



**PERFORMANCE OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY SECTOR IN  
NORTH EAST INDIA.**

**AJIT BORAH**

Asstt.Prof, Dept.of Economics

Rukasen College, Bakalia, KarbiAnglong (Assam).

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**Abstract:**

The livestock and poultry sector plays a dynamic role in the growth of agriculture in India. They provide cheap nutrition's food, generating gainful employment and income in the rural people. 54.6 percent of the population is engaged in agricultural and allied activities (2011 census) and it contributes 17 percent to the country's Gross Value Added (current price 2015-16, 2011-12 series). This sector also serves as a store of wealth and organic fertiliser for crop production. It is highly livelihood oriented and is generally owned by small, marginal farmers and landless agriculture labourers. According to 19<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census-2012 in India, there are about 300 million bovines, 65.07 million sheep, 135.2 million goats and about 10.3 million pigs. Therefore, the livestock and poultry sector has occupied a very important place in the development of socio-economic structure of rural people in North East States. The present study will throw light on the performance of livestock and poultry sector, constrains and strategies in North East Region.

**Keywords:** Livestock, Poultry, Employment, Development.

## **I. Introduction:**

The livestock and poultry sector has an integral part of agricultural economy in India. This sector is basically a component of production and it is contributing to sustainable and inclusive agriculture growth. 54.6 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture and allied activities (2011 Census) and it contributes 17 percent to the country's Gross Value Added (current price 2015-16, 2011-12 series). It has significant impact on nutrition's food, creating employment opportunities, especially for marginal, small and landless labourers, alleviating poverty and stabilizing farm income of both rural and semi-urban economy. Besides, it provides for environmental conservation by utilizing huge amount of crop residues and by-product as feed and supplying non-renewable energy sources in terms of dung and drought power. According to 19<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census-2012 in India, there are about 300 million bovines, 65.07 million sheep, 135.2 million goats and about 10.3 million pigs. This sector is creating a continuous stream of outputs and regular source of income for farm households. Livestock are a natural capital, which can be reproduced or multiplied quickly to generate wealth. Now, Livestock are valued more a source of food and income. Demand for animal food products, driven by sustained economic income growth and a fast-growing urban population, continues to accelerate (Parthasarathy Rao and Birthal, 2008). Global demand for animal food products is also growing fast, particularly in developing country. The expanding market for animal food products is an opportunity for millions of smallholders, who have a sufficient endowment of labour but limited land, to improve their income and employment in the livestock sector (Delgado et al 1999).

The North East Region is based on an agrarian and rural economy. The North East States has got its definite identity due to its peculiar physical, economic and socio-cultural characteristics. This region consists of eight states viz, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. The NER of India spread over area of 2.62 lakh sq.km. This region covers 8 percent of the geographical area of the country, according for 3.9 percent of population and 2.7 percent of all India net domestic production (Economic Survey of India, 2011-12). The region is isolated geographically as the region is land locked having 98 percent is being international border, i.e. China in the North and Bhutan in the North-West, Myanmar in the East and Bangladesh in the South-West. Only 2 percent of NER borders joined with mainland through North Bengal Corridor. The region is a combination of hills and plains. Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim and Nagaland are almost entirely hilly; about 40-50 percent of Assam are plains. Manipur and Tripura have both plains areas hilly tracts. This region has endowed with rich biodiversity and belonging to different ethnic and cultural groups. There is a lot of scope for livestock and poultry sectors which plays a vital role in providing

employment opportunities, income generation and sustainable development of socio-economic environment of rural areas in the North- Eastern States.

## **II. Objective of the study**

The specific objectives of the study are:

- To examine the performance of livestock and poultry sector in the North East States.
- To assess the current constrains faced by this sector on its way of development.
- To identify the strategies adopted for better growth of this sector.

## **III. Methodology**

The present study tries to analyse the performance of livestock and poultry sector in North East Region based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data have been collected by using personal interview method. Secondary data have been taken from various published source like Journals, Basic Statistics of NER-2015, Agricultural Statistics at a Glance 2015, Dept.of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (Annual Report 2016-17), 19<sup>th</sup> Livestock Census-2012All India Report, Dept.of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries( Annual Report2016-17), Central Statistics Office, Economic Survey of India etc.

## **IV. Finding & Analysis:**

### **Performance of livestock and poultry sector in NER:**

This sector is regarded as one of the important homestead activities in the farm household of NER. It is as a source of commercial products like milk, meat, egg, manure, besides providing draught and transportation form an integral part of rural farming in the region. It has huge contribution towards development of rural household economy, employment, and food and nutrition security. Livestock resources consisting of cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and ponies, donkeys, yaks, mithuns duck, etc. also provide nutrition food to farm households in the North East States. The contribution of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of NE States from agriculture including livestock at constant price (2004-05) for 2011-12 is estimated as Table: 1.

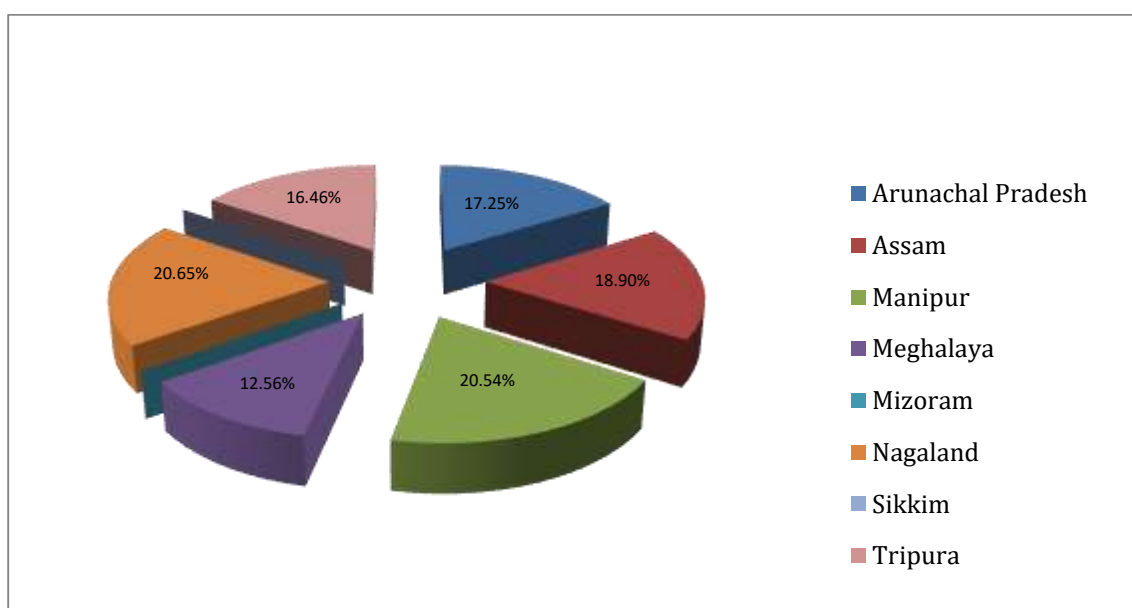
**Table: 1 GSDP of NE States from Agriculture including Livestock at constant (2004-05) prices for 2011-12 (Rs in Lakhs)**

SL	States	GSDP from Agriculture	Total GSDP	Percentage share of Agriculture in total GSDP
1	Arunachal Pradesh	101,789	589,924	17.25
2	Assam	1521,005	8046,513	18.90
3	Manipur	156,717	763,156	20.54
4	Meghalaya	147,663	1175,996	12.56
5	Mizoram	N.A	N.A	N.A
6	Nagaland	184,406	892,929	20.65
7	Sikkim	N.A	N.A	N.A
8	Tripura	254,554	1546,251	16.46

Source: Central Statistics Office.

Gross State Domestic Product at constant price of NE States contribution from Agriculture including livestock sector, there is variation in share of agriculture in total GSDP in different states of the NE region. It is shown in Table: 1 that Nagaland (20.65%) is the highest share of agriculture including livestock sector and the rest of others states like Manipur (20.54%), Assam (18.90%), Arunachal Pradesh (17.25%), Tripura (16.46%), Meghalaya (12.56%) etc. The aforesaid figures have been presented through the following diagram. 1

**Diagram 1: GSDP of NE States From agriculture at constant price 2004-05 for 2011-12**



Source: Central Statistics Office.

The growth of livestock and poultry resources in the North Eastern States is slow in comparison to the national level. The current status of livestock population in NE States is presented in Table: 2. It is observed that the total numbers of livestock population in the NE States was 27110 thousand, accounted for 5.29% of the total livestock population in the country. In terms of state wise spread, it is shown that Assam is the top position having a share of 70.38% of numbers of livestock population in the region. The share of total Livestock population of other states in the region are Meghalaya (7.22%), Tripura (7.14%), ArunachalPradesh (5.21%), Nagaland (3.35%), Sikkim (2.95%) Manipur (2.5%) & Mizoram (1.15%).

**Note:** Totals may not tally due to rounding up of figure, 0 negligible with respect to thousand/not reported. (Figures in parentheses indicate percentage of NE region to all India).

**Source:** 19<sup>th</sup> Livestock Censes 2012, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and fisheries, Ministry of agriculture Farmers

States	Cattle	Buffaloes	Sheep	Goats	Camel	Pigs	Horses & Ponies	Donkeys	Yaks	Mithuns	Total Livestock	Total Poultry
Arunachal Pradesh	464	06	14	306	0	356	04	0	14	249	1413	2244
Assam	10308	435	518	6169	01	1636	14	01	0	0	19082	27216
Manipur	264	66	11	65	0	277	01	0	0	10	696	2500
Meghalaya	896	22	20	473	0	543	02	01	0	0	1958	3400
Mizoram	35	05	01	22	0	245	01	0	0	03	312	1271
Nagaland	235	33	04	99	0	504	0	0	0	35	910	2178
Sikkim	140	01	03	113	0	30	511	0	4	0	802	452
Tripura	949	11	03	611	0	363	0	0	0	0	1936	4273
Total NE	13291 (6.96)	579 (0.53)	574 (0.88)	7858 (5.81)	01 (0.25)	3954 (38.41)	533 (85.28)	02 (0.62)	18 (23.37)	297 (99.66)	27109 (5.29)	43534 (5.97)
All India	190904	108702	65069	135173	400	10294	625	319	77	298	512057	729209

Table 3: Production of Milk, Eggs, meats and Wool in NE region

States	Milk(000 tonnes)			Eggs(lakhs NO)			Meat(000 tonnes)			Wool(000kg)		
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Assam	800	815	829	4710	4717	4728	37	38	43	-	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh	23	43	46	439	400	417	18	18	19	18	22	24
Manipur	80	82	82	1162	1164	1129	25	25	27	-	-	-
Mizoram	14	15	20	352	362	377	12	12	13	-	-	-
Nagaland	79	81	76	618	223	353	71	67	67	-	-	-
Tripura	118	130	141	1565	1794	1979	32	32	34	-	-	-
Meghalaya	81	82	83	1028	1049	1057	39	40	41	-	-	-
Sikkim	42	46	50	146	99	58	3	3	3	1	1	0
Total NE region	1237 (0.93%)	1294 (0.93%)	1327 (0.90%)	10020 (14.37%)	9808 (1.31%)	10098 (1.28%)	237 (3.98%)	235 (3.76%)	253 (3.78%)	19 (0.04%)	23 (0.04%)	24 (0.04%)
All India	132431	137686	146314	69707	747519	784839	5948	6235	6691	46055	47909	48146

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage of NE region to all India

Source: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries, Govt. of India

On the hand, the total poultry resources in NER were 43,534 thousand which accounted for 5.97% of the total poultry resources in the country. The state wise distribution of poultry resources in the region shows that Assam have maximum (62.51%) and followed by Tripura (9.81%), Meghalaya (7.80%), Manipur (5.74%), Arunachal Pradesh (5.15%), Nagaland (5.00%), Mizoram (2.98%), and Sikkim (1.03%).

The growth trend of important livestock products in NE States like milk, eggs, meat, and wool has been depicted in the Table: 3. It is found that Assam has the highest livestock resources in the region, but it has the minimum growth of milk production in comparison to the other states of the country. The milk production of NE States was from 0.93% in 2012-13 to 0.90% in 2014-15, accounted for the total milk production of the country. Assam is the highest (46.82%) producer of eggs in the NE region during 2014-15 and followed by Nagaland (29.95%), Manipur (11.18%), Meghalaya (10.46%), Arunachal Pradesh (4.12%) etc. Nagaland is the top position (26.48%) producer of meat in the NE States during 2014-15 & rest of the other states as Assam (16.99%), Meghalaya (16.20%), Tripura (13.43%), Manipur (10.67%) & Arunachal Pradesh (7.50%) respectively. Arunachal Pradesh is the highest (100%) wool producer in the NE States.

**Constraints:** There are some factors which constraints its development. These are as follows:

- It has been a sharp shortage in area under permanent pastures and other village grazing lands in NER. It is neither a plan to bring some areas under fodder cultivation.
- Low quality and lack of proper livestock feed acts as a constraint in development of livestock productivity.
- Inefficiency in the delivery of services because shortage of manpower, poor supplies of medicines, vaccines and equipment etc.
- The livestock and poultry sector has been disregarded by financial institution.
- Reduced the production potential of livestock sector because natural calamities such as droughts, floods, cyclones and disease outbreaks etc.
- Lack of use to proper knowledge of market may act as discourages to farmers to adopt improved technologies and quality inputs.
- Absence of quality breeds of animals, all the animal are not easily classified types as a resulting in poor animal productive in the region.
- Lack of appreciation of farmers to real need and poor research focus and planning in the region.
- In adequate monitoring of field works, feedback on failure, rate of adopting of the scientific knowledge imported through various trainings.



**Strategies:** There are some important strategies as follows:

- Availability of quality breeding animal/birds to the livestock farmers is to be confirmed.
- Utilising of crop of cereals and foods crops with suitable treatment in NE regions.
- The Government should encourage establishment of suitable plan and strategy for cultivation of green fodder in the fallow land.
- Setting up of cool plant and other infrastructure facilities to handle storage and marketing of milk and other livestock products.
- Veterinary extension services should be strengthened specially in rural area.
- Farmers should encourage taking up access to market for milk product in the rural area through training of modern technology.
- Government should concentrate in increase investment of livestock and poultry sector through greater budgetary support and attracting private entrepreneurs to invest in its sectors.
- Awards should be given to those rural farmers who demonstrated extraordinary achievements in the livestock sector.

#### **V. Conclusion:**

Livestock and poultry is a key sector in the economic development of North-East India. It helps in generating employment opportunities in the rural areas, raising household income of the people and contributing to the development of agriculture in the region. The significant of landless labour and small and marginal farmers has access

to livestock resources and the acceleration in the growth of livestock sector. The study has indicated that the growth of livestock sector will have a great impact on poverty reduction than a similar growth in the land-intensive crops sector. Livestock production is largely dependent on tribal women and this sector will help in their socio-economic empowerment in the NE States. For the sustainable development of this sector, a new time oriented Govt. policy is required and also the voluntary agencies like Govt. agencies, Semi-Govt. agencies, local bodies, NGOs and SHGs are actively involved for the development of livestock and poultry sector in the region.

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