



# Animal Husbandry in Meghalaya



## AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN



### At a glance

Meghalaya as a state houses three major tribes i.e. the Khasis, the Jaintias and the Garos along with other minor tribes such as the Rabhas, Boros, Hajongs and Koches. The eating habits of the people in the state are heavily influenced by their hunting and agrarian lineage. The staple diet of the people here consists of rice, and a variety of meat, fish and vegetable dishes. The lack of breeding and rearing activities in the state coupled with the heavy dependency of meat and fish on for their daily source of protein the state is facing a large shortage of locally bred animals such as goats, pigs, chickens and other supplementary products such as eggs.

Stage	Requirements	Stakeholders	Challenges
<b>Breeding</b>	Animals that are of suitable age and breed, layer birds	Farmers, Input Suppliers	Limited access to high-quality inputs, credit issues
<b>Rearing</b>	Feed, location infrastructure	Farmers, Veterinary services, Livestock buyers	Low productivity, unsustainable practices, dated practices
<b>Slaughtering</b>	Slaughter facility, Cold Chain	Farmers, Cold Storage, Meat buyers	Lack of processing facilities, high perishability
<b>Transportation</b>	Moving produce from farms to markets	Transporters, Middlemen	Poor roads, exploitation by middlemen, high costs
<b>Marketing</b>	Selling of produce in local, regional, or national markets	Farmers, Market Hubs	Poor marketing networks, low bargaining power
<b>Value Added Products</b>	Processing Facilities, RnD team	Consumers, Retailers	High dependence on imports due to low local supply
<b>Veterinary Services</b>	Trained Vets, Medicine development	Farmers, Government regulatory bodies	Lack of trained doctors and research staff

### Key metrics



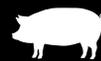
**8000 TONNES**

Import every Year



**40% CATTLE**

Import of total consumption



**11.25% PORK**

Import of total consumption



**18.36% GOAT**

Import of total consumption

## CHALLENGES



**Animal Mortality:** Dated practices in the state and lack of guidance causing mishandling of livestock and high losses due to death and injury



**Inadequate Credit Support:** Farmers often face challenges in accessing credit, limiting their ability to invest in better farming practices and technology.



**Poor Marketing and Logistics:** The perishable nature of produce, coupled with poor transportation and marketing infrastructure, results in exploitation by middlemen and low profitability for farmers.



**Infrastructure Dependency:** The lack of storage facilities, market hubs, and processing units hampers the value addition and preservation of the meat and meat by products produced.

### FURTHER READING

[Animal Husbandry Data Meghalaya](#)

[Meghalaya Poultry Data](#)

[primemeghalaya.com](http://primemeghalaya.com)

## BUSINESS IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

### INDUSTRY OVERVIEW

**Current Status:** Based on state reports, it is observed that during the last few years, the average numbers of animals slaughtered annually was estimated at about 1.89 lakhs cattle, 1.81 lakhs pigs, and 1.26 lakhs goat, out of which about 40% of cattle, 11.25% pig and 18.36% goats are imported from outside the state. These numbers are only increasing year on year. The climatic conditions, landscape and vegetation make the business of breeding and rearing animals a very profitable venture.

**Export Opportunities:** Meghalaya's terrain and weather conditions makes it a haven for Animal Husbandry. The growing global popularity for Indian animal produce will help the state become both self reliant and economically stronger.

#### Employment Opportunities

The Animal Husbandry Industry in Meghalaya is unorganised and hence in its nascent stages. Organising the same will create a plethora of both skilled as well as unskilled jobs. Due to the nature of the work it will create jobs for both men and women

1

#### Modernised Farms:

- Every year the state sees imports from other states in India to meet its internal needs while India as a country is one of the largest exporters of meat and meat products in the world. There is an urgent requirement for farm that are designed keeping in mind efficiency. These farms must be designed keeping in mind the natural advantage Meghalaya has to offer as a state and incorporate success factors from other noteworthy projects in existence.

2

#### Veterinarian Services

- One of the biggest challenges seen in the Animal Husbandry industry is mortality of livestock. Due to the sensitive nature of livestock active veterinarian services are required. These services can cater to the various farmers in the state and help reduces the losses that can occur due to mishandling and diseases.

3

#### Feed and Nutrition Firms

- Weight gain and weight management are very important factors in the commercial rearing of animals. The animal's food also impacts the quality of the meat produced. Feed-making factories are required to research and formulate the most effective feed for different animals.

4

#### Cold Chain and Value Added Services

- Meat is a highly perishable product that is produced cyclically. To ensure that the meat produced does not go to waste the state requires cold chain services that can serve as aggregators for the various farmers across the state.
- With increased consumption of processed food value-added meat products are gaining incredible traction in various parts of the country. The state of Meghalaya is renowned for its various culinary delicacies, but these delicacies do not have adequate representation in the market outside the state. Business ideas that can combine these culinary recipes with effective packaging and preservation technologies can create a market niche for themselves in both domestic and international markets.

## SCHEMES



Veterinary  
Services and  
Animal Health



Cattle  
Development



Poultry  
Development



Feed and  
Fodder  
Development