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National livestock mission: Future prospects and policy implications

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Abstract

The livestock sector plays a vital role in the Indian economy by contributing significantly to agricultural GDP, ensuring nutritional security, and providing livelihood support to millions of rural households. The National Livestock Mission (NLM), launched by the Government of India in 2014–15, aims to promote sustainable and scientific livestock development through improved breeding, feed and fodder management, animal health services, and entrepreneurship development. This review article examines the structure, objectives, implementation mechanisms, and impact of NLM on farmer income, rural employment, and livestock productivity. The mission emphasizes inclusion of small and marginal farmers, women, and rural youth by providing capital subsidies, skill development, and institutional support for livestock-based enterprises such as poultry, goatery, piggery, and fodder units. Despite notable achievements in enhancing productivity and promoting entrepreneurship, several challenges persist, including low awareness, credit constraints, delays in subsidy disbursement, fodder scarcity, weak market linkages, and inadequate veterinary services. The study also highlights future prospects of NLM, including digitalization, climate-resilient livestock systems, improved market infrastructure, and strengthened policy frameworks. Overall, NLM has strong potential to transform traditional livestock farming into a sustainable, income-generating sector, provided that implementation gaps are addressed through effective policy support, capacity building, and institutional coordination.

Keywords: National Livestock Mission, livestock sector, farmer entrepreneurship

Introduction

Introduction to Livestock Sector in India

The livestock sector is a very important part of Indian agriculture and rural life. It provides milk, meat, eggs, manure, draught power, and regular income to millions of farmers. India has one of the largest livestock populations in the world, with more than 535 million animals, including cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats, and pigs. This makes livestock a strong and reliable source of livelihood for rural families. (20th Livestock Census, DAHD, 2019) ^[2]. Livestock plays a major role in India's economy. It contributes nearly 30% to the agricultural GDP and around 5% to the national GDP. One of the best things about the livestock sector is that it grows steadily every year, unlike crops which depend heavily on monsoon. This steady growth helps stabilize the income of farmers even during droughts or crop failure. (National Accounts Statistics, MOSPI, 2023) ^[12].

India is the largest milk producer in the world, contributing about 24% of global milk production. Every year, India produces over 230 million tonnes of milk, which helps ensure nutritional security for the population. This achievement is mainly due to small farmers, dairy cooperatives, good buffalo breeds, and improved management practices. (FAOSTAT, FAO, 2023) ^[9]. More than 70 million rural households depend on livestock as a major or additional source of income. For small and marginal farmers who own little land, livestock such as cows, buffaloes, goats, and backyard poultry provide daily income and food. Livestock is especially important for women, as they are the main caretakers of animals, and this empowers them socially and economically. (NITI Aayog Report, 2021) ^[17].

India is also rich in indigenous breeds. The country has more than 200 recognized native breeds, which are naturally adapted to local climate, diseases, and low-input conditions. These breeds are more resilient to heat stress and require less feed compared to exotic breeds. This makes them very valuable in the era of climate change. (NBAGR Indigenous Breed List, 2022) ^[14]. Despite these strengths, the livestock sector faces many challenges. India

suffers from shortages of green fodder, dry fodder, and concentrate feed. Diseases such as FMD, brucellosis, and PPR also reduce productivity. Many farmers still lack access to scientific feeding, breeding, and healthcare. These challenges limit the growth of the livestock sector and affect farmer livelihoods. (DAHD Annual Report, 2022–23)^[4].

To address these issues and improve livestock productivity and farmer income, the Government of India launched the National Livestock Mission (NLM) in 2014–15. This mission focuses on improving breeds, increasing fodder availability, strengthening animal health, and promoting livestock-based entrepreneurship for rural youth and women. (National Livestock Mission Guidelines, 2014–15)^[11].

What is National Livestock Mission (NLM)?

The National Livestock Mission (NLM) is a major program started by the Government of India in 2014–15 to improve the livestock sector in a scientific and sustainable way. It focuses on increasing farmers income, improving animal productivity, promoting entrepreneurship, and strengthening fodder and feed availability in the country. The mission works under the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD). (National Livestock Mission Guidelines, 2014–15)^[11].

The main aim of NLM is to support farmers especially small, marginal farmers and women by improving practices in breeding, feeding, healthcare, and livestock management. The mission provides financial support for units like goat farms, sheep farms, poultry farms, fodder units, silage units, and breeding infrastructure. This helps farmers take up livestock farming as a profitable business. (DAHD Annual Report, 2022–23)^[4].

In 2021–22, the Government restructured NLM to give more importance to entrepreneurship development and youth involvement. Under the new structure, the mission encourages private investment, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and rural youth to start dairy, goater, poultry, piggery, and fodder-based enterprises. This restructuring was done to make the livestock sector more modern and income oriented. (Revised NLM Guidelines, DAHD, 2021)^[3].

NLM also works to address key challenges like fodder shortage, poor animal health services, and lack of scientific management. It supports the establishment of fodder seed production farms, fodder banks, mobile veterinary units, breed improvement programs, and disease control measures. By doing this, the mission aims to ensure long-term sustainability of livestock farming in India. (IGFRI Fodder Report, 2022; DAHD Annual Report, 2022–23)^[10, 4].

Overall, the National Livestock Mission is a holistic program designed to transform traditional livestock rearing into a modern, profitable, and sustainable profession, ensuring improved productivity and better incomes for rural households across the country (National Livestock Mission Operational Framework, MOA&FW, 2014–15).

Objectives of NLM

The National Livestock Mission aims to help India's livestock sector grow in a way that benefits small and marginal farmers and promotes sustainable livestock farming. Its main objectives are:

1. To create employment and promote entrepreneurship especially in sectors like poultry, goat/sheep, piggery

and fodder/feed production so rural youth and small farmers can start income generating livestock businesses.

2. To improve the productivity of each animal through better breeding and genetic improvement, leading to higher yield of milk, meat, eggs, wool, etc.
3. To increase overall production of livestock goods such as meat, eggs, goat milk, wool and other animal products by combining better breeding, feed/fodder, and modern animal husbandry.
4. To ensure sufficient feed and fodder supply by strengthening the supply chain of fodder seeds, supporting certified seed production, and promoting fodder cultivation/processing to reduce fodder shortages and support livestock nutrition.
5. To encourage establishment of fodder processing units, silage/hay-baling & fodder storage infrastructure so that feed/fodder demand and supply gap is reduced.
6. To promote risk management for farmers by supporting livestock insurance and other measures that protect farmers against losses (disease, death, market fluctuations).
7. To fund and encourage applied research in prioritized areas like poultry, sheep, goat, feed & fodder to improve technologies, animal nutrition, breeding, and overall livestock production practices.
8. To build capacity train livestock owners, state functionaries and extension workers through extension services, skill-based training, and technology dissemination so modern and efficient livestock management becomes widespread.

To reduce the cost of livestock production and improve quality by promoting modern husbandry practices, better feed/fodder, improved breeds and knowledge making livestock farming more profitable and sustainable.

Mission Structure of the National Livestock Mission

NLM is divided into four major sub-missions, and each sub-mission focuses on a specific area of livestock development. These sub-missions work together to improve breed quality, increase fodder availability, promote innovation, and build skills among farmers.

Sub-Mission I: Livestock Development

This sub-mission focuses on improving the quality and productivity of livestock breeds in India. It supports activities like:

- Breed improvement for cattle, buffalo, goat, sheep, pig, and poultry.
- Establishing and strengthening semen stations, AI (Artificial Insemination) services, and breeding farms.
- Supporting small farmers to set up goat units, sheep units, poultry units, piggery farms, and backyard poultry farms.
- Promoting scientific breeding, better animal housing, and improved management practices.
- Encouraging private entrepreneurs, SHGs, FPOs, and rural youth to start livestock-based units with subsidy support.

Overall purpose: Improve breed quality, increase productivity (milk, meat, eggs), make livestock farming

profitable for small/marginal farmers. (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (NLM Guidelines))

Sub-Mission II: Feed and Fodder Development

This sub-mission addresses one of the biggest challenges in India: fodder shortage. It ensures animals have enough nutritious feed throughout the year by supporting:

- Production of quality fodder seeds.
- Development of fodder crops, including multicut varieties.
- Setting up silage units, hay-making machines, and fodder block units.
- Establishing fodder banks for emergency situations like drought.
- Improving and conserving pasturelands and common grazing areas.
- Supporting fodder-based entrepreneurship (e.g., silage bale business).

Overall purpose: Make quality fodder available round-the-year to improve animal health and productivity. (National Dairy Development Board (Fodder Seed Programme under NLM))

Sub-Mission III: Innovation and Extension

This sub-mission spreads new technologies, training, and scientific knowledge to farmers. It includes:

- Farmer training programmes on modern livestock management.
- Demonstrations of innovative practices, tools, and technologies.
- Support for FPOs, cooperatives, and extension agencies to promote scientific livestock rearing.
- Use of ICT tools (mobile apps, videos, helplines) for faster information delivery.
- Funding for research institutions to develop new breeds, fodder varieties, feed technologies, and disease-control measures.
- Awareness programs on sanitation, disease management, vaccination, and insurance.

Overall purpose: Ensure farmers get the latest knowledge, technology, and training to improve their income. (DAHD – Sub-Mission on Innovation & Extension)

Sub-Mission IV: Skill Development and Capacity Building

This sub-mission focuses on training and empowering people involved in livestock farming. It includes:

- Training farmers, women SHGs, para-vets, and veterinary officers.
- Developing the skills needed to manage livestock farms professionally.
- Workshops on nutrition, breeding, shed management, and fodder management.
- Entrepreneurship development programmes for youth to start livestock-based enterprises.
- Building capacity at state livestock departments, training centres, and universities.
- Promoting women's empowerment by training women-led SHGs in poultry, goat farming, and backyard farming.

Overall purpose: Build strong human resources in the livestock sector to improve productivity and rural livelihoods. (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying – Capacity Building & Training Module)

National Livestock Mission (NLM) and Farmer Entrepreneurship

1. Promotion of Livestock-Based Entrepreneurship

The National Livestock Mission promotes livestock-based entrepreneurship to transform livestock rearing into a structured, market-oriented business activity. Under NLM, farmers are encouraged to establish commercial units such as poultry farms, goat and sheep farms, piggery units, and fodder enterprises using scientific practices. The mission aims to enhance productivity, profitability, and sustainability of livestock enterprises, thereby increasing farmers' income and creating rural employment. This approach supports livelihood diversification and reduces dependency on crop agriculture. (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Government of India)

2. Financial Support through Capital Subsidy

Capital subsidy is the backbone of farmer entrepreneurship under NLM. The mission provides capital subsidy up to 50% of the project cost, subject to prescribed ceilings, through bank-linked credit mechanisms. This reduces the financial risk for farmers and makes institutional finance accessible to small and marginal farmers. Subsidy support helps farmers invest in quality livestock, housing infrastructure, equipment, and feeding systems, thereby improving economic viability of livestock enterprises. (DAHD, National Livestock Mission Operational Guidelines)

3. Development of Poultry, Goat, Sheep and Piggery Enterprises

NLM supports entrepreneurship across multiple livestock species to suit India's diverse agro-climatic and socio-economic conditions. Poultry enterprises are promoted for their short production cycle and quick returns, while goat and sheep farming are encouraged due to low capital requirement, high reproductive efficiency, and adaptability to marginal areas. Piggery development is emphasized in tribal and North-Eastern regions where pig rearing is culturally accepted. These enterprises enhance meat and egg production and strengthen rural livelihoods (DAHD, Annual Report 2023–24)^[5]

4. Feed and Fodder Entrepreneurship

Feed and fodder availability is a critical constraint in livestock productivity. NLM promotes fodder-based entrepreneurship by supporting fodder seed production units, silage and hay-making units, fodder block units, and cattle feed plants. These enterprises ensure year-round availability of quality feed, reduce feeding costs, and improve animal health and productivity. Farmers engaged in fodder production also generate additional income by supplying feed to other livestock owners (DAHD & National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)).

5. Inclusion of Small, Marginal Farmers, Women and Youth

NLM is designed as an inclusive mission, giving priority to small and marginal farmers, landless households, women,

Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and rural youth. Women-led poultry and small ruminant enterprises are encouraged to enhance economic empowerment and household income. Youth entrepreneurship under NLM promotes self-employment, skill development, and reduction of rural-urban migration, thereby strengthening rural economies. (DAHD, Gender and Skill Development Initiatives under NLM)

6. Risk Reduction and Sustainability of Enterprises

Livestock enterprises face risks such as disease outbreaks, mortality, and market fluctuations. NLM supports sustainability through veterinary health services, vaccination programmes, livestock insurance, and extension support. These measures protect farmers' investments, reduce economic losses, and enhance confidence among farmers to adopt entrepreneurship. Risk mitigation ensures long-term stability and continuity of livestock-based businesses. (Press Information Bureau (PIB), Government of India)

7. Overall Impact on Farmer Income and Rural Economy

By integrating financial assistance, entrepreneurship promotion, feed and fodder development, and risk management, NLM has significantly contributed to income enhancement, employment generation, and productivity improvement in the livestock sector. The mission supports livelihood diversification, strengthens rural value chains, and contributes to nutritional security and sustainable rural development. (DAHD, Impact Assessment Reports on National Livestock Mission)

Challenges in Implementation of National Livestock Mission (NLM)

1. Low Awareness and Information Gap

A major challenge in NLM implementation is low awareness among farmers about scheme benefits and procedures. Many farmers do not clearly understand eligibility criteria, subsidy limits, and documentation requirements. Information often does not reach villages due to weak extension networks. Small, marginal, and tribal farmers are most affected. Dependence on middlemen sometimes leads to misinformation. Lack of digital literacy further limits access to online portals. As a result, many eligible farmers do not apply. This reduces overall coverage and impact of NLM. (DAHD, Government of India)

2. Difficulty in Accessing Bank Credit

NLM subsidy is linked with bank loans, which creates difficulties for small farmers. Many farmers lack collateral, land records, or formal credit history. Banks often view livestock enterprises as risky due to disease and price fluctuations. Loan approval procedures are lengthy and complex. Delays discourage farmers from starting projects. Some farmers abandon applications midway. Credit constraints slow entrepreneurship development. This remains a major bottleneck in NLM implementation. (DAHD, NLM Operational Guidelines)

3. Delay in Release of Subsidy

Under NLM, subsidy is usually released after project completion and verification. Administrative processes and documentation delays slow disbursement. Fund flow issues between central and state governments also cause delays.

Farmers who invest borrowed money face financial stress. Interest burden increases during the waiting period. Delayed subsidy reduces trust in the scheme. It discourages new applicants. Timely implementation becomes difficult. (Press Information Bureau (PIB), Government of India)

4. Inadequate Technical Knowledge and Skills

Many farmers lack scientific knowledge of breeding, feeding, housing, and disease management. Training programmes are limited and often theoretical. Practical exposure and follow-up support are insufficient. Farmers struggle with record keeping and business planning. Poor management leads to low productivity and higher mortality. Expected income is not achieved. This affects confidence in livestock entrepreneurship. Skill gaps reduce overall success of NLM projects. (DAHD, Skill Development Reports)

5. Feed and Fodder Scarcity

Feed and fodder shortage is a serious constraint despite NLM support. Shrinking grazing lands reduce natural fodder availability. Seasonal variation affects green fodder supply. Quality fodder seeds are not easily available everywhere. Rising feed prices increase production costs. Drought-prone areas face severe shortages. Animal health and productivity suffer. This lowers profitability of livestock enterprises. (National Dairy Development Board (NDDB))

6. Weak Market Linkages and Price Fluctuation

Many farmers face problems in marketing livestock products. Organized markets and processing facilities are limited. Transport and cold storage infrastructure are inadequate. Farmers depend heavily on middlemen. This reduces price realization. Prices of meat, eggs, and live animals fluctuate frequently. Income becomes uncertain. Market risks discourage long-term investment. (DAHD, Livestock Sector Reports)

7. Animal Diseases and Weak Veterinary Services

Livestock diseases cause heavy economic losses under NLM. Veterinary hospitals and diagnostic facilities are inadequate in rural areas. Shortage of veterinarians affects timely treatment. Vaccination coverage is often irregular. Disease detection is delayed. Mortality rates increase. Small farmers suffer maximum losses. Disease risk reduces confidence in livestock enterprises. (PIB, Animal Health Reports)

8. Sustainability of Livestock Enterprises

Many enterprises struggle after subsidy support ends. Input costs continue to rise. Climate stress affects fodder and animal health. Disease risk remains high. Market uncertainty affects income stability. Continuous technical guidance is often lacking. Veterinary and extension support reduce over time. Some units become non-functional. Ensuring long-term sustainability remains a challenge. Reference: DAHD, Impact Assessment Reports National Livestock Mission (NLM) and Farmer Entrepreneurship

Future Prospects of National Livestock Mission (NLM)

1. Growth of Livestock-Based Farmer Entrepreneurship

In the future, NLM has strong potential to promote livestock-based entrepreneurship among small and marginal farmers. By supporting activities like poultry, sheep, goat,

piggery, and fodder enterprises, the mission can help farmers move from subsistence farming to income-oriented businesses. Increased financial support and capacity building will encourage youth and women to adopt livestock enterprises. This will create self-employment opportunities in rural areas. Livestock entrepreneurship can reduce migration and strengthen rural economies. Integration with startup and skill development programs will further enhance its impact. (DAHD, Government of India)

2. Improvement in Feed and Fodder Security

NLM is expected to play a key role in improving feed and fodder availability in the coming years. Expansion of fodder seed production, silage making, and fodder banks can reduce seasonal shortages. Promotion of high-yielding fodder varieties will increase biomass production. Better fodder availability will reduce feeding costs and improve animal health. This will directly enhance milk, meat, and egg productivity. Improved fodder security will also increase resilience to drought and climate stress. (NDDDB; DAHD)

3. Adoption of Scientific and Sustainable Livestock Practices

Future implementation of NLM will emphasize scientific breeding, balanced feeding, and proper health management. Increased training and digital advisory services can improve adoption of best practices. Focus on disease prevention and biosecurity will reduce mortality losses. Promotion of sustainable practices will lower environmental impact. Climate-resilient livestock systems will gain importance. This will improve productivity while maintaining ecological balance. Sustainable livestock farming will ensure long-term income stability for farmers. (DAHD Annual Report; FAO)

4. Strengthening of Market Linkages and Value Addition

NLM has the potential to strengthen market infrastructure for livestock products. Future focus on processing units, cold chains, and organized markets will improve price realization. Promotion of value-added products such as processed meat and eggs can increase farmer income. Better integration with cooperatives, FPOs, and private players is expected. Digital marketing platforms can connect farmers directly to consumers. Reduced dependence on middlemen will increase profitability. Market-led growth will make livestock enterprises more attractive. (DAHD; NITI Aayog)

5. Enhanced Role in Rural Employment and Income Generation

In the coming years, NLM can significantly contribute to rural employment generation. Livestock activities provide year-round income compared to seasonal crop farming. Expansion of allied activities like feed production, veterinary services, and processing will create additional jobs. Women participation is expected to increase due to manageable scale of enterprises. This will strengthen household income security. Livestock-based livelihoods can reduce rural poverty. NLM can become a key driver of inclusive rural development. (DAHD; Government of India Reports)

6. Support to Climate-Resilient Livestock Development

With increasing climate variability, NLM will play an

important role in promoting climate-resilient livestock systems. Emphasis on hardy breeds, better housing, and improved feeding will reduce climate stress. Strengthening fodder systems will help during droughts and extreme weather events. Disease surveillance and vaccination programs will reduce climate-related disease risks. Sustainable livestock practices will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This aligns NLM with national climate action goals. (DAHD; IPCC; FAO)

7. Digitalization and Improved Governance

Future prospects of NLM include increased use of digital platforms for applications, monitoring, and fund transfer. Online portals can improve transparency and reduce delays. Real-time monitoring will improve project success rates. Digital advisory services can provide timely technical guidance to farmers. Integration with databases like animal health and productivity records is expected. This will improve planning and decision-making. Better governance will enhance trust in the mission. (DAHD; Digital India Initiatives)

Policy Implications of National Livestock Mission (NLM)

1. Need for Strengthening Extension and Awareness Policies

NLM highlights the need for stronger livestock extension policies at the grassroots level. Awareness about schemes, subsidies, and scientific practices must be improved through village-level campaigns. Policy support is required to increase the number of trained extension workers. Use of digital platforms, mobile advisory services, and local language communication should be promoted. Collaboration with Panchayats, NGOs, and Farmer Producer Organizations is essential. Better extension policies will ensure higher participation of small and marginal farmers. This will improve scheme outreach and effectiveness. (DAHD, Government of India)

2. Credit-Friendly Livestock Financing Policies

NLM implementation shows the need for simplified and farmer-friendly credit policies. Livestock enterprises should be treated as priority sector lending. Policies should reduce collateral requirements for small farmers. Interest subvention and flexible repayment options can reduce financial stress. Coordination between banks and implementing agencies must be strengthened. Risk-sharing mechanisms such as livestock insurance should be integrated. Improved credit policies will accelerate livestock entrepreneurship. (DAHD; NABARD)

3. Timely Subsidy and Efficient Fund Flow Mechanism

Policy reforms are required to ensure faster and transparent subsidy disbursement. Direct Benefit Transfer mechanisms should be strengthened. Digitization of applications and real-time monitoring can reduce delays. Clear timelines for project approval and subsidy release are needed. Strong coordination between central and state governments is essential. Efficient fund flow policies will increase farmer confidence. This will improve adoption of NLM-supported enterprises. (Press Information Bureau (PIB))

4. Focus on Skill Development and Capacity Building

NLM emphasizes the need for long-term policies on skill development in livestock farming. Training should be

practical, enterprise-oriented, and region-specific. Certification-based training programs can improve professionalism. Continuous follow-up support must be ensured through extension systems. Policies should encourage involvement of veterinary universities and training institutes. Skilled farmers will adopt scientific practices more effectively. This will improve productivity and enterprise sustainability. (DAHD, Skill Development Reports)

5. Strengthening Feed and Fodder Development Policies

NLM underlines the importance of strong feed and fodder policies. Expansion of fodder seed production and distribution systems is required. Promotion of silage, fodder banks, and hydroponic fodder needs policy support. Protection of common grazing lands should be prioritized. Climate-resilient fodder planning must be integrated into livestock policies. Improved fodder availability will reduce production costs. This will enhance livestock productivity and resilience. (NDDDB; DAHD)

6. Market-Oriented Livestock Development Policies

The mission indicates the need for policies that strengthen livestock marketing systems. Support for organized markets, processing units, and cold chain infrastructure is essential. Policies should promote value addition and branding of livestock products. Integration with cooperatives, FPOs, and private sector players must be encouraged. Digital marketing platforms should be promoted. Market-oriented policies will ensure better price realization for farmers. This will make livestock enterprises economically viable. (DAHD; NITI Aayog)

7. Strengthening Animal Health and Veterinary Policies

NLM highlights the need for robust animal health policies. Investment in veterinary infrastructure and manpower is essential. Policies should ensure regular vaccination and disease surveillance. Use of digital disease reporting systems must be expanded. Public-private partnerships can improve service delivery. Strong animal health policies will reduce mortality and economic losses. This will increase farmer confidence in livestock enterprises. (PIB; DAHD)

8. Sustainability and Climate-Resilient Livestock Policies

The mission shows the importance of integrating sustainability into livestock policies. Climate-resilient breeds, housing, and feeding practices should be promoted. Policies must support low-emission and resource-efficient livestock systems. Livestock development should align with national climate action plans. Long-term sustainability should be a key policy objective. This will protect farmer livelihoods under climate stress. Sustainable policies will ensure inclusive growth of the livestock sector (DAHD; FAO; IPCC).

Success Stories of NLM

Success Story 1: Commercial Goat Farming under National Livestock Mission (NLM) – Background of the Farmer

This success story is from Maharashtra.

The beneficiary farmer is Shri Sunil Patil, from Karanji (BK) village, Jamner taluka, Jalgaon district.

Before receiving support under the National Livestock Mission, the farmer was practicing traditional goat rearing. Goats were kept in poorly designed housing, feeding was not scientific, and breeding was unplanned. Due to these reasons, the farmer faced high kid mortality, slow growth rate, and low income from goat farming.

Problems Identified Before NLM Intervention

The major constraints in this farm were:

- Lack of proper housing and hygiene
- Poor feeding management
- No planned breeding programme
- Irregular health care and vaccination
- High mortality in kids
- Low productivity and unstable income
- These problems are commonly seen in small and marginal farmers, especially in drought-prone regions.

Support Provided under National Livestock Mission

Under the Entrepreneurship Development Programme of NLM, the farmer received:

- Bank-linked financial assistance
- Capital subsidy up to 50% of the total project cost
- Technical guidance from the Animal Husbandry Department

This financial and technical support encouraged the farmer to shift from subsistence goat rearing to commercial goat farming.

Scientific Interventions Adopted

After receiving NLM support, the following scientific practices were adopted:

1. Improved Housing System

- Raised platform housing
- Proper ventilation and drainage
- Better sanitation and waste management

2. Introduction of Improved Goat Breeds

- Selection of fast-growing and disease-resistant breeds
- Proper buck-to-doe ratio maintained

3. Scientific Feeding Practices

- Balanced ration including green fodder, dry fodder, and concentrate
- Clean drinking water provided regularly

4. Planned Breeding Management

- Controlled mating
- Proper care during pregnancy and kidding

5. Health Care Management

- Regular vaccination and deworming
- Early disease detection and treatment

Impact and Outcomes

Due to the adoption of these practices, the farmer achieved remarkable results:

- Kid mortality reduced significantly
- Improved growth rate and body weight gain
- Better reproductive performance
- Higher market value of goats
- Overall productivity increased

Most importantly, the farmer's income doubled within two years, making goat farming a reliable source of livelihood.

Socio-Economic Benefits

This project not only improved income but also:

- Generated self-employment for the farmer
- Reduced financial risk in a drought-prone area
- Motivated other farmers in the village to adopt goat farming
- Strengthened rural livelihood and economic stability

Conclusion

In conclusion, this success story clearly demonstrates that:

- Goat farming has huge potential under Indian conditions
- National Livestock Mission plays a crucial role in promoting livestock-based entrepreneurship
- Scientific management combined with financial support can double farmers' income
- NLM is especially beneficial for small and marginal farmers

Success Story 2: Backyard Poultry Farming under National Livestock Mission (NLM), Maharashtra

Background and Context

Backyard poultry farming is an important livelihood activity for small, marginal, and landless farmers in rural India. It plays a crucial role in income generation, nutritional security, and women empowerment, especially in rainfed and drought-prone regions like Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra.

However, traditional backyard poultry systems are often characterized by:

- Low-yielding indigenous birds
- High mortality due to diseases
- Poor housing and feeding practices
- Lack of technical knowledge and financial support

To address these constraints, the National Livestock Mission (NLM) promotes backyard poultry as a sustainable micro-enterprise through financial assistance, training, and input support.

Profile of the Beneficiary

- **Name:** Smt. Lata Shinde
- **Village:** Bori, Taluka Parner
- **District:** Ahmednagar, Maharashtra

Before intervention, the beneficiary depended mainly on seasonal agricultural labour, which provided irregular income. Traditional poultry rearing was practiced on a very small scale, mainly for household consumption, with minimal economic returns.

Support Provided under National Livestock Mission

Under the Entrepreneurship Development and Livelihood Support components of NLM, the following assistance was provided:

- Bank-linked financial assistance for starting backyard poultry enterprise
- Capital subsidy up to 50% of the project cost, reducing financial burden
- Supply of improved dual-purpose poultry birds suitable for backyard conditions
- Capacity building and training by the State Animal Husbandry Department on:
 - a. Brooding and chick management
 - b. Vaccination schedules
 - c. Disease prevention and biosecurity
 - d. Balanced feeding using local resources

This integrated support ensured both economic viability and technical sustainability of the enterprise.

Interventions Adopted

The beneficiary adopted several scientific interventions under guidance:

1. **Introduction of Improved Poultry Birds:** Dual-purpose birds with better egg-laying capacity and faster growth replaced low-productive indigenous birds.
2. **Scientific Housing Management:** Low-cost poultry housing was constructed to protect birds from predators, rain, and extreme temperatures.
3. **Feeding and Nutrition Management**
 - Use of supplementary feed along with scavenging
 - Utilization of locally available grains and kitchen waste
4. **Health Care and Vaccination:** Regular vaccination against common poultry diseases reduced mortality significantly.
5. **Women-Centric Enterprise Management:** As backyard poultry requires low investment and is manageable alongside household work, it strengthened women's participation in economic activities.

Outcomes and Impact

After implementation of NLM support, the following outcomes were observed:

- Significant reduction in bird mortality due to improved health care
- Increase in egg production and better body weight of birds
- Regular cash income through sale of eggs and live birds
- Improvement in household nutrition, especially protein intake through eggs
- Enhanced livelihood security and reduced dependence on wage labour
- Empowerment of rural women through decision-making and income control

This case clearly demonstrates how small-scale livestock interventions can lead to sustainable rural development.

1. Identify the Suitable NLM Sub-Mission

NLM has three main sub-missions. Farmers or entrepreneurs must first identify which component their project fits into:

Sub-Mission	Purpose	Examples of Projects
Breed Development	Increase productivity & genetic quality	Poultry, sheep, goat, pig breeding farms; rural poultry units
Feed & Fodder Development	Ensure quality feed availability	Silage units, hay bailing, fodder seed production, feed blocks
Research, Innovation & Extension	Technology adoption, capacity building	Training programs, extension services, livestock insurance

Farmers/entrepreneurs select a sub-mission aligned with their project goals. (dahd.gov.in)

2. Check Eligibility

- Eligible Applicants
- Individual farmers
- Self-Help Groups (SHGs)
- Joint Liability Groups (JLGs)
- Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)
- Section-8 Companies (Non-profit companies supporting agriculture/livestock)
- State Government Departments or Agencies

Project Requirements

- Project must fall under the approved NLM category.
- Comply with minimum and maximum project sizes (e.g., number of animals, unit cost).
- Meet infrastructure & technical requirements set in NLM operational guidelines.

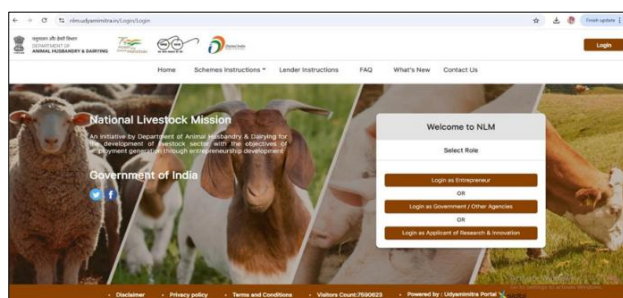
3. Prepare the Project Proposal

The farmer or entrepreneur must prepare a detailed project proposal including:

- Project type (poultry, goat/sheep farm, fodder unit)
- Project cost estimate
- Expected outcomes (milk, meat, eggs, feed production, etc.)
- Land and infrastructure availability
- Technical feasibility report (sometimes mandatory for larger units)

This ensures that the proposal is clear and eligible for subsidy or loan support.

Apply Online via UdyamiMitra Portal



1. NLM uses the UdyamiMitra portal (centralized application system) for project submission:
2. Visit: nlm.udyamimitra.in
3. Create account as a beneficiary.
4. Fill application form with project details and upload supporting documents:
 - Identity proof & address proof
 - Land documents or lease certificate
 - Technical/financial feasibility
 - Bank account details for subsidy transfer
5. Submit the application for state-level scrutiny.

4. State Implementing Agency (SIA) Scrutiny

Once submitted:

1. The State Implementing Agency (usually State Animal Husbandry Department) verifies:
 - Project eligibility
 - Completeness of documents
 - Technical feasibility
 - Beneficiary identity and land records
2. SIA may recommend modifications or clarifications.

5. Project Sanction & Recommendation

1. After SIA clearance, the project is forwarded to the State Level Executive Committee (SLEC).
2. SLEC evaluates:
 - Project viability
 - Financial planning
 - Alignment with NLM objectives
3. SLEC approves project and recommends central/state subsidy.

This ensures that only technically and financially sound projects are funded.

6. Financial Sanction & Loan Assistance

- Subsidy: Normally up to 30–50% of the project cost, depending on project type and state.
- Bank Loan (if needed): Some beneficiaries take bank loans for balance cost.
- Funds are released directly to the beneficiary bank account after approval.

Subsidy is usually released in one or two tranches, after verification of physical progress.

7. Project Implementation

After fund release:

- Beneficiary implements project (build sheds, purchase animals, set up fodder/feed units).
- Regular progress reports are submitted to the SIA.
- Field inspections may be conducted by officials to ensure compliance.

8. Monitoring and Reporting

- Beneficiaries must maintain records of production, expenditure, and output.

State and Central agencies monitor:

- Livestock numbers
- Milk/meat/egg production
- Fodder production and utilization
- Final report may be required for subsidy closure and audit.

9. Example Timeline (Typical)

Step	Time frame
Application submission	1–2 weeks
State scrutiny (SIA)	2–4 weeks
SLEC recommendation	2–3 weeks
Fund release	2–6 weeks after SLEC approval
Project implementation	3–12 months depending on project type

10. Tips for Farmers to Get Benefits Smoothly

1. Ensure complete documents (ID, land, technical plan).
2. Choose approved project types with clearly defined outcomes.
3. Consult local animal husbandry office for guidance.
4. Apply through official portal only to avoid fraud.
5. Keep records of expenditure and progress for inspection.

Subsidy Pattern for Farmers under National Livestock Mission

Livestock Enterprise	Eligible Beneficiaries	Subsidy Rate	Maximum Subsidy Limit
Sheep & Goat Breeding Unit	Individual farmers, SHGs, FPOs, JLGs, Cooperatives	50% of total project cost	Up to ₹50 lakh
Piggery Breeding Unit	Farmers, Entrepreneurs, FPOs, SHGs	50%	Up to ₹30 lakh
Rural Poultry (Parent Stock / Hatchery)	Farmers, Poultry Entrepreneurs	50%	Up to ₹25 lakh
Feed & Fodder Processing Units (silage, fodder block, hay)	Farmers, FPOs, Cooperatives, Start-ups	50%	Up to ₹50 lakh
Fodder Seed Production Units	Progressive farmers, FPOs	50%	As per approved project cost

Key Points

1. Subsidy is 50% of the eligible project cost for all listed enterprises.
2. The subsidy is capital-linked, released generally in two equal instalments. dahd.maharashtra.gov.in
3. Eligible beneficiaries: Individuals, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Joint Liability Groups (JLGs), Farmer Cooperative Organisations, and Section 8 companies. dahd.maharashtra.gov.in
4. Coverage includes breed improvement, poultry & small ruminant units, piggery, fodder/feed units, and indigenous equine/other livestock enterprise units. dahd.maharashtra.gov.in
5. Land cost, leasing, personal vehicles, office equipment, and routine working capital are generally not covered under subsidy.

Conclusion

The National Livestock Mission (NLM) has emerged as a strategic initiative to strengthen India's livestock sector through productivity enhancement, entrepreneurship development, and sustainable resource management. By focusing on small ruminants, poultry, piggery, and fodder development, the mission directly supports small and marginal farmers and promotes livelihood diversification. Capital subsidy provisions under NLM encourage rural youth and women to adopt livestock-based enterprises. The mission also addresses critical gaps in feed and fodder availability, which is essential for improving animal performance. Promotion of breed improvement and scientific management practices enhances resilience and profitability of livestock systems. From a policy perspective, NLM aligns well with national goals of doubling farmers' income and inclusive rural growth. However, effective implementation requires stronger institutional coordination between central and state agencies. Capacity building, extension services, and awareness among beneficiaries need further strengthening. Timely credit access and simplified subsidy procedures are crucial for better uptake. Integrating climate-smart livestock practices under NLM can improve sustainability. Monitoring and impact evaluation mechanisms must be reinforced. Overall, NLM holds strong prospects for transforming the livestock sector, provided policy support remains adaptive, farmer-centric, and region-specific.

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