



Moving towards sustainability: The role of Livestock in food security

The problem at a glance



43% children under 5 years have a growth problem



1 in 10 children under 5 years is acutely malnourished



20% adult females are anaemic

(Source: FHB, 2023)

The Sustainable Development Goal 2 - “Zero hunger” aims beyond its literal sense, targeting to establish sustainable food systems and end both macro and micronutrient hunger in the world by 2030.

Why livestock is important?

High quality proteins for growth

- **Proteins are a vital part of the daily diet: Availability and access to quality and healthy animal food products is essential to ensure the intake of a balanced, nutrient-rich diet.**
- **Livestock directly contributes to nutrition security: eggs, meat and milk - some of the best sources of high-quality proteins and micronutrients that are essential for normal growth and development and good health.**
- **The livestock sector plays a key role in ensuring food and nutrition security in this regard.**

Food security amidst the current economic backdrop

The recent food and commodity inflation experienced by Sri Lanka alongside the economic deterioration has resulted in a difficult situation for majority of Sri Lankans, having to spend a larger portion of their income on food. In most instances, the first food commodity to forego are the animal foods. This can adversely affect the health and nutrition of all people of all ages, leading to poor growth and immunity among them. Taking this into consideration it is of utmost importance that the livestock industry remains resilient despite these economic influences.

Low consumption of animal proteins

- **Meals are based on cereals, vegetables, condiments and sugar**
- **Overall, protein is consumed only 2 days/ week**

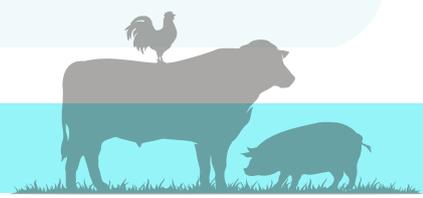


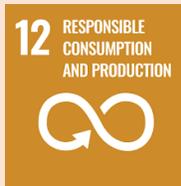
(Source: WFP, 2022)

Enhancement of availability and equal access to quality and healthy food through sustainable nutrition-sensitive food value chains.

As a country with a relatively low and selective consumption of animal food, it is of paramount importance to ensure a continuous, affordable supply of commonly utilized sources of animal proteins such as dairy, eggs and chicken. Increased productivity in the livestock sector is via the following areas is an urgent requirement:

- Expansion of the livestock industry backed by governmental/ donor support is a key area of concern which can have a direct impact on the sustainability of the livestock industry.
- For significant contribution, these programs should be supplemented with the provision of quality animal feed, vaccines and veterinary services to producers.
- Provision of sound means of safely re-purposing animal waste for manure, energy etc. will increase the cost-efficiency of these initiatives while minimizing possible spread of disease to both humans and animals.
- Simultaneous strengthening of the food supply and cold chains will ensure that produce is efficiently distributed throughout the country with minimal wastage.
- Incorporation of initiatives to identify innovative, wholesome methods of utilizing all edible components of animal food produce can further reduce wastage.
- Imparting key knowledge on rearing animals, safe production of animal-based food and empowering communities towards related occupations is another identified area for action.
- Local production of eggs, poultry and even dairy can be enhanced by the increased establishment of sustainable domestic backyard farming schemes.





TARGET 2.1 	UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SAFE AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD
TARGET 2.2 	END ALL FORMS OF MALNUTRITION
TARGET 2.3 	DOUBLE THE PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOMES OF SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS
TARGET 2.4 	SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION AND RESILIENT AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES
TARGET 2.6 	INVEST IN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND GENE BANKS
TARGET 2.8 	ENSURE STABLE FOOD COMMODITY MARKETS AND TIMELY ACCESS TO INFORMATION
TARGET 9.1 	INVEST IN RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY AND GENE BANKS

TARGET 9.4 	UPGRADE ALL INDUSTRIES AND INFRASTRUCTURES FOR SUSTAINABILITY
TARGET 12.1 	IMPLEMENT THE 10-YEAR SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION FRAMEWORK
TARGET 12.2 	SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
TARGET 12.5 	SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE WASTE GENERATION
TARGET 12.8 	REMOVE MARKET DISTORTIONS THAT ENCOURAGE WASTEFUL CONSUMPTION
TARGET 15.5 	PROTECT BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL HABITATS
TARGET 9.2 	PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION