

# Animal Husbandry: A Way of Employment in Nagaland

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**Abstract:** Rearing and breeding animals for human consumption, commercial use, or transportation are all examples of animal husbandry. Animal husbandry is vital to the economy of Nagaland, especially in rural areas. It's a boon to the economy since it creates jobs and supports many families. The raising of livestock, including cattle, poultry, pigs, and goats, is a popular pastime in Nagaland. A large percentage of the state's labor force is directly employed by these industries. Livestock ownership and management is not only a source of income for many Nagas, especially in rural areas but also an important component of their traditional and social identity. The Naga culture places a premium on maintaining this link between tradition and economic success. Animal husbandry in Nagaland is important since it helps to ensure the region's food supply and reduces poverty. Providing a consistent supply of meat, milk, eggs, and other animal products, it is crucial in satisfying the population's dietary requirements. Animal husbandry is also an important source of income for many families, especially in rural locations where other economic possibilities may be scarce. The methodology undertaken is descriptive analysis. The objectives are first to discuss the livelihood income through animal husbandry, second, the importance of dairy products, and third, the impact on the economy through this work.

**Keywords:** Livelihood, Employment, Dairy Products, Economic Stability

## Introduction:

Animal husbandry is an important economic activity for the people of Nagaland. Cattle, buffaloes, lambs, and goats are just some of the many types of livestock that the state's residents produce for their milk, meat, and other products<sup>1</sup>. Nagaland's climate and verdant hills make it ideal for raising a wide range of cattle. This natural wealth has ensured the continued commercial viability of the animal husbandry industry by both encouraging the development of traditional methods and allowing for their evolution and adaptation to contemporary technology. Livestock farming has become an essential element of life for the Naga people, especially in rural regions, where it provides a reliable source of income, ensures a steady supply of food, and fosters a sense of community. The Naga people have a deep and complex relationship with their animals that goes much beyond a monetary exchange. Because cattle provide manure for soil enrichment and traction for farming activities in difficult terrain, this partnership is a model of sustainability. Moreover, animal husbandry in Nagaland is not limited to the rural setting, as the need for dairy and poultry products has made their way into the city. This dynamic industry is crucial to Nagaland's progress toward economic development and self-sufficiency on many fronts, including preservation and perpetuation of the state's rich cultural legacy<sup>2</sup>. Nagaland relies heavily on the sale of livestock and livestock products. Numerous families in the state rely on cattle as a means of subsistence. Farmers in rural areas grow cattle for the purpose of supplying the city's farmers' markets with milk, meat, and other products. Families rely on the money from animal husbandry to provide for their basic requirements including food, clothes, and education. Animal husbandry not only provides an important source of revenue but also helps ensure the safety of food supplies in Nagaland. The inhabitants get the nutrition they need from the milk and meat generated by the livestock. Increased crop yields and food production are made possible because to the livestock's manure, which is used as fertilizer in the fields<sup>3</sup>.

The current research article makes use of both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Research papers, articles, newspapers, magazines, books, and governmental documents served as secondary sources. The first objective is to discuss Animal husbandry as a source of income, second, the value of dairy products, and third effect this industry has on the economy of the people.

Nagaland relies heavily on the livestock industry for both exports and domestic consumption. Animal husbandry provides a reliable source of revenue and food security in a state with a generally unforgiving landscape and few available agricultural areas. cattle farming is more than just a job or a source of money for rural areas and those who reside there because of the cattle, dairy products, and poultry that can be sold from the farms. Manure for soil enrichment and traction for farming activities in mountainous regions are only two examples of how animal production is crucial to improving agricultural output. Animal husbandry also helps Nagaland's people maintain their traditional traditions while also meeting the evolving needs of metropolitan markets. In sum, it is an essential part of Nagaland's economy that helps to improve the standard of living for the region's citizens and alleviate poverty<sup>4</sup>. The climate and landscape of Nagaland are well-suited to the cultivation of a wide range of domesticated animals. The state enjoys a temperate temperature with sufficient rainfall, making it ideal for the cultivation of fodder crops and the development of other grazing resources. Livestock may make use of the hilly landscape as grazing land, while the state's abundance of rivers and streams

can be used for both irrigation and human consumption<sup>5</sup>. Nagaland's Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services is an integral aspect of the state's effort to expand and improve animal husbandry. Training and extension services are just two examples of the technical guidance and support the department offers to farmers and livestock owners. Animal disease is also tracked and managed, guaranteeing a healthy and productive cattle population. Nagaland's animal husbandry industry has difficulties due, in part, to a lack of facilities and supplies. More veterinary hospitals and clinics are needed to treat livestock properly, and many farmers and livestock owners lack access to current animal breeds. To further increase the efficiency and effectiveness of animal husbandry, the state should allocate more resources to research and development<sup>6</sup>.

#### Livelihood Income:

In Nagaland, a state in the northeastern section of India, animal husbandry is crucial to the economy. Animal husbandry and management have long been essential components of the region's cultural and economic fabric. Livestock farming, poultry farming, and fisheries are only few of the many branches of animal husbandry in Nagaland.

Here are a few of the most important ways in which animal husbandry helps people make a living in Nagaland:

#### 1. Livestock Rearing:

(a). Raising livestock is a significant part of animal husbandry in Nagaland. Cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, and poultry are just few of the animals that call this state home. Many families rely on revenue from livestock farming, which also provides them with food<sup>7</sup>.

(b). Nagaland has a long tradition of raising cattle, including native and hybrid breeds. Cattle are raised for their milk, their strength as draft animals, and their meat. In recent years, commercial milk production by farmers has become increasingly common, giving the dairy industry a prominent role. The government has stepped in to support dairy producers by subsidizing their operations and giving them with technical assistance<sup>8</sup>.

(c). In addition to cattle and sheep, pig farming is a significant industry in Nagaland. Pigs are raised for their flesh, which is a culinary highlight in the region. Pig farming is common among subsistence farmers since it takes fewer resources and space than larger animals. The raising of goats and sheep is also common in Nagaland. Meat from these animals is a major source of nourishment for the local population, which is why their cultivation is prioritized. Traditional clothing and other textiles and crafts are also made from their wool<sup>9</sup>.

#### 2. Poultry Farming:

The poultry farming industry in Nagaland is growing. Keeping chickens, ducks, turkeys, and guinea fowl for their meat and eggs is an example of poultry farming. The minimal initial investment needed and the substantial profits make poultry farming a popular choice for both rural and urban families. Particularly flourishing in Nagaland is the industry of chicken farming. Small-scale farmers often raise chickens in their backyards for the purpose of producing meat and eggs. The government has also instituted a number of programs to aid commercial poultry farmers with funding, education, and infrastructure development<sup>10</sup>.

#### 3. Fishery:

Since there are many rivers, streams, and other natural water sources in Nagaland, fishing is also a significant part of animal husbandry there. The state is home to both freshwater and saltwater fish farms. Fish farming is beneficial for multiple reasons, including economic gain and improved food and nutritional security. Carp species like Rohu, Catla, and Mrigal are the most popular among Naga farmers. Farmers frequently use man-made fish ponds or existing bodies of water for fish farming. To encourage pisciculture, the government has provided funding for pond building, the distribution of fingerlings (young fish), and educational resources<sup>11</sup>.

#### Dairy Products:

Nagaland, a state in northeastern India, relies heavily on dairy products made possible by animal husbandry. Indigenous cow breeds like the Mithun, buffalo, and goats are vital to the state's economy since they provide milk to the state's largely rural population. Despite the fact that milk production are lower in Nagaland than in other regions due to the prevalence of indigenous breeds, the industry is kept alive by the hard work of local farmers who use a mix of traditional and modern methods. Farmers can now better utilize their dairy resources by joining a dairy cooperative or a self-help group to aid with milk collecting, processing, and marketing. Efforts to increase milk production, quality, and market access are under way because of the dairy industry's promising potential for expansion and economic development in Nagaland despite obstacles such as insufficient infrastructure and seasonal changes in production<sup>12</sup>.

The dairy products produced in Nagaland are significant for several reasons:

1. **Economic Importance:** For many farmers in Nagaland, the dairy business is a crucial means of financial support. These farmers make a substantial portion of their money from the sale of dairy products such as milk, ghee, cheese, yogurt, and butter<sup>13</sup>.
2. **Cultural Importance:** Naga culture and tradition heavily features dairy products. Dairy products are utilized as offerings in religious rites and are commonly consumed at celebrations<sup>14</sup>.

Dairy products play a significant role in the economy and culture of Nagaland. However, many obstacles stand in the way of the state's dairy farmers' capacity to produce high-quality dairy products and gain access to markets. The profitability of dairy farming in Nagaland and the availability of high-quality dairy products for the state's consumers depend on overcoming these obstacles. One cannot exaggerate the importance of the dairy industry to the economy. Dairy farming and the manufacture of dairy products not only benefit individual families, but also the economy of the state as a whole. They help local and regional economies thrive by providing avenues for small business owners to make a living in the milk processing, distribution, and marketing sectors. Dairy products also hold a significant cultural meaning in Nagaland. They play an important role in not only culinary but also religious traditions. The indigenous communities' cuisine is deeply rooted in dairy, a reflection of the region's diverse cultural past<sup>15</sup>.

**Impact on the Economy:**

Animal husbandry plays a key part in the economic stability of Nagaland. With its diversified geography and excellent climatic conditions, Nagaland offers ample opportunity for livestock breeding and animal husbandry operations. This sector not only provides a source of income for the rural population but also contributes considerably to food security, employment generation, and general economic development<sup>16</sup>. Animal husbandry is crucial to Nagaland's economy because of the money it may provide to farmers and rural families. Farmers that rely solely on agriculture might supplement their income by raising livestock such as cattle, chickens, pigs, goats, and sheep. Income is consistent all through the year because of the sale of livestock goods such as milk, meat, eggs, and wool. In addition, farmers can use their livestock as collateral to secure loans from financial organizations and use the funds for other farming ventures or to increase their livestock population. Nagaland's food security benefits from animal husbandry since it guarantees a steady supply of healthy animal-based products. Proteins and other nutrients crucial to good health can be found in foods like milk, meat, and eggs. Animal dung is also an important organic fertilizer for farming, increasing crop yields while decreasing the need for synthetic fertilizers.

Animal husbandry also plays an important role in the economy of Nagaland, both in the city and the countryside. Farmers, herders, and dairy employees, all of whom have a hand in caring for cattle, can find direct employment in this industry. Indirectly, it helps other businesses like the feed industry, the veterinary sector, the transportation sector, the processing sector, and the marketing sector. By providing income-generating possibilities and discouraging relocation to metropolitan regions, these jobs assist reduce poverty in rural communities<sup>17</sup>. Nagaland's administration sees animal husbandry as crucial to the state's economy, therefore it's taken many steps to bolster the industry. Provision of subsidized animal feed and vaccines, provision of training programs for farmers, promotion of breed improvement through artificial insemination, and establishment of veterinary facilities and dispensaries are all examples of such projects. In order to promote cooperative marketing, value addition, and entrepreneurship in the livestock industry, the government has also supported the development of self-help organizations and cooperatives. Nagaland's cultural wealth complements the state's stable economy, which was attained in large part through animal husbandry. Native cattle breeds in Nagaland are noted for their adaptability to the region's climate and great genetic potential. Protecting these native breeds helps maintain biodiversity and gives farmers a competitive edge when it comes to selling livestock at a higher price<sup>18</sup>.

**Conclusion:**

Due to the state's unusual topography and climate, animal husbandry has the potential to become a significant source of income in Nagaland. Sheep, goats, and cattle do particularly well in the state's warm climate and steep landscape. The state receives a lot of rain, so the animals don't require pricey feed supplements because they have plenty of grass and other forage to eat. Animal husbandry has several positive effects in Nagaland. First, it helps the state's farmers, who often have trouble making ends meet due to the difficult terrain and restricted access to markets, diversify their income streams. Because many native animal breeds thrive in the state's climate and are vital to the state's traditional farming practices, this aids in the preservation of the state's rich biodiversity and cultural history. Nagaland's unique biodiversity and cultural history can be protected while also bolstering the state's food security through the expansion of animal husbandry as a viable economic option. The state government and other interested parties must invest in animal husbandry's infrastructure and resources, as well as train and help farmers, if the industry is to reach its full potential.

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