

# Animal Husbandry sector and its role in the economy of Kerala

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The strategy to tap the potentials of the Animal Husbandry sector is yet to be formulated. It is only the Animal husbandry sector which could show an accelerated growth rate when all the other production sectors recorded either static or decelerated growth rate.

This sector not only contributes to the food requirements of human beings, but also caters to various industrial needs as fats, gelatin, ossein, wool and leather, as well as that of pharmaceutical production of hormones, hyper immune serum, enzymes etc. Since 94% of the cattle wealth of Kerala is concentrated in villages, any developments in the Animal Husbandry sector in turn will boost up the rural economy also.

The positive features of the Animal Husbandry sector are as following.

1. Most of the products of this sector are utilised within the state, so the fluctuations in the international markets or the changing import policies of the Governments at centre, will not have much impact.

2. Judicious distribution of materials for production is most possible in this sector in the face of the fact that the percapita land availability is very low in our State.

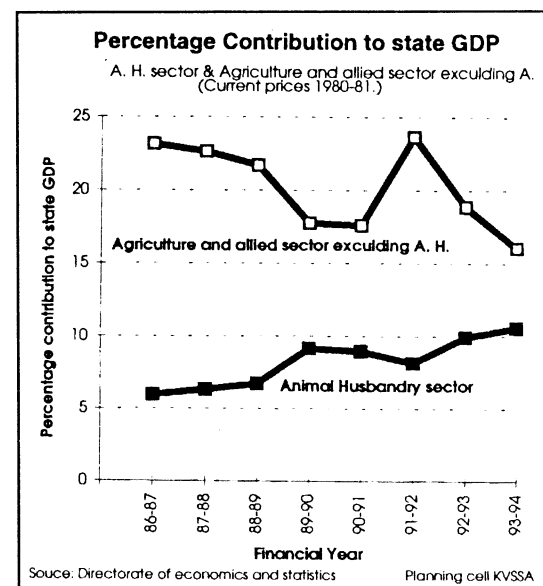
3. Continuous stock improvement is possible in the Animal Husbandry sector through technological advances.

4. Jobs are much more flexible in this sector.

5. Sudden climatic variations cannot affect.

During 1986-'97, the contribution of Animal Husbandry sector to the GDP was 5.96%, and rose to 10.58% by 93-94. The income generated through this sector was Rs. 508.04 crores, and increased to Rs.2308.68 crores.

Graph 1



We had been concentrating on the milk production alone, and the areas of meat and egg production didn't get much importance.

Graph 2

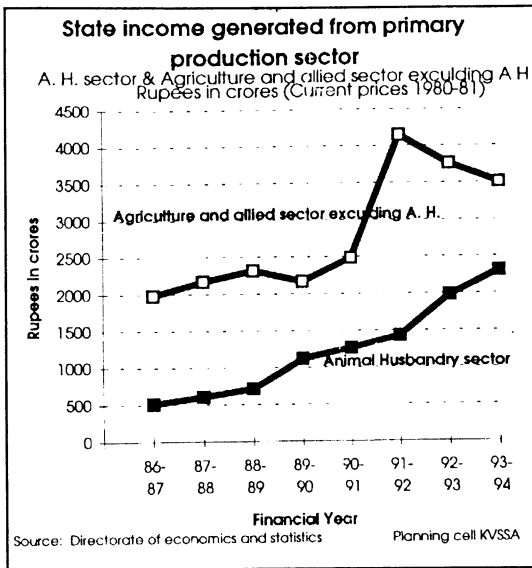
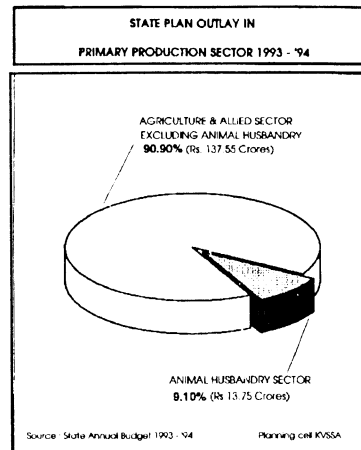


Chart2



Before attempting any diversification plans we have to consider the following facts also-

1. Experts from the Animal Husbandry sector should find decisive roles in the State Planning Board.

2. Only 1.33% of the total Plan outlay of the state is earmarked to this sector where as the contribution by the sector to the state economy is more than 10%. If the entire agriculture and allied sectors are taken into account, we can find that more than 90% of the plan outlay is allotted to the agricultural sector, and about 9% only is given to the Animal Husbandry sector.

Chart 1

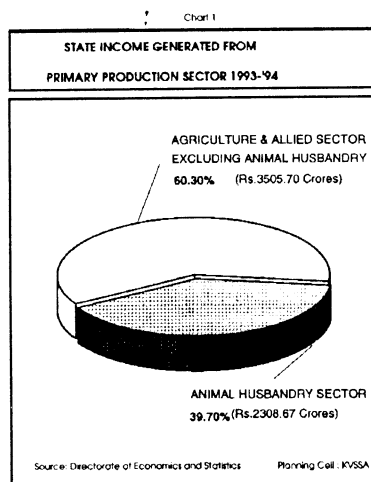


Table 1

State plan outlay in primary production sector from 1986-86 to 1993-94

Financial year	A.H.Sector Rs. Crores	Agri.Allied Sector Excluding Rs. in Crores	Total Primary A.H. Production Sector Rs. in Crores
1986-87	4.40	44.22	48.62
1987-88	4.85	49.70	54.55
1988-89	5.45	57.80	63.25
1989-90	5.90	58.70	64.60
1990-91	7.81	64.40	72.21
1991-92	9.85	117.65	127.50
1992-93	12.10	133.15	145.25
1993-94	13.75	137.55	151.30

Source: State Annual Budget 1986-87 to 1993-94

Planning cell KVSSA

The contribution of the Animal Husbandry sector amount to about 40% of that of the contribution of Agriculture and allied sector.

It is apparent that it will be Animal Husbandry sector, which can contribute substantially to the economy of the Kerala State in the years to come.