



**NATIONAL LIVESTOCK POLICY**

**SRI LANKA**

**LIVESTOCK FOR HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NATION**

**LIVESTOCK DIVISION**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, LANDS &  
IRRIGATION**

## **Introduction**

Sri Lanka's livestock sub-sector plays an important role in food security, nutrition, rural livelihoods, and value addition to the agricultural economy. The National Livestock Development Policy focused on achieving dairy self-sufficiency, improving livestock genetics, strengthening production infrastructure, promoting private sector participation, and reforming livestock extension services. However, over the past two decades, significant structural and contextual changes—including climate change impacts, market volatility, feed shortages, emerging zoonotic diseases, and evolving trade dynamics—have created new challenges that require an updated policy framework.

A review of the 2006 policy identified several critical gaps that must be addressed to ensure the sustainable growth and resilience of Sri Lanka's livestock sector. These include limited climate resilience in livestock production systems, particularly in relation to feed security, heat stress management, water availability, and disaster preparedness. In addition, there is weak integration of livestock development with One Health approaches and biosecurity frameworks, as well as underdeveloped livestock value chains and inadequate traceability systems.

The sector also faces challenges such as low adoption of modern technologies, limited digitalization and innovation, and inadequate integration of smallholder farmers into formal markets. Constraints related to the availability of insufficient quality animal feed and feed ingredients genetic and breeding materials, insufficient private sector investment, and an enabling business environment further hinder the development of the sector. Moreover, the current policy framework shows limited alignment with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**, evolving global trade requirements, and sustainability standards.

To address these gaps, the Ministry has developed the National Dairy Development Policy and the National Poultry Development Policy with the active participation of key stakeholders in the industry. The updated National Livestock Development Policy aims to integrate all livestock subsectors into a single, comprehensive policy framework.

This policy outlines the rationale, strategic priorities, and implementation approach for updating Sri Lanka's livestock policy in order to respond to emerging sector challenges, strengthen climate resilience, and align livestock development with national priorities, international commitments, and evolving market conditions.

## **Scope and Applicability of the Policy**

This policy provides a national framework for the sustainable development and management of the livestock sector in Sri Lanka. It applies to all stakeholders involved in livestock production, processing, marketing, research, and service delivery across the country. The policy is applicable to government ministries and agencies, provincial and local authorities, private sector actors, farmer organizations, research and academic institutions, development partners, and individual livestock producers.

The scope of this policy covers all major livestock subsectors including cattle, buffalo, poultry, goats, sheep, and other domesticated animals contributing to food production and rural livelihoods. It addresses such as private sector –led development, market oriented and competitive production, sustainable and environmental responsible development, support for small holder and rural livelihood, science and technology based development.

### **Vision:**

Modernized and sustainable livestock sector for national renaissance.

### **Mission:**

Management and optimum usage of all the resources available in technically sound, socio-economically acceptable and environment friendly manner to make the livestock industry strong, competitive and sustainable to provide safe and nutritious livestock products for affordable prices to all consumer groups and to cater the international demand while contributing to the national economy.

### **Goals:**

01. Increase domestic production of milk, meat, and eggs to ensure continuous national supply through improved productivity, feed resources, and strengthened value chains.
02. Ensure safe, high-quality livestock products by strengthening farm to fork value chain and certification systems.
03. Maintain affordable prices for consumers while improving farmer profitability through cost-efficient production systems.

04. Conserve, upgrade and sustainable utilization of indigenous genetic resources
05. Promote environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient livestock systems through a circular economy approach and the efficient use of resources, including land, water, and feed.
06. Promote public–private partnerships and enhance investment across livestock production, processing, and marketing to drive sector growth and competitiveness.
07. Develop competitive, export-oriented livestock production systems by ensuring compliance with international standards and certification requirements.

**Objectives:**

1. Increase nationwide accessibility to animal sourced foods by improving productivity and profitable farming.
2. Improve animal health management systems to ensure healthy animal population in the country.
3. Enhance feed and nutrition management by developing sustainable feed resources, improving feed quality and promoting efficient feeding practices.
4. Promote systematic breeding programs for genetic improvement and conservation and sustainable utilization of both indigenous and improved livestock breeds.
5. Enhance value addition through innovative and advanced technologies to ensure a profitable and modern livestock industry.
6. Develop and implement integrated ICT based livestock data management systems to facilitate real-time data collection, analysis, sharing for informed decision making across the livestock sector.
7. Empower women and youth to engage in livestock production to support livelihood development and industry sustainability.
8. Develop robust product branding strategies and improve market access to enhance consumer trust, product recognition and competitiveness in local and international markets.
9. Optimize the utilization of livestock by products through a circular economy approach.

10. Promote innovative, market driven research and development through public private partnerships and inter institutional collaboration to ensure sustainable and climate resilient livestock production.

11. Strengthen human and infrastructure capacities to address the evolving national needs of the livestock sector.

12. Improve inter institutional coordination to ensure a governance and regulatory framework that maintains a continuous supply of safe, high-quality livestock products.

### **Strategies**

#### **Objective 1 - Increase availability of animal sourced foods at affordable prices by improving productivity and profitable farming.**

- 1.1. Promote demand sufficient livestock production through climate resilience actions
- 1.2. Encourage export oriented local production
- 1.3. Create and enabling business environment for healthy competitiveness , fair trade through favorable fiscal policy
- 1.4. Encourage Public Private Partnership
- 1.5. Facilitate equitable access to finance, technology, extension and infrastructure to support sustainable growth of livestock enterprises
- 1.6. Promote the development and adoption of livestock insurance scheme

#### **Objective 2 - Improve animal health management systems to ensure healthy animal population in the country.**

- 2.1. Strengthen disease surveillance, prevention and control measures to reduce the prevalence of contagious and zoonotic diseases
- 2.2. Improve infrastructure and human resources for laboratory facilities for disease diagnosis at national and regional level
- 2.3. Establish real time disease reporting system linking with public and private setup
- 2.4. Improve the facilities for boarder control

- 2.5. Implementation of effective veterinary public health service under one health approach
- 2.6. Introduce farm assessment mechanisms to promote good animal husbandry practices
- 2.7. Ensure prudent use of veterinary pharmaceuticals including antimicrobials

**Objective 3 - Enhance feed and nutrition management by developing sustainable feed resources, improving feed quality and promoting efficient feeding practices.**

- 3.1. Ensure year-round availability of quality and nutritious animal feed and feed ingredients for the livestock production
- 3.2. Improve infrastructure facilities including laboratory facilities for local cultivation of pasture , fodder and for ingredients of concentrated feed production for livestock
- 3.3. Facilitate with relevant policies and regulations in favorable to animal feed production
- 3.4. Improve Laboratory facilities to ensure quality of animal feed
- 3.5. Enhance infrastructure facilities advanced technology for animal feed production

**Objective 4- Promote systematic breeding programs for genetic improvement and conservation and sustainable utilization of both indigenous and improved livestock breeds.**

- 4.1. Strengthen animal breeding policy favorable to the country
- 4.2. Increase livestock productivity through advancement of genetics
- 4.3. Strengthen the infrastructure facilities for effective national livestock breeding programs
- 4.4. Ex-situ and In-situ Conservation of indigenous food animal breeds
- 4.5. Strengthen the facilities to address reproductive disorders

**Objective 5- Enhance value addition through innovative and advanced technologies to ensure a profitable and modern livestock industry.**

- 5.1. Promote value added production by introducing modern technologies

5.2. Ensure safe and quality value added production for national and international demand

**Objective 6- Develop and implement integrated ICT based livestock data management systems to facilitate real-time data collection, analysis, sharing for informed decision making across the livestock sector.**

6.1. Establish IT based livestock data management system

**Objective 7- Livestock production to support livelihood development and national GDP.**

7.1. Livelihood development Program for poverty alleviation and economic growth

7.2. Government assist program towards women and youth empowerment

**Objective 8. Develop robust product branding strategies and improve market access to enhance consumer trust, product recognition and competitiveness in local and international trade**

8.1. Establish inter institutional mechanism to asses and publish market trends

8.2. Introduce mechanism for livestock product branding

8.3. Encourage small scale producers to form farmers societies and cooperatives to achieve market access

8.4. Establish strategic trade linkages and bilateral collaborations for export market opportunities.

8.5. Facilitate access to tax concessions and tailored financial instrument

**Objective 9. Optimize the utilization of livestock by products through a circular economy approach.**

9.1. Promote utilization of livestock biproducts

9.2. Create market access for regenerated new products

**Objective 10. Promote innovative, market driven research and development through public private partnerships and inter institutional collaboration to ensure sustainable and climate resilient livestock production.**

- 10.1. Establish national advisory committee to drive and monitor livestock research
- 10.2. Strengthen public-private inter institutional collaborations for livestock R and D
- 10.3. Establish a national platform to disseminate research findings or deliverables to the users/consumers or investors
- 10.4. Promote applicable industry-based research to fulfil the country need
- 10.5. Enhance international collaborations
- 10.6. Encourage investment for industrialization of research outputs

**Objective 11. Strengthen human and infrastructure capacities to address the evolving national needs of the livestock sector.**

- 11.1. Ensure enough financial support from the government and external donors to develop the infrastructure for livestock production
- 11.2. Enhance the professional and skilled workforce in all strata of the livestock sector

**Objective 12. Improve inter institutional coordination to ensure a governance and regulatory framework that maintains a continuous supply of safe, high-quality livestock products.**

- 12.1. Establish livestock policy and strategic plan
- 12.2. Ensure livestock as a priority sector in the government manifesto
- 12.3. Upgrade existing regulatory framework to ensure the quality and safe livestock production and products
- 12.4. Update and harmonize the policies and enforcements among relevant sectors
- 12.5. Promote stakeholder engagement and periodic impact assessment

## **References**

1. Livestock Policy – 2006
2. Drafted dairy Policy- 2023
3. Draft Poultry policy- 2024