

# Cattle Feed Industry



## Industry Classification: Cattle Feed Industry

International Standard Industrial Classification	Code
Manufacture of prepared animal feeds	108
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Manufacture of prepared animal feeds (manufacture of prepared feeds for farm animals, including animal feed concentrates and feed supplements)</li></ul>	1080

### 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 km<sup>2</sup>. 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.

### Cattle Feed

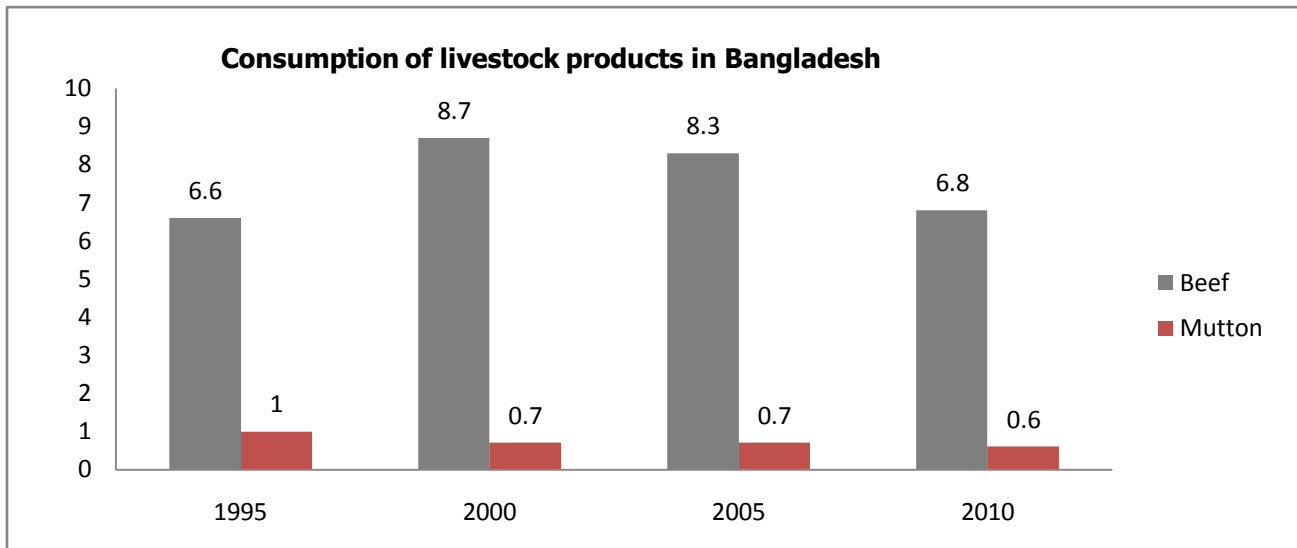
Cattle farming in Bangladesh are increasing rapidly. The farmers are shifting use of traditional feed to scientific feed for attaining higher growth. So the demand of quality feed has been

increasing firstly. The financial, technical, marketing, economical and managerial aspects of the proposal reveals that the project is technically feasible financially sound. All those factors are making this sector as a priority sector of the Government. The existing huge demand for the feed product is increasing day by day. Also there are many competitors in the market whom are managing to supply cattle feed at best price. As this animal feed industry is growing rapidly so that competition arises among the sellers as they want to generate more profit.

Cattle Feed is where Food used for raising bovine animals such as cows, bull, and bullocks. Livestock, being one of the major components of the farming systems, plays vital role in agriculture. An agrarian country like Bangladesh, feed resources for ruminants are derived mainly from crop residues, cereal by-products, shrubs, fodder trees, and grasses growing in wayside bunds and embankment. The available cattle feeds in Bangladesh can be grouped into agro-industrial by-products which include agricultural crop residues such as straws, sugarcane tops, bags' etc; by-products from agro industries eg molasses, oil-cakes, pineapple wastes, shrimp waste, etc; and milling by-products such as brans. Green roughage include non-cultivated indigenous grasses grown on road side, embankment, bunds etc; leaves of the jack fruit and mango tree, ipil, etc; and aquatic plants such as water hyacinths, dol grass, azolla, duck weed etc. Cultivated fodder includes both perennials, such as Napier, Para, German, Splendida, Andropogon, and Gamboo grasses; and seasonal crops such as maize, cowpea, khesari, oat, sunhemp, etc. The bulk of the roughages for ruminant feeding is derived from crop residues of rice, wheat, pulse, etc. Tree leaves, indigenous grasses, and cultivated fodder contribute little to the bulk. The total area for Bhadoi and Rabi fodder is about 6,312 ha, producing only about 47,000 m tons of fodder crops. Very little grain is available for feeding the animals in the country. It is estimated that about 190,000 m tons of grain is available for livestock feeding, contributing only about 15.7 percent of the total amount of concentrate 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.

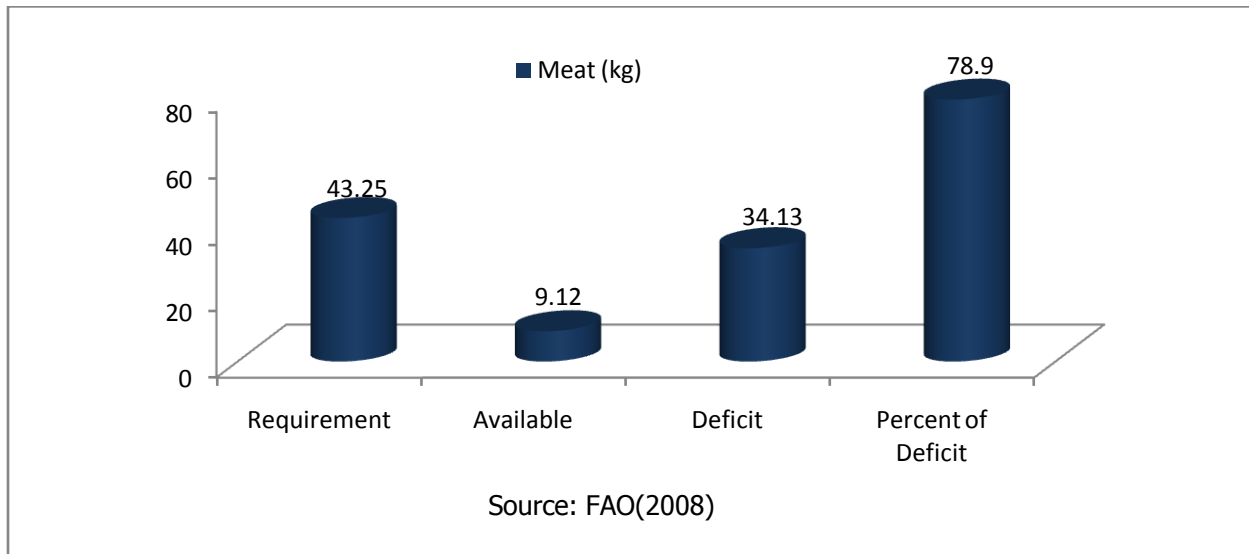
The livestock resources of Bangladesh are mainly based on cattle, goat, sheep, buffalo, and poultry. Although cattle concentration per unit area is high, their productivity is low mainly due to inadequate feed supply and low genetic potentiality. As a result their growth performance is very poor. Planned beef fattening programmes are usually not practiced in Bangladesh, although adopting such programmes is essential to meet the need for animal protein. Moreover, being a Muslim country, Bangladesh experiences a seasonal demand of beef cattle during EID-UL-AZHA. About 1.8 million cattle are sacrificed at this time each year. In a cattle farm cows livestock go through a fattening regime ahead of Eid. Some farms claim that they are fattening cows in an 'natural' way but most farms overdose cattle with vitamins and steroids available in the market. As they desire to generate more profit although in some cases cows could not survive after impacts of drug overdose. Almost every household is using steroids, antibiotics and other chemicals for months in blatant violation of law. Everyone from cattle farm owners to landless farmers wanted to take full advantage of Eid Season and generating more profit. According to Experts, Consumption of meat of these animals poses serious health risks for humans. Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) officials prescribe a mixture of straw, molasses, urea fertilizer and lentils as a safe fattening diet for cattle. In 2015 a total of 99,876 cows are being fattened in Sirajganj and last it was around 1.25 lakh. Cattle-fattening drugs and chemicals are widely available in drugstores at cheap prices. These drugs, mostly smuggled from India, are sold openly in the absence of monitoring by government agencies. A study published in Bangladesh Animal Journal in 2012 shows 63.7 percent farmers in the country use cattle-fattening tablets. The yearling of local cattle is approximately 98 kg body weight shows a growth rate of 450g/day when fed urea molasses based on straw technology developed by the BANGLADESH LIVESTOCK RESEARCH INSTITUTE (BLRI). The Animal Feed Act 2010 prohibits the use of antibiotics, growth hormones, steroids or other harmful chemicals in animal feed. For violating this law, a person might face up to one year's imprisonment or up to Tk. 50,000 in fine or both. People have become aware of the harmful effects of these drugs. They don't take the risk of using them. But the fact is that farmers often opt for the relatively fast but extremely hazardous way to fatten cattle, as it takes around six months to fatten those naturally. Steroids cause accumulation of fluid in cattle body, making them look fatter. So, these drugs damage their heart, kidney and liver, and eventually cause death. As cattle farmers often use higher doses of antibiotics and steroids, meat of these animals contain remnants of the chemicals and have negative impact on human health.

Table: 1 Changes in consumption of Animal Products



Source: Household Income & Expenditure Survey, BBS

Table-2: Demand, supply and deficit of meat year (2007-2008)



Bangladesh has been largely dependent on India as local supply to meet at best 50 per cent of country's demand. In recent years, there was a backdrop of poor supply of cattle from neighboring countries. This backdrop makes price of beef has been shot up 40-50 per cent in the market. Bangladesh has a new mandate under BJP government in this year to stop cattle from crossing illegally into the neighboring country. Annually, about 2 million cattle heads are smuggled into Bangladesh from India in the absence of needed legal trading agreement. The actual hit to Bangladesh's GDP from India's "no-cattle export" policies is not yet known.

Bangladesh can meet its demand for beef locally, if the government will take short-medium and long-term policy. The number of cows in Bangladesh is 6.0 million and half of those have been brought up under artificial insemination program for improved variety. Also a calf need at least two years rearing as existing rules does not permit to slaughter cattle animal below two years old. Although the government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina adopted "Ekti Bari, Ekti Khamar" project to change the socio-economic condition of the rural people and later introduced across the country. But it is not meeting up the demand so that government should put emphasis on rearing improved variety of cattle within the country to meet demands and take appropriate measures at the fastest to terminate the country's dependence on India.