

## Socio-Economic Status of Livestock Farmers of Ibrahimpur Village, North Goa District: A Benchmark Analysis

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### ABSTRACT

A vigilant study of the socio-economic conditions of livestock farmers is a precondition for the appropriate design and successful implementation of Governments' developmental programmes. The study was conducted in North Goa district of Goa during 2015-16 to investigate the socioeconomic profiles of livestock farmers. For this, primary data was collected through structured questionnaire using a sample size of fifty respondents from Pernem block of North Goa district. Thus study was designed to appraise the socio-economic profile of livestock farmers in North Goa district. Results of the study revealed that majority of the farmers are maintaining nuclear family with less than five members. Most of the farmers belonged to marginal farmers' categories who are involved in livestock activities. Majority of the farmers had low level of income, less access to institutional source of finance agricultural extension service and livestock possession. It is observed that more than half of the (69%) of the population are cattle in total livestock population. Livestock farmers have secondary and intermediate school level and more than half of the farmers involved in livestock farming belonged to middle age group. Due to low agricultural profitability, young people are not interested in agriculture and shift towards tourism and tourism related services. Agriculture profitability should be increased to retain the people in farming by providing access to credit, markets, extension service.

**Keywords:** Vigilant, investigate, livestock, socio-economics, profitability, North Goa

Livestock plays an important role in Indian economy. About 20.5 million people depend on upon livestock for their livelihood. Livestock contributed 16% to the income of small farm households as against an average of 14% for all rural households (Livestock census, 2012). Livestock provides livelihood to two-third of the rural community. It also provides employment to about 8.8% of the population in India. India has vast livestock resources. Livestock sector contributes 4.11% GDP and 25.6% of total Agriculture GDP (Government of India). There is considerable hypothetical debate regarding the causes, consequences, and solutions for unemployment. Classical economics, new classical economics, and the Austrian School of economics argue that market mechanisms are reliable means of resolving unemployment. Poverty and unemployment rates followed by inequalities of

income and consumption have been substantial. The agriculture being only seasonal, the dairy industry provides off-season work, steady income and keeps the rural population employed throughout the year. India had 512 million livestock population and 729 million poultry population, having the second highest number of cattle (191 million), and the highest number of buffaloes (109 million) in the world (Livestock Census, 2012).

This is the sector where the poor contribute to growth directly instead of getting benefit from growth generated elsewhere. The overall growth rate in livestock sector is steady and is around 4-5% per annum and this has been achieved despite the fact that investment in this sector was not substantial. The ownership of the livestock is more evenly distributed with landless labourers and marginal farmers owning the bulk of livestock.

The progress in the sector results in the balanced development of the rural economy particularly in reducing the poverty amongst the weaker sections. The rural women play a significant role in animal husbandry and are directly involved in most of the operations relating to feeding, breeding, management and health-care of the livestock. In the globalised and reformed economy, where subsidies provided by Government are being rolled back, even then the milk producing societies' overall growth and performance are satisfactory in most of the states.

Today Goa imports more than 50% of the milk from its neighbouring states though at present there are about 176 milk producing cooperative societies (Betcherman and Marschke 2016; Sathyanarayan *et al.*, 2010).

Livestock farming has enormous potential for improving food and nutritional security of the country. Increasing the magnitude of quality protein in the diet is an indispensable component of good nutrition, particularly for children in their critical growth years. Ensuring greater yield in the livestock sector depends on sustainable development efforts that provide farmers with access to technology, training, resources and veterinary extension services. Planning Commission has strongly recommended that the Twelfth Plan should put special focus on building capacity that encourages group formation and collective effort by small, marginal and women farmers, rather than simply provide additional subsidy to individuals in these categories.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

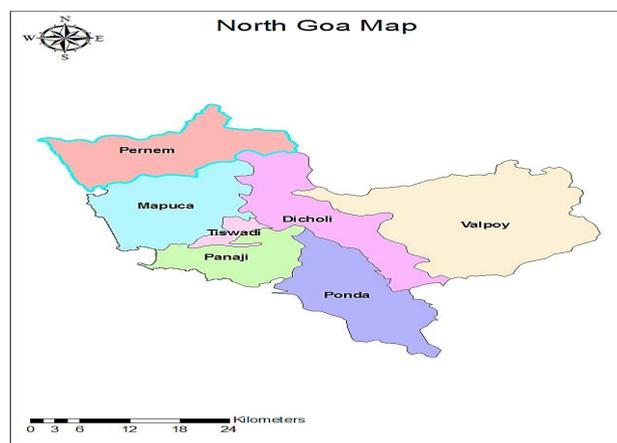
The study was conducted in North Goa district of Goa state. The district has 7 blocks, out of which one block i.e. Pernem was selected randomly and one village namely the Ibrahmpur village was selected randomly. A well-structured pre-tested interview schedule was developed for collecting data from the respondents. From the identified village Ibrahmpur, 50 farmers were selected randomly. Then the pre-tested interview schedule was used for collection of data and the data was analysed by using appropriate statistical methods. Data were collected from the respondents by conducting a personal interview.

## Survey Methodology

The analysis in this paper relies primarily on quantitative data from the structured survey questionnaire. The structured survey was carried out during December 2015 - March 2016 with surveyors managing a structured questionnaire through face-to-face interviews, usually to the household head. The total number of households in our final sample was 50. The structured survey questionnaire was designed by the project investigators; drawing on the multi-topic household survey design for integrated farming system for improvement of nutrition and livelihood of farm women under different agro-ecosystems in India.

## The Research Location: Ibrahmpur, North Goa District, Goa

Goa state falls in the Western Plains & Ghats Climatic Zone under the Coastal Hilly Sub-region. It receives rainfall from the Southwest monsoon between the months of June and September. The normal annual rainfall of the State is 3200 mm. The normal temperature ranges between 19 degrees and 36 degrees Celsius. The geographical area of North Goa district is 1736 square kilometres of areas.



**Fig. 1:** Map of North Goa district, Goa

North Goa district being a part of the West Coast region of India has many physical features that are common to neighbouring regions of Maharashtra and Karnataka States. Ibrahmpur village is situated in Pernem taluk of North Goa District, Goa. Geographical location of village is on the foot hills of Western Ghats and the topography of the land is undulating and the locality is mid-remote area.

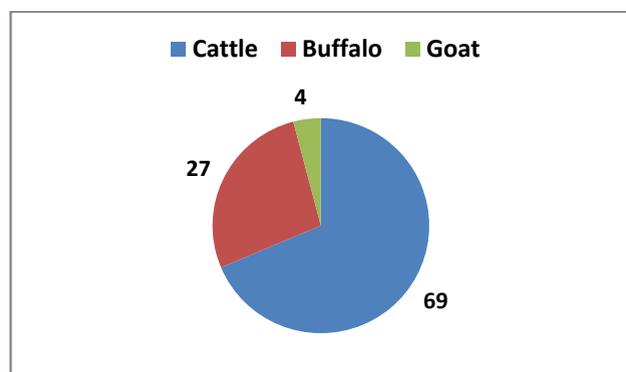
## Demographic Profile of North Goa

North Goa was selected randomly for our project survey which comprises of 194 villages having 190614 households. According to Census 2011, North Goa population is 818008 of which male and female are 416677 and 401331 respectively. Around 39.72 % population of North Goa district lives in rural areas of villages. The total North Goa district population living in rural areas is 324927 of which males and females are 163908 and 161019 respectively. The density of Population district for 2011 is 471 people per square km. With regards to Sex Ratio in North Goa, it stood at 963 per 1000 male. Average literacy rate of North Goa in 2011 were 89.57 %. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 93.40% and 85.60% respectively. Total literate in North Goa District were 663060 of which male and female were 351738 and 311322 respectively.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Major Livestock Population of Ibrahmpur village, North Goa

Livestock farming is the major source of income for the villagers and also provided a good source of the dietary needs of the family. Cattle, buffalo, and goat were the major livestock in the Ibrahmpur village in North Goa district.



**Fig. 2:** Share of major livestock population in Ibrahmpur village (in Percentage)

From the above Pie chart (Fig. 2), we can clearly observe that more than half of the (69%) of the population are cattle in total livestock population and which is followed by buffalos (27%), and least is in goat (4%). A cow being the major share of livestock population, the problem of infertility in

cows is high in this village. The other noticeable problems with respect to livestock are infertility in buffaloes, non-availability of improved breeds of livestock, less availability of quality cattle feed, lack of lush green pastures for grazing of livestock and lack of knowledge about improved techniques of livestock rearing in this village.

### Nature of the Family

The results of the investigation carried out are presented in the above Table 1 showing the socio-economic profile of the livestock farmers.

**Table 1:** Distribution of farmers based on family characteristics

Particulars	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Family type	Nuclear	28	59.0
	Joint	22	41.0
Family size	Up to 5	37	74.0
	More than 5	13	26.0
Caste composition	General	30	60.0
	OBC	17	34.0
	SC/ST	3	6.0

Around 59% of the livestock farmers had a nuclear family, while the remaining 41% had a joint family. It could be observed that more than one-half that is 74% of the livestock farmers had less than five members of their family, while the remaining 26% were having more than five members. In terms of caste composition more than one-half i.e. 60% of the livestock farmers belong to general category, 34% belong to backward category and remaining 6 per cent belongs to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The family and its composition are related to occupation and income.

### Occupation

It is clear from Table 2 that majority of the farmers (82%) were involved in livestock activities, while the remaining (2%) had crop farming, and remaining (16%) practice both crop and livestock farming. The majority of the farmers belonged to marginal farmer category, which necessitated them to take up any one of the subsidiary occupation to improve their livelihood and income.

**Table 2:** Distribution of farmers based on the occupation

Particulars	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Occupation	Livestock Farming	41	82.0
	Crop Farming	1	2.0
	Together	8	16.0

From Table 3, it is clear that half of the farmers were involved in decision-making with respect to agriculture, animal husbandry and other household activities, while the 46% of male are involved and very less around 4% female are involved in decision making with respect above mentioned activities. Role of farm women in farm and homestead economy is negligible in this region.

**Table 3:** Distribution of farmers based decision making and information seeking behaviour

Particulars	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Decision maker	Male	23	46.0
	Female	2	4.0
	Together	25	50.0
Information seeking behaviour	Low (30-38)	4	8.0
	Medium (38-46)	28	56.0
	High (46-54)	16	32.0

The source of getting informative knowledge through advisory service, farmers training is always while co-operative societies & banks, self-help groups, Kisan Mela/Farmers’ groups, radio/ TV program, newspapers, agricultural magazines are sometimes.

**Education**

The Table 4 reveals that the very few (8%) of the respondents were illiterate, whereas an around 12 percent of respondents belonged to primary level, secondary and Intermediate school level together accounts for 74% and only 4% were educated up to graduate level.

None of the respondents (women) were educated upto collegiate level. This might be due to the reason that women need to look after the home affairs and traditionally they were not encouraged by their parents to go for higher education.

**Table 4:** Distribution of farmers based on education level and age group

Particulars	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Education	Illiterate	4	8.0
	Primary (up to V)	6	12.0
	Secondary (up to SSC)	31	62.0
	Intermediate (HSSC)	6	12.0
	Graduate	2	4.0
Age	Young age (< 35 years)	9	18.0
	Middle age (35 - 55 years)	27	54.0
	Old age (>55 years)	14	28.0

This finding is in line with the findings of Nagabhushanam and Nanjaiyan (1998) who reported that 28.30% of farm women were illiterate.

**Age group**

It could be observed from the Table 4 that more than half (54%) of the farmers involved in livestock farming belonged to middle age group followed by old (28%) and young (8%) age group. The reason for the majority being in the middle age group might be due to the ancestral forwarded rituals of farming which were related to ethnics of the society. However very less were in young group due to the less agricultural productivity and migrations of youths for jobs in factories to earn their livelihood.

**Table 5:** Distribution of sample farmers by size of land holding

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Marginal (<1 ha)	29	58
Small (1-2 ha)	13	26
Medium (2-5ha)	7	14
Large (>5ha)	1	2

Perusal of the data presented in Table 5 shows that more than one-half (58%) of the farmers belonged to marginal farmer category followed by small (26%) and medium (14%) farmer category. The farmer having large land holding is negligible (2%). The reason attributed for the majority of livestock farmers belong to marginal farmer category could be due to subdivision and fragmentation, which is a common phenomenon in the nuclear family system than the traditional joint family system (Sathyanarayan K. *et al.*, 2010).

## Consumption Pattern

Information about the expenditures on food articles, clothing, education, health, and agricultural activities was also obtained. Food items were the major share of expenditures which accounts for nearly 50% of the total family expenditure per annum followed by agriculture, health, clothing, and education expenditure.

**Table 6:** Share of expenditure under different heads (In Percentage)

Food articles	Agricultural	Health	Clothing	Education	Total
49.9	25.1	9.4	9.1	6.5	100.0

The average expenditures on food items were ₹ 4500 per month. The average expenditures on agriculture and allied activities were ₹ 2400 per month. Clothes were not frequently consumed. However, before major festivals, they used to buy new clothes for their families. Therefore the average consumption for clothing was ₹ 500 per month. The share of education expenditures was also little as most of their children were admitted to public schools rather private schools. Expenditures on education were included in schoolbooks, uniforms, and conveyance. The estimated expenditures were ₹ 900 per month. Similarly, health expenditures also play an important role out of the total expenditures. It was not a fixed component however average monthly amount disbursed on this head was observed. Total average expenditures were estimated as ₹ 1100 per month. Total expenses recorded were ₹ 9400 per month and apart from this expenditure some other expenses were also recorded such as to amuse guest, attending a marriage or social functions etc., an average sum of ₹ 3000 per month expenditure also had to be spend. The total monthly expenditure was recorded as sum of ₹ 12400.

## Self-Help Groups (SHG)

There are many self-help groups in Ibrahimpur village formed for multiple functions like savings and lending on group basis, etc. Those are namely Sateri Self-Help Group, Chavateshwar Self-Help Group, Usai Self-Help Group, Shri Mata Sateri Mahila Mandal, Rastoli Self-Help Group (Hedus Wado), Rastoli Mahila Mandal, Shri Sateri

Chavateshwar Self-Help Group, Ahilyabai Mahila Mandal (Aangad). SHG is a trivial group of rural poor, who have voluntarily come forward to form a group for improvement of the socio-economic status of the members. It can be formal (registered) or informal. Members of SHG agree to save regularly and contribute to a common fund. The members agree to use this common fund and such other funds (like grants and loans from banks), which they may receive as a group, to give small loans to needy members as per the decision of the group. The notion underlines the principle of prudence, credit, and self-help.

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## CONCLUSION

The socio-economic characteristics of the farmers are important for better policymaking decisions. Livestock farming is the major source of income for the Ibrahimpur villagers and also provided a good source of the dietary needs of the family. We can clearly observe that more than half of the population are cattle in total livestock population and which is followed by buffalos. Most of the farmers involved in livestock farming belonged to middle age group. The reason might be due to the ancestral forwarded rituals of farming which were related to ethnics of the society. Majority of the farmers have secondary and intermediate school level of education, but highly educated people are also not interested in agriculture because low profitability in respect to off-farm wage and they are unaware of the various government schemes. Regarding consumption pattern, food items were the major share of expenditures which accounts for nearly 50% of the total family expenditure per annum. Role of farm women in farm and homestead economy is negligible in south west coast region.

Hence there is a need to enhance the role of farm women in participation and decision making in household and farming activities in this region. Due to low agricultural profitability, young people are not interested in agriculture and shift towards tourism and tourism related services. Only 36% of farmers have access to credit, there is a need to expand agricultural credit to farmers. Agricultural profitability should be increased to retain the people in farming by providing access to credit, markets, agricultural and veterinary extension services to the farmers in the south west coast region of the country.

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