

Livestock, poultry and fisheries

8.17 Livestock sector produced 88 million tonnes of milk, 40.4 billion eggs, 48.5 million kgs of wool, and 6 million tonnes of meat in 2003-04. According to the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the value of output from livestock and fisheries sectors at current prices during 2002-03 were Rs. 1,56,080 crore and Rs 30,014 crore, respectively. These sectors contributed 6.5 per cent of total GDP (5.4 per cent from livestock and 1.1 per cent from fisheries) in 2002-03.

8.18 The livestock sector by contributing milk, eggs and meat to the food basket plays a critical role in fulfilling the animal protein requirement of the people. The per capita availability of milk, which has been growing over the years, is projected to reach 232 grams per day in 2004-05 (Table 8.10). The livestock

Table 8.10 : Production and per capita availability of milk		
Year	Milk production (Million tonnes)	Per capita availability (Gms./day)
1950-51	17.0	124
1960-61	20.0	124
1970-71	22.0	112
1980-81	31.6	128
1990-91	53.9	176
2000-01	80.6	220
2001-02	84.4	225
2002-03	86.7	230
2003-04	88.1	231
2004-05 (P)	91.0	232

Source : Department of Animal Husbandry.

sector also plays an important role in utilization of non-edible agricultural by-products, apart from being an important foreign exchange earner. The total export earnings from livestock, poultry and related products was Rs. 4,734 crore in 2003-04, out of which leather sector accounted for Rs. 2,568 crore and meat & meat products accounted for Rs 1,694 crore.

Poultry

8.19 After the initial boost given by the Central Poultry Breeding Farms to promote poultry farming on commercial lines in the country, the share of production and marketing of the organized poultry sector has increased

to about 70 per cent. A new centrally sponsored scheme called Assistance to State Poultry Farms is being implemented during the Tenth Plan. Under the scheme, one-time assistance is provided to suitably strengthen the farms in terms of hatching, brooding and rearing of the birds with provision for feed mill and their quality monitoring and in-house disease diagnostic facilities. Attempts are also being made to strengthen the contribution of the unorganized sector by promoting backyard poultry.

Safety policies and legislation (in the background of Avian influenza)

8.20 In order to prevent the ingress of the Avian influenza, commonly known as bird flu, in the country and restore consumer confidence in the wake of the outbreak of the disease in South and South-East Asian countries during January 2004, Government has taken several steps including ban of Import

Box 8.3 : Safety measures to stop Avian Influenza in the wake of outbreak of the disease in January, 2004

- All the State Governments have been alerted to be vigilant about the outbreak of the disease, if any.
- Import of poultry and poultry products has been banned completely from the infected countries."
- Border check posts with neighbouring countries have been set up.
- Customs authorities have been requested not to clear any baggage of livestock/livestock products without getting it cleared by the quarantine officer.
- Guidelines are issued to the States for further guidance to the poultry farmers.
- Continued vigilance is being exercised in all bordering States by taking help of the State Animal Husbandry Department who have set up check posts/quarantine stations at the borders, especially with Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- The restriction on import of live birds and their products continues at present as bird flu is circulating in many countries.
- The samples from the suspected flocks from different parts of the country during the outbreak of the disease in 2004 were collected and sent to High security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal for testing to rule out the possibility of the disease in the country. All samples were tested negative.

of poultry and poultry products completely from the infected countries, setting up of border check posts with neighbouring countries and clearance of baggage of livestock/livestock products at the airport by the quarantine officer (Box 8.3). The State Animal Disease Control Act is in existence in most of the States of the country. The Act becomes operative at the time of outbreak of any disease in the country. At the Central level, the Livestock and Livestock Products Importation Act, 1898 (amended in 2001) regulates import of livestock and livestock products.

Fisheries

8.21 India is the third largest producer of fish and second largest producer of inland fish in the world. It is a source of cheap and nutritious food besides being a major foreign exchange earner (Table 8.11). The fisheries sector provides employment to over 11 million people engaged fully, partially or in subsidiary activities pertaining to the sector, with an

Year	Fish production (million tonnes)			Export of marine products	
	Marine	Inland	Total	Quantity ('000 tonnes)	Value (Rs crore)
1950-51	0.5	0.2	0.7	20	2
1960-61	0.9	0.3	1.2	20	4
1970-71	1.1	0.7	1.8	40	35
1980-81	1.5	0.9	2.4	80	235
1990-91	2.3	1.5	3.8	140	893
2000-01	2.8	2.8	5.6	503	6296
2001-02	2.8	3.1	5.9	458	5815
2002-03	3.0	3.2	6.2	521	6793
2003-04 (P)	3.0	3.4	6.4	412 (P)	5739

Source : Department of Animal Husbandry.

equally impressive segment of the population engaged in ancillary activities.

8.22 Potential of fish production from marine and inland sources has been estimated at 3.9

Box 8.4 : Marine fishing policy 2004

- The policy objectives are: (1) to augment marine fish production of the country up to the sustainable level in a responsible manner so as to boost export of sea food from the country and also to increase per capita fish protein intake of the masses, (2) to ensure socio-economic security of the artisan fishermen whose livelihood solely depends on this vocation. (3) to ensure sustainable development of marine fisheries with due concern for ecological integrity and bio-diversity.

- **The main provisions contained in the policy are :**

Marine fisheries resources: The policy underscores the need for a departure from the open access concept in the territorial waters besides putting in place stringent management regimes. Promoting exploitation in the deep sea and oceanic waters would be another approach for reducing fishing pressure in the traditional fishing areas.

Harvesting of marine fish resources: The policy advocates protection, consideration and encouragement of subsistence level fishermen and technology transfer to small scale sector and infrastructure support to industrial sector. There would be exclusive areas in terms of depth and (or) distance earmarked for non-mechanised (non-motorised) traditional craft. An area beyond this would be demarcated for mechanised and motorised craft.

Post-harvest operations: Total utilisation of harvested fish for food and non-food uses would be the central theme. Efforts would be made to fully comply with international requirements in post harvest care of catch so as to achieve highest standards in food safety. It would also be the concern of the Government to ensure that the post-harvest losses are minimized.

Resource management: Exploitation of living resources within 50 metres depth zone is showing symptoms of depletion and in certain belts in the onshore waters, it tends to cross optimum sustainable levels. The policy therefore advocates a stringent fishery management system to be in place.

Fishermen welfare: Fishing is the sole livelihood for about 10 lakh fishermen households along the coastline and this policy attaches top priority to ensuring their social security and economic well being.

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Environmental aspects: The effect of environmental factors on the health of living resources needs increased attention in tune with the international awareness on the issue. Health hazards due to consumption of fish harvested from contaminated water is also becoming a matter of great concern in many parts of the world. The agencies responsible for legislation relating to environmental pollution would be urged to implement them more stringently so that the impact of pollution on fisheries can be minimized.

Infrastructure development for marine fisheries: Development of infrastructure for marine fisheries is of vital importance and should have an integrated approach. The facilities would inter alia include jetties, landing centres, provision for fuel, water, ice, repairs to vessels and gear. The concept of hygienic post-harvest handling of fish would also be woven into the project.

Legislative support: An enabling legal framework is an essential pre-requisite for proper management and control of fisheries sector. As at present, the subject of fisheries is in the State list under article 21 of the Indian Constitution, management and control of coastal fisheries is vested with the maritime States and union territories. At the same time the Union Government carries out management and control of the fishing activities beyond territorial limits in the EEZ.

Policy for development of fisheries in the union territories of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar islands: The waters around these two Island Groups are rich in fish resource, which are currently exploited far below the exploitable limits. Fisheries – capture, post harvest operations and marketing – is still an important means of livelihood for the inhabitants of these islands. It is, therefore considered relevant to have the policy initiatives in respect of the two UTs.

million tonnes and 4.5 million tonnes, respectively. Having almost reached a plateau in production from the coastal waters, the scope for increasing fish production from marine sources now lies in the deep sea. A comprehensive Marine Policy was launched in November 2004 to facilitate sustainable deep sea fishing (Box 8.4). In the inland sector, the potential for fishery development in East and North- Eastern States is immense. Fish is an important constituent of diet of the people of these States. Development of fisheries can go a long way to tackle the problem of food as well as unemployment in these States.

National Commission on Farmers

8.23 In February, 2004, Government of India constituted a National Commission on Farmers to examine various issues

confronting the Indian farmers and to suggest appropriate interventions for improving the economic viability and sustainability of diversified agriculture, including horticulture, livestock, dairy and fisheries, and for doubling the farmers' income. The Commission was reconstituted in November, 2004 and its terms of reference also modified to address the larger issues relating to working out a comprehensive medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security, enhancing productivity based on an agro-ecological and agro-climatic approach, bringing about synergy between technology and public policy, attracting educated youth in farming, enhancing investment in agri-research, etc. The reconstituted National Commission on Farmers is headed by Dr. M.S.Swaminathan and is expected to submit its final report within two years.