LIVESTOCK
Overview

Livestock sector plays a critically important role in the agro-based economy of rural Pakistan. It is highly labour-intensive and involves a large segment of rural work force. In Pakistan, livestock contributed 11.6% to national GDP and provided 55.1% of value addition in agriculture sector during 2011-12. While other sectors and sub-sectors are suffering from saturation and stagnation, livestock sector continues to register an optimistic real growth rate of 4% annually. Livestock sector also produces a vast array of byproducts especially leather whose exports earned US$ 1.1 billion during 2010-2011 which amounts to the 4.4% of total exports in 2010-11 and constitutes third largest export of Pakistan after cotton and rice. About 40% of the rural households in Pakistan own livestock, which provides 11% of their income. Livestock is an important component of rural agriculture in Pakistan because the animals are not only used for ploughing and transport but also fulfill household needs for dairy products like milk, butter, whey and yoghurt. It also enhances income of rural households and can act as a safety net in case of crop failures especially in rain-fed areas.

Market Analysis

Certain factors make the prospects of livestock husbandry especially profitable in Pakistan: large cattle population, vast agricultural inputs to be used as fodder, and seasonal cross-border movement of large number of cattle from India to Pakistan. Livestock population in Pakistan mainly comprises cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats, camels and poultry. According to recent livestock census, total livestock population in Sindh was about 46.3 million heads. Sindh possesses quality livestock gene pool in the form of Nili-Ravi and Kundi breeds of buffalos, Red Sindhi and Thari breeds of cows, Kachhi, Kooka and Dumbi breeds of sheep and Kamori, Bari, and Teddy breeds of goats. Thari cow is especially well-known for rapid weight gain. There is also vast potential for utilization of byproducts of livestock like leather, bone, hair, and blood, which are used for diverse purposes.

The demand for livestock in Sindh is increasing rapidly on account of high population growth at a rate of 2.03%, increase in per capita income, and changing dietary patterns. As such, the livestock growth should be at 5-7% per annum in order to meet domestic demand for meat. Apart from large domestic market, the strategic location of Pakistan gives it a unique advantage: it is situated between the...
Middle East and Southeast Asia and these regions are facing meat deficiency. Pakistani livestock resources can fulfill the needs of the surrounding regions. Abundant livestock resources of Sindh can be utilized to tap into the global halal market that today stands at US$1.3 trillion.

**Investment Opportunities**

- **Livestock Farms**
  Sindh is a land of tremendous opportunities for establishing livestock farms for fattening purposes. Livestock farms can be established on various scales depending on the financial capacity of the investor.

- **Modernized Slaughterhouses**
  There is a vast unmet demand for modernized slaughterhouses in Sindh, which can be set up under various arrangements including public-private partnerships, joint ventures and so on. Such facilities are needed for slaughtering of animals under hygienic conditions.

- **Meat Processing Plants**
  Meat processing plants can also be established in Sindh because these have been demonstrated as being highly profitable. In fact, slaughterhouses and processing plants can be vertically integrated to achieve greater economies of scale.

- **Investment in Bhambhore Livestock and Dairy Village**
  For investors in livestock and dairy sectors of Sindh, Livestock and Fisheries Department, Government of Sindh is building a dedicated hub for livestock and dairy farms in the form of this Village. It is situated only 230 km from Karachi and comprises 2,500 acres of land. Infrastructure of this village will be developed by Government while the investors will be able to get long-term lease for plots of various sizes on attractive terms. The project is in development phase.