



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Livestock And Poultry Sector In Assam: A Critical Analysis

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ABSTRACT:

The contribution of Agriculture Sector towards State GSDP was near about 20 percent in 2019-20. The livestock and poultry are considered as one of the important agricultural allied activities in the farm households of Assam. The livestock and poultry are the source of milk, meat, egg and manure of rural farming system in Assam. Livestock and poultry sector has immense contribution toward rural household economy, employment, food and nutritional security. The contribution of livestock sector to GSDP is estimated as 7.7%, only second to crop agriculture. Assam has the largest pig population in the country accounting for 17.96% of the country's total pig population. The livestock population in the state is large in numbers but its productivity is very low compared to other parts of the country. In this paper an attempt is made to present the recent status of livestock and poultry sector in the state of Assam.

Keywords: *Livestock, Poultry, Agriculture, Milk, Egg, Employment etc.*

1. Introduction:

Assam is a popular state of the North-Eastern region of India with a geographical area of 78.44 lakh hectare; it provides shelter to 2.57% population of the country. More than 85% of the state's population lives in rural areas of the state. The contribution of Agriculture Sector towards State GSDP was near about 20 percent in 2019-20. However, Agriculture sector and its allied activities continues to support more than 75 percent population of the State directly or indirectly providing employment to about 50 percent of the total workforce. The livestock and poultry are considered as one of the important agricultural allied activities in the farm households of Assam. The livestock and poultry are the source of milk, meat, egg and manure of rural farming system in Assam. Livestock and poultry sector has immense contribution toward rural household economy, employment, food and nutritional security. The contribution of livestock sector to GSDP is estimated as 7.7%, only second to crop agriculture. Assam contributes 3.25% and 8.36% to the total livestock and poultry population of the country. Assam has the largest pig population in the country accounting for 17.96% of the country's total pig population. The livestock population in the state is large in numbers but its productivity is very low compared to other parts of the country. In this paper an attempt is made to present the recent status of livestock and poultry sector in the state of Assam.

2. Objective:

- i. To analyze on growth and productivity of livestock and poultry in Assam.
- ii. To study human needs fulfill by livestock and poultry in Assam.

3. Methodology:

The study is mainly based on secondary data on livestock and poultry population, production, productivity and per capita availability of major livestock and poultry products collected and compiled from various published sources. The tabular analysis was undertaken and compound growth rates were computed to show the status of livestock and poultry population and production of different livestock and poultry products.

4. Analysis and findings of the study:

In analytical part, the study has classified in three categories as growth, productivity and demand analysis of livestock and poultry sector in Assam for meaningful study of the paper.

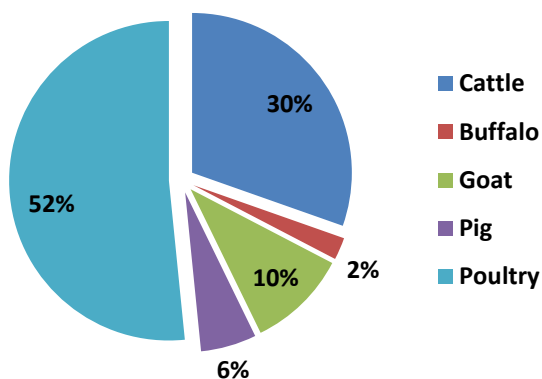
4.1 Growth of livestock and poultry in Assam:

Livestock and poultry population of Assam is quite large in Assam. Assam, the most prominent state in the North Eastern region, embodies highest number of livestock in respect of almost all the animals in the region. Livestock and poultry population of Assam is shown in the following table-I.

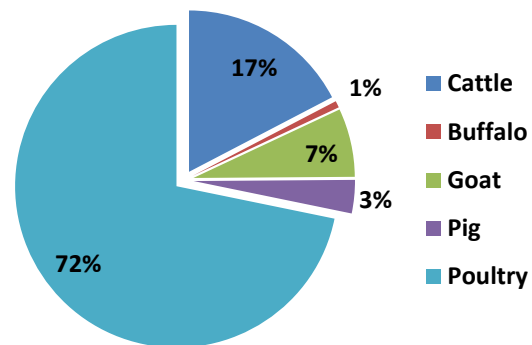
Table-I
Growth of livestock and poultry population of Assam
(In thousands)

Livestock Species	2005-06	2012-13	2020-21
Cattle	8324	10307	10909 (31%)
Buffalo	616	535	422 (-13%)
Goat	2776	3129	4315 (55%)
Pig	1543	1636	2099 (36%)
Poultry	14131	15291	45125 (219%)
Total	27,390	30,898	62,870 (129%)

2005-06



2020-21



Source: 1. Economic survey of Assam – 2006-07 to 2021-22

2. Statistical hand book of Assam-2007 to 2022

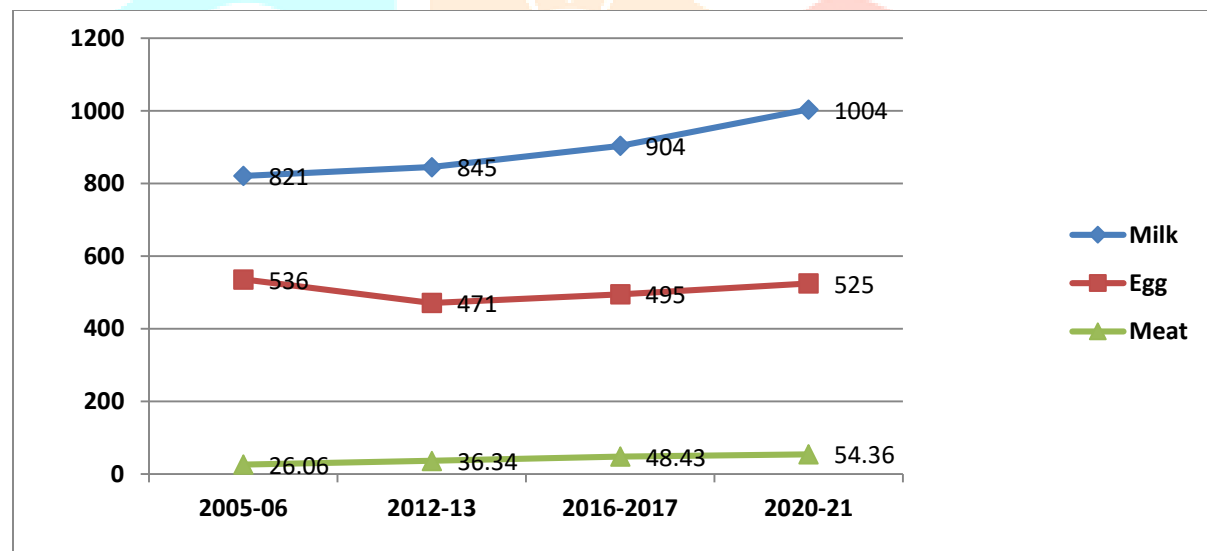
The total livestock and poultry population was 27390 numbers, among them cattle was 8324, Buffalo was 616, goat was 2776, pig was 2543 and poultry was 14131 in 2005-06 in Assam. Further, its population increased to 62870 numbers, among them cattle was 10909, Buffalo was 422, goat was 4315, pig was 2099 and poultry was 45125 in 2020-21 in Assam. The overall growth rate was 129% during 2005-06 to 2020-21.

4.2 Productivity of major livestock and poultry in Assam:

The table-II shows growth of milk, egg and meat production in Assam over the years. The total milk production of the state for the year 2005-06 was 821 million liters. Further milk production of the state increased to 1004 million liters in 2020-21. During those periods egg production of the state decreased from 536 to 525 million numbers, but meat production increased from 26.06 to 54.36 million kg.

Table-II
Productivity of livestock and poultry in Assam:

Particulars	2005-06	2012-13	2016-2017	2020-21
Milk (Million liters)	821	845	904	1004(22%)
Egg (Million Nos.)	536	471	495	525(-2%)
Meat (Million kg)	26.06	36.34	48.43	54.36(108%)



Source: 1. Economic survey of Assam – 2006-07 to 2021-22

2. Statistical hand book of Assam-2007 to 202

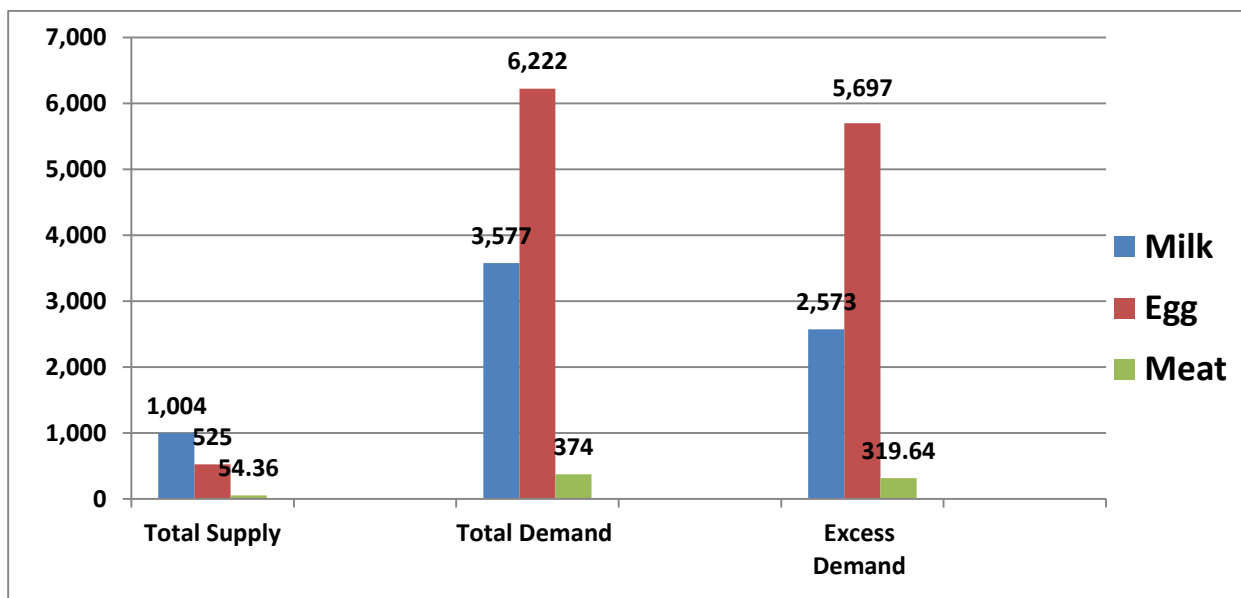
4.3 Availability of livestock products compare to demand:

The production of milk, meat, eggs are less compared to demand in Assam. The table-III shows total production of milk, egg and meat in Assam compare to demand in 2020-21.

Table-III
Demand v/s supply analysis of livestock major products in Assam-2020-21:

Particulars	Milk	Egg	Meat
Total Production (Supply)	1,004 (Million liters)	525 (Million Nos.)	54.36 (Million kg)
Projected Population of Assam	34 Million	34 Million	34 Million
Requirement as per	280gm	183 Nos.	11 kg

ICMR recommendation	(person/per day)	(person/annum)	(person/annum)
Total Demand (Annum)	3,577 (Million liters)	6,222 (Million Nos.)	374 (Million kg)
Demand v/s Supply gap	2,573 (Million liters)	5,697 (Million Nos.)	319.64 (Million kg)



Despite large livestock population, the productivity of the livestock is very low in the state. The demand for milk, egg and meat of livestock and poultry products is much larger as compare to own production in Assam. According to ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) recommendation-2020, per-capita needs of milk, egg and meat are 280gm per day, 183 nos. per annum and 11kg per annum respectively. Annual demand for milk, egg and meat have estimated 3,577 million liters, 6,222 million nos. and 374 million kg respectively to mitigate as per ICMR recommendation in Assam. But Annual supply (Production) of milk, egg and meat has were 1,004 million liters, 525 million nos. and 54.36 million kg respectively in Assam. Thus, we have a tremendous gap between demand excess supplies in production of livestock and poultry sector in Assam in 2020-21 as shown in table-III. Thus, Assam can also reap the advantages of livestock and poultry production not only for self sufficiency but also creation of employment opportunities among educated youth.

5. Conclusion:

Livestock and poultry sector in the state has immense potentiality for employment generation, alleviation of poverty and attaining nutritional security in the rural areas. Assam can also reap the advantages of livestock and poultry production not only for self sufficiency creation but also to generate export earnings. Lack of proper animal breeding policy, domination of livestock population by local breeds, shortage of feed concentrate and green fodder, small size of holding limiting fodder cultivation, absence of appropriate research and planning and unorganized market for all livestock products etc. stand as obstacle of the development of the sector in the state. Performance of livestock production depends upon the availability of quality breeds, quality feed and fodder and effective disease control measures. A comprehensive and collaborative approach from all stakeholders involved to deal with the above key factors could bring a fundamental change to this sector of agriculture in the state.

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