is, however, a high degree of inequality for land holdings, but a low degree of inequality for livestock holdings. The distribution of indigenous breed is less unequal than the distribution of improved breeds. There is a possibility of improvement in rural income distribution with an increase in investment for indigenous livestock development. The landless and small farm holdings own the highest percentage of poultry; sheep and goats. While the medium and large farms possess significant percentage of cattle and buffaloes and the improved breeds of all species. Thus, the investment in small ruminant and poultry species will greatly help generate employment and income for the rural poor and thus improve livelihood.

In Bangladesh the number of cattle per farm and system of cattle management varies with farm sizes. Four types of farms are generally recognized, depending on the land size: very small (less than 0.5 acre), small (0.51 to 2.00 acre), medium (2.01 to 5.0 acre), and large (above 5.0 acre). The large farm size group usually has more cattle due to availability of more feed. About 17.7% of households keep draught cattle. Milch cows are kept by about 16.01% of households but most of them own only one cow. Keeping of more than 2 milch cows are very rare. Some people use both conventional and non-conventional feed ingredients for fattening yearling bull calves. In addition they use feed supplements such as green grass, wheat bran, rice bran, rice gruel, urea molasses block, urea molasses straw etc. In recent years, a number of mini-

commercial dairy and beef farms have been established, particularly in urban and peri-urban areas of Bangladesh. Livestock production in Bangladesh in 2007-08 was cattle 23 million, Buffalo-1.3 million, Goats-21.6 million, Sheep-2.8 million, Source: (Bangladesh Economic Review-2009 and DLS). Here, the per-capita number of cattle was 0.16, goats-0.15, sheep-0.01.

Table: Per-Capita number of domestic animal (2005-2013)



Source: FAO (2013)

Leather and wool of animal are used as raw material in the Leather industry. Our meat processing and Leather industries are completely depended on animal meat and leather. As meat provides protein to the people and plays an important role to remove malnutrition and ensuring sound health. Luxurious things are made in handicraft using bone, horn, teeth and hoof of the animal. Animal dung is also used in agricultural land as organic fertilizer. The numbers of customers for these products are large in number and it is often available in the market. It is purchased for personal or family consumption. Sometimes sellers purchase it for their business purpose. Approximately 9% of total foreign currency is earned by exporting leather and leather products every year. Around 20 national and 150 local NGOs are engaged in delivering livestock services to farmers. The number of cattle in Bangladesh was 22.67 million in 2004-2005 fiscal years. The number has increased to 23.49 million in 2013-2014 fiscal years showing only 0.40 per cent growth. The percentage of cattle out of total livestock was 51 per

cent in 2004-2005 fiscal year and it dropped to 44 per cent in 2013-2014 fiscal years. The contribution of the livestock sub sector to GDP at constant prices was 2.58 percent in FY 2010. The estimated contribution to GDP during FY 2011-2012 from this sub-sector dropped at 2.50 percent.

Although there is a limited veterinary services available including poor disease diagnostic facility and also they have lack knowledge about epidemiological information for major livestock. But major obstacle is to control disease problem in livestock production. Also there is an absence of health & waste management system. Still there are no implementation of Disease control Act, Quarantine Act, Slaughter Act, wet market regulations, Fisheries and Livestock Feed Act. This industry is also facing lack of quality control measures for livestock products and bi-products. There is no efficient systemic marketing net work for live livestock and their products.