

# Livestock

- **Outputs of farming and types.**
- **Subsistence and commercial farming**
- **Problems for livestock industry**
- **Improvements**
- **Importance of cattle farming**

# What is livestock?

This type of farming (also known as pastoral farming) is concerned with rearing of animals, whose products are then sold. The products include milk and meat of cattle/goats/sheep, and poultry etc. The processes involved are:

Feeding

Milking

Breeding

Slaughtering

# Types of farming and output

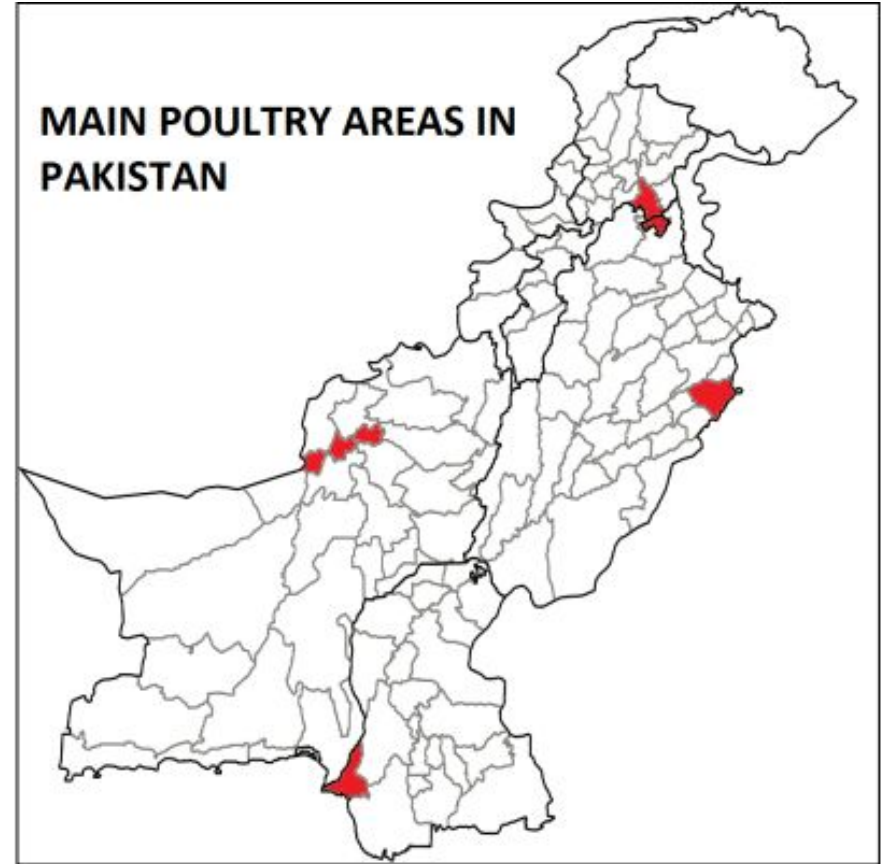
Livestock farming has three types; Poultry Farming (Commercial), Commercial Livestock (goats, sheep, but mainly cows and buffaloes). Lastly we have Subsistence farming, along with the obsolete Nomadic farming.

The outputs are the following

1. Milk (Cattle/Goats/Sheep)
2. Hides (Cattle and Goat)
3. Wool (Sheep)
4. Eggs (Poultry)
5. Meat

# Poultry farming

Poultry farming is the practice of raising poultry, such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese, as a subcategory of animal husbandry, for the purpose of farming meat or eggs for food. The primary animal for poultry is chicken in Pakistan.



# Poultry farming

1. In Pakistan, most of poultry farming consists of chicken. farms are mostly found around dense centres of population (Karachi, Quetta, and Lahore) and cooler areas (Murree, Abbottabad).
2. Nearness to population centres reduces cost of transportation and cooler areas are preferred for optimal growth of chickens.
3. The processes involved in poultry farming
  1. First the poultry farm building is cleaned properly,
  2. Disinfectant is applied and the building is fumigated.
  3. Maize is used as food,
  4. when the chicks arrive they are given antibiotics in their food for 3-7 Days.
  5. The temperature of the building is maintained between 32 and 37 degree Celsius.
  6. The chickens are put in cages so their eggs and wastes can be easily removed etc.
  7. After around 4-8 weeks the chickens can be slaughtered for their meat

# Nomadic farming

1. It is carried out by people living in desert areas of Thar and Kharan.
2. They move place to place with their animals (goats, sheep and camels only) and their belongings in search of food and water.
3. Where their animals find land to graze, they settle at that place temporarily so their animals can fatten up.



## Nomadic farming continuation

1. Once the pasture is gone (due to seasonal rainfall accompanied with high rates of evapotranspiration) they start moving again in search of newer pastures.
2. Animals provide milk, meat, hides, bones (for sewing) and can be used as a mode of transport.
3. Nomads are usually found in those areas where crop cultivation and subsistence farming (described below) is impossible due to unfavourable conditions for plant growth. This means that permanent settlement is rare.



## Subsistence and commercial farming

**In it animals are kept to do daily tasks and provide daily food requirements usually by a subsistence farmer (agriculture one). Animals include chicken, buffalo, cow, sheep and goats albeit on a very small scale.**

Cows and buffaloes are raised in an organized manner for commercial purposes. It can be very profitable for small land owners, giving higher returns as compared to traditional farming methods, as land requirements are low. The fodder can be grown on the fields and then fed to dairy animals. The animals are also given a ratio of special protein rich diet along with vaccinations to protect from infections etc, which can affect production of milk. If bigger dairy farms are established then the milk can be processed and packed too thus adding **value to it.**



# Problems for livestock industry

1. **Illegal smuggling** of animals from Pakistan to Afghanistan hampers production leading to shortages of able bodied animals. This shortage of supply increases the price of animals in local markets. Also, the price of their products like milk, meat also increases
2. **Lack of processing facilities** like pasteurization renders most of milk unsuitable for consumption after some period of time due to milk's perishable nature.
3. **Transport links** must be improved so that milk is transferred from areas of production to areas of demand quickly and thus does not deteriorate.
4. Many dairy animals are susceptible to diseases including malaria. With poor veterinary facilities the yield of animals is fairly low due to weakness.
5. **Monopolization and price fixing** mean that the farmer receives a very low percentage of the actual price of the milk which is sold in market. So, the farmer has a very low turnover and he has little money to re-invest in his business to try to improve it

# Improvements

1. Vaccination programmes need to be improved so to prevent or reduce cases of diseases, which affect production of milk and beef
2. Medicinal and fodder facilities must be improved to increase health and weight of animals

New varieties of animals must be introduced in Pakistan and hybrid of desi and new variety must be developed, so that the offspring produces higher yields and is also able to survive conditions like high temperatures

4. Milk processing facilities must be developed so that value can be added to milk. Also, hygienic conditions must be improved, so exports of milk related products can improve

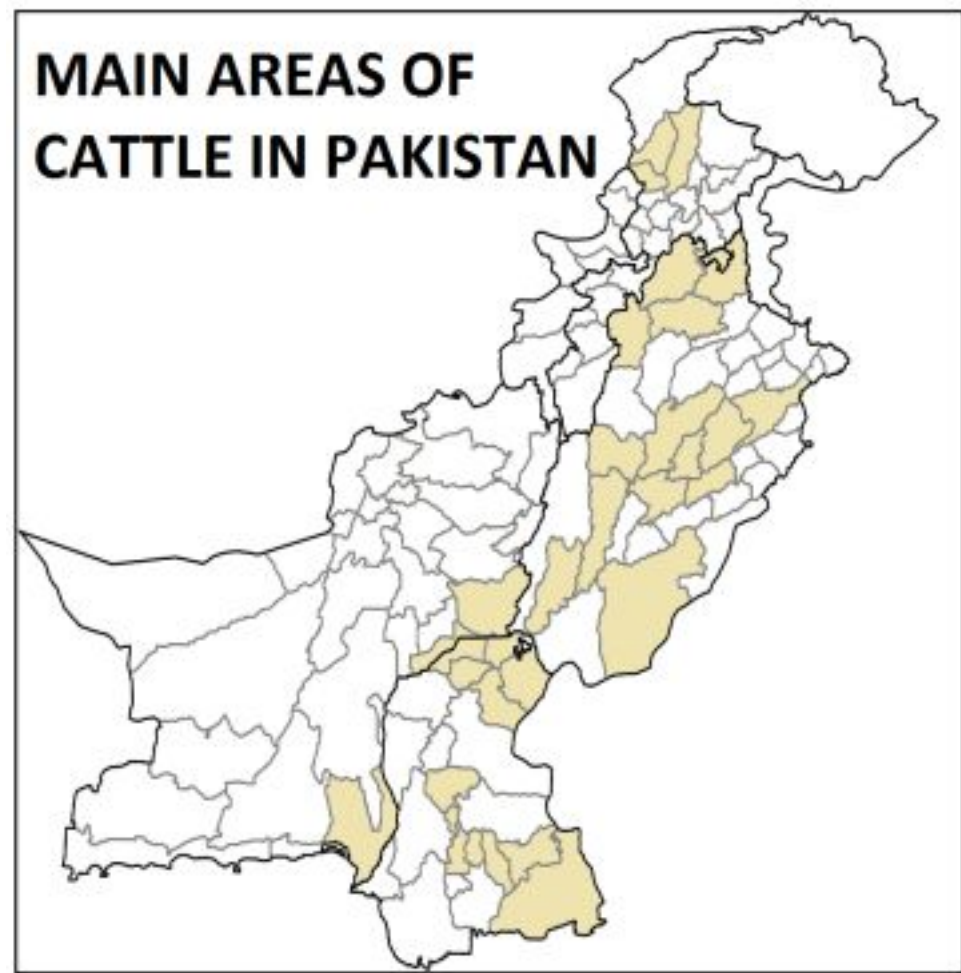
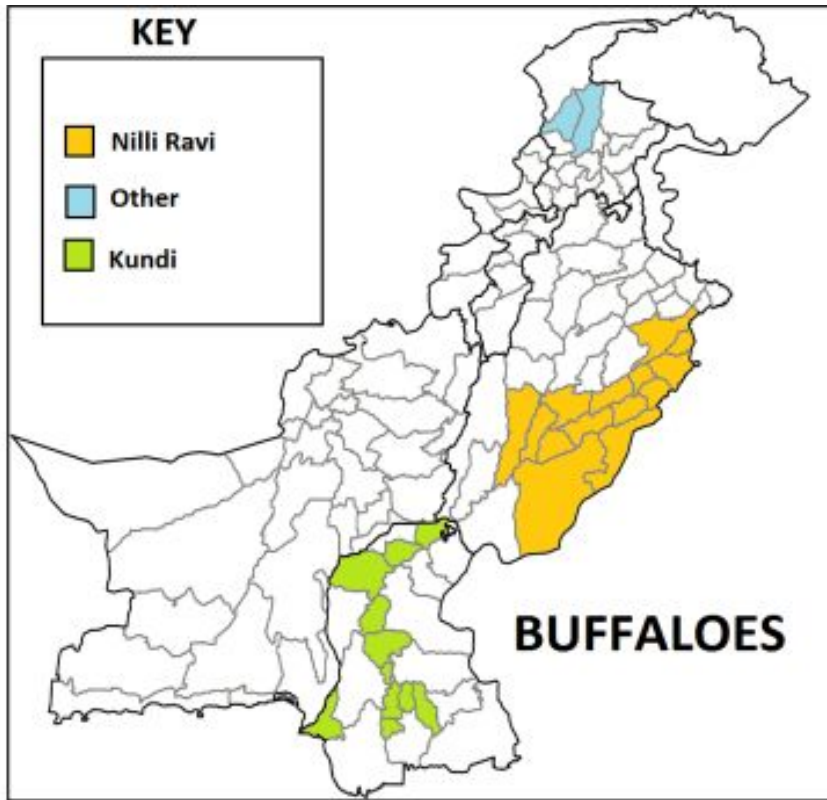
# Improvements

5. Biogas and electricity generation facilities must be established. Decomposing manure produces methane, which can be burnt to produce electricity. This can be used to power refrigeration and milk processing facilities
6. Machinery can be leased to farmers like tractors. They are used to grow fodder or transport fodder etc, as for a small farmer these are expensive to buy
7. Poultry coordination boards should be established at federal as well as provincial level to help stabilize and maintain prices of animal products
8. Milk collection units must be setup to collect milk from different areas and bring it to one main processing facility
9. Hygienic conditions must be improved.

## Importance of cattle

Buffaloes are found mostly in canal fed areas of Pakistan, especially the doab between Ravi and Sutlej.

Presence of water is very important as this animal needs to cool itself by smearing mud on its body. Water is also used for drinking and for cleaning the farm etc. A lot of fodder is also required (which becomes expensive to buy in non-agricultural areas) and thus buffaloes are not found in Balochistan, but different types of breed are found in punjab and sindh and also kpk.



Buffaloes and cattle farming main areas

# Buffaloes are

considered to be black gold of Pakistan because the milk they produce has a higher fat content than that of cows and goats etc.

At present, buffaloes provide almost 70% of the milk produced in Pakistan. Also, their meat is white and desirable due to the low cholesterol level as compared to cow's meat

Important **cattle** breeds are Red Sindhi and Sahiwali, which are internationally recognized for their milk production. Cattle are spread in Northern, central and Southern Punjab. In Sindh mainly in areas of Tharparkar desert. In Balochistan they are found in district of Hab and in Northcentral parts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa

The yield of dairy animals in Pakistan is around 1/5 to 1/7 as to what yields are achieved in Europe and United States of America. If our yields can be improved this can save us from import of milk and related products, which costs around 20 million dollars annually



**MAIN SHEEP AREAS  
IN PAKISTAN**



**MAIN GOAT AREAS**



# Sheep and goat

Sheep are mostly found in rugged areas of Northern Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber- Pakhtunkhwa and parts of Southern Punjab. Sheep can survive both hot and cold seasons, and feed on shrubs and grasses. These adaptabilities make them vital for people living in these areas for meat, milk, wool, bones etc. Goats have a much wider distribution than sheep in Pakistan. They are found in almost the whole of Punjab, Eastern and Southern Sindh, Makran coast and central Balochistan and districts of Peshawar and Mardan in Khyber- Pakhtunkhwa. Goats are also very adaptable like sheep but since their meat and milk is preferred over sheep; to satisfy this demand they are reared in larger numbers as compared to sheep. On the other hand, the consumption of mutton is also increasing in Pakistan due to increasing population. Much of the meat produced in Pakistan is also exported to countries like Saudi Arabia, Oman and UAE. The demand for wool is also increasing but the wool sector is still very much neglected.

How has technology influenced modern poultry farming practices in Pakistan, specifically in terms of automation and efficiency?

- Modern poultry farming in Pakistan has embraced technology for automation in feeding, watering, climate control, and data monitoring. This enhances efficiency, reduces labor requirements, and ensures better control over farm conditions.