The performance of Sheep Farming in India

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Abstract:

Indian farmers rely heavily on sheep as a livestock species, especially in rural regions. Providing small and marginal farmers and landless labourers with a regular and consistent income, they play an essential role in their livelihoods. They are grazed on communal grazing grounds, crop leftovers, and leaves from trees in India. This system of interdependence, in which livestock supplies manure and draught power to agriculture and crop leftovers are the primary source of feed for livestock, has endured for generations.

Keywords: Sheep, economy, Livestock, agriculture

The livestock sector plays a key part in the state's rural production's ability to remain viable. Enhance the food and nutritional security of farming households, as well as their socio-economic position in society. This is accomplished through utilizing agricultural waste, by-products, and shared ownership capital. A drought, famine and other natural calamities have left animals without any protection. Animals benefit from the processing of milk and meat. Their faces and urine improve soil fertility and agricultural yields. A variety of economic goods are available for commerce and trade in the region. Additional functions include the use of animals in agriculture, the transportation of farm goods, and the transportation of humans. As a result of this, farmers' suicidal tendencies are reduced to a minimum.

According to the Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries Department of the Agriculture Minister, India has received 190,90 million cattle, 108,70 buffaloes, 65,06 million ovine, and 135,17 million goats (2012). Almost everyone in a village relies on agriculture and thus creates an unfavorable land-to-person ratio. Since most Indians live in rural regions, land pressure is expected to grow. Farming is not enough to supply rural residents with viable occupations due to population growth and land pressure. However, activities such as animal husbandry must be exploited as a means to increase incomes and create jobs in rural regions that are less prosperous.

The domestication of animals and the production of cereals was observed during the Neolithic times. Man used to husbandry sheep and goats, since they supplied him with ready food and cleaning sources. Sheep have since time immemorial an inseparable identity with
farmers in India. They are an important component of farming and economics in India and, in particular, those of the poorer segments of farmers.

Sheep farming is one of the most prominent and lucrative industries in every state of India. Because the investment is made there, revenue is created in four ways: fibre, milk, meat and manure. Particularly in the mountainous regions of the nation, sheep ranching is a major contributor to the rural economy. Sheep may be bred in tiny flocks, although they are not recommended. Although we have to take care of our cattle for a bit longer than most others, they nevertheless demand a lot less comfort and amenities than other animals do. The animals only require a place to stay.

Sheep production in India is one of the largest in the world, and the sheep and the bad shepherds will both benefit monetarily in the future. As the world's sixth-largest cow producer, India has about 48 million animals. The yearly contribution of cattle to the national economy is around 45,000 crore rupees, or 10 percent of the NGP. Due to the fact that they produce wool, meat, skins, and manure, sheep are an essential element of the agricultural economy, particularly in the semiarid arid area of the country. The sale of wool and cattle is a stable source of income for shepherds. India has made tremendous strides in the world's cattle population. Livestock are important sources of income and employment in rural sector.

**Sheep Production – The Indian Scenario**

India, with more than 48 million cattle, is the sixth largest nation in the world. There is scope for further development, as ovine feed is low-cost. It is well suited to the arid climate and is suitable as another source of revenue and mutton for domestic use for small family farms with little resources.

**Production Efficiency in India**

India's sheep production is far less efficient. The techniques for flock maintenance, breeding, and pest management are well behind the curve. These are the problems that the Indian sheep business must face. This project was funded by the United Nations Production Program and the Government of India. Its goal was to carry out basic and applied research on the development and exploitation of laurel, as well as give postgraduate training in sheep
and wool. Hissar established a huge sheep breeding farm in conjunction with the Australian government under the Fourth Plan.

i. Evolving new fine wool breeds for different agro-climatic regions capable of producing 2.5 kg of greasy wool annually of 58-645 count.

ii. New mutton breeds capable of attaining 30 kg live weight at 6 months under intensive feeding conditions.

A large number of breeding farms were established in the subsequent period in the central and state sectors for producing genetically superior breeding stock. A centrally sponsored scheme for conservation of threatened breeds was started during Tenth Five Year Plan which included Bannur and Bonpala breeds of sheep.

Scope and importance of sheep farming:

The national economy is greatly contributed by sheep farming. We get 8% of the sheep farming business' export contrition and we also get the contributions from sheep farming manufactured goods and they are by products. In the State of Karnataka, the gross number of the sheep is 21 million, an estimated population. In India, sheep have a population of 71.6 million.

- The sheep can be reared by the women, landless, people, and also by children.
- The milk is one of the most useful for curing many diseases.
- The skin of the sheep is used for preparing the leather jackets and also many other products like belts, caps and wallets etc.
- The sheep manure is used in agricultural farms as the plant or tree manure.
- The wool of the sheep is used in making the winter clothes like shawls, sweaters etc.

Sheep Population in India 2012 and 2019:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Population (in million) 2012</th>
<th>Population (in million) 2019</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exotic/Crossbred</td>
<td>3.78</td>
<td>4.09</td>
<td>8.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exotic/Crossbred male</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>-31.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exotic/Crossbred Female</td>
<td>2.57</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>26.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The table below shows the sheep population census between 2012 and 2019. In 2012, the population of exotic and crossbred ovaries amounted to 3.78 million and in 2019 to 4.09 million. In 2012, and 2019 the population of indigenous/non-defined sheep is 61.29, respectively, and 70.17. In 2012, the estimated number of sheep is 65.07 million and in 2019, 74.26 million. Over the previous Livestock Census, total sheep grew 14.13%. (2012).

### Sheep Population - Major States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States/UTs</th>
<th>Population (in million) 2012</th>
<th>Population (in million) 2019</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telangana</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>48.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>15.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>-12.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>-5.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>-4.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>4.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>-19.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>-27.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Livestock census 2012 and 2019
During the census between 2012 and 2019, the table shows the main ovine states. Sheep population 12.8 and 19.1 in 2012, 13.6 and 17.6 respectively in 2019 is highest among Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in 2012. In 2012 the state of Uttar Pradesh registered low sheep population of 1.4 million and 2019 low sheep population of 1.0 million.

**Conclusion:**

There have been instances where the sheep farmers' management has been judged to be insufficient in particular fields. It is rare for sheep farmers to make an effort to improve the breed of sheep that they raise. However, no attempts have been made to develop the local cattle race into Marino, etc., instead, it has remained the same. Those who live in more desirable locations have no motivation to improve the sheep's pasture. In sheep herds, veterinary physicians do not conduct enough hygienic examinations. Sheep fur is sold only by local dealers and wholesalers who have been screened. Schaff wool sold at the APM Center requires little effort to sell and may fetch a high price for sheep producers, according to the company. Other APMC facilities are not used to assemble and grade sheep fur, allowing them to improve and charge reasonable rates. In the study region, sheep producers have been under financial and credit pressure to sell local sheep wool. Weed is sold locally by a few sheep producers to wool cooperative groups. That's because they are unaware that their product is part of a co-op marketing effort. Conventional marketing of sheep wool is ineffective and inefficient. In this context, sheep farmers must be adequately educated.
REFERENCES


