

3. National Animal Disease Control Program

Prelims: Governance- Health & Diseases

Mains: GS-III- Economics of Animal Rearing

Context:

- ▶ In a key initiative aimed at doubling farmers income, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be launching the National Animal Disease Control Programme for eradicating Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis in livestock.

Funding:

- ▶ The project, which will cost ₹12,652 crores for a period of five years till 2024, will be funded entirely by the government. The programme, to be launched in Mathura, **aims to control the livestock diseases by 2025 and eradicate these by 2030.**

Aim:

- ▶ The programme aims at vaccinating over 500 million livestock including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs against the FMD. The programme also aims at vaccinating 36 million female bovine calves annually in its fight against the brucellosis disease.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Control Programme:

- ▶ It envisages 100% vaccination coverage of cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and pigs at six-months interval in the entire country. Further, animals would be identified using unique animal identification ear tags. The programme also includes de-worming of the targeted population of livestock twice a year.

Brucellosis Control Programme:

- ▶ It envisages 100% vaccination coverage of female cattle and buffalo calves (4-8 months of age) once in a life time.

Stats:

- ▶ In India, livestock **contributes over 4%** to the country's total GDP. As per estimates of the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the value of output from livestock and fisheries is estimated to be close to Rs 5 lakh crore.

Livestock in India:

- ▶ India has the privilege of having the largest population of livestock in the world.

- ▶▶ India's milk production is highest in the world.
- ▶▶ And yet, the sector has been neglected for years.

Issue with foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and brucellosis.

- ▶▶ It is actually the presence of FMD in India that has stopped us from realising the true potential of this sector.
- ▶▶ Trade barriers are put using this as an excuse, while totally putting aside the fact the OIE (The World Organisation for Animal Health) has endorsed our FMD vaccination programme.
- ▶▶ While Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have reported no outbreak of FMD in the last few years, states like UP, Maharashtra and Punjab need extra focus as major trade emanates from there.

What is Foot and mouth disease (FMD):

- ▶▶ Foot and mouth disease (FMD) is a severe, highly contagious viral disease of livestock that has a significant economic impact. The disease affects cattle, swine, sheep, goats and other cloven-hoofed ruminants.
- ▶▶ Intensively reared animals are more susceptible to the disease than traditional breeds. The disease is rarely fatal in adult animals, but there is often high mortality in young animals due to myocarditis or, when the dam is infected by the disease, lack of milk.

Importance of Livestock to Indian Farmer:

- ▶▶ In India, 75% of the poor control the country's livestock, which in turn becomes a major source of their income.
- ▶▶ The direct losses to a farmer due to these diseases comes from a loss in milk production and reduction in the working ability of the animals.

▶▶ Export issue

1. The bigger economic losses, however, are the **non-acceptance of our milk and milk products, meat and its products in certain parts of the world**, making the value realisation of our agri exports not at par with countries like Brazil, Australia, New Zealand and so on. Hence, it's important that we as a nation give top priority for the control, prevention and eradication of this disease.

▶▶ Income:

1. Livestock is a source of subsidiary income for many families in India especially the resource poor who maintain few heads of animals.
2. Cows and buffaloes if in milk will provide regular income to the livestock farmers through sale of milk.

3. Animals like sheep and goat serve as sources of income during emergencies to meet exigencies like marriages, treatment of sick persons, children education, repair of houses etc.
4. The animals also serve as moving banks and assets which provide economic security to the owners.

►► **Employment:**

1. A large number of people in India being less literate and unskilled depend upon agriculture for their livelihoods.
2. But agriculture being seasonal in nature could provide employment for a maximum of 180 days in a year.
3. The land less and less land people depend upon livestock for utilizing their labour during lean agricultural season.

►► **Food:**

1. The livestock products such as milk, meat and eggs are an important source of animal protein to the members of the livestock owners.
2. The per capita availability of milk is around 355 g / day; eggs is 69 / annum;

►► **Social security:**

1. The animals offer social security to the owners in terms of their status in the society.
2. The families especially the landless which own animals are better placed than those who do not. Gifting of animals during marriages is a very common phenomenon in different parts of the country.
3. Rearing of animals is a part of the Indian culture. Animals are used for various socio religious functions.
4. Cows for house warming ceremonies; rams, bucks and chicken for sacrifice during festive seasons; Bulls and Cows are worshipped during various religious functions. Many owners develop attachment to their animals.

►► **Draft:**

1. The bullocks are the back bone of Indian agriculture. The farmers especially the marginal and small depend upon bullocks for ploughing, carting and transport of both inputs and outputs.

►► **Dung:**

1. In rural areas dung is used for several purposes which include fuel (dung cakes), fertilizer (farm yard manure), and plastering material (poor man's cement).