



# Livestock feed sector in India - prospects and challenges

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**I**n our country, commercially produced Compound feeds consist mainly of cattle and poultry feed. Feeds for horse, pig, quail, duck and fish are also produced in small quantities. We have 288 million heads of cattle and buffaloes producing 78 million metric tonnes of milk. It is evident that the productivity of dairy animals at national level is dismally low. Cattle feed production in India is estimated to be about 3 million metric tonnes. Therefore, we can see that the total production of 9 million metric tonnes of livestock, whose feed requirement is estimated at 100 million tonnes.

Dairy industry in India is growing @ 5% annually, broiler industry 10% and layer industry 5%. Per capita egg consumption is 40 eggs/year and broiler meat consumption is 1 kg/year. It is es-

timated that milk consumption will go upto 450 grams per year, egg to 100 eggs and broiler meat to 2 kgs. Poultry industry is well organised scientifically and progressing towards continous modernisation. Feeding and management practices have improved substantially.

FCR of 1.7 to 1.9 and egg production upto 310 eggs per year are normal in commercially grown modern poultry farms. Poultry industry is undergoing a phase of integration in broilers.

Poultry industry in India is very modern with pureline breeding, use of latest vaccines, medicines, additives, environmentally controlled houses, processing units, processed chicken and excellent quality feeds.

Aqua industry is fairly young. The prawns and fish are grown both in fresh water as well as brackish water. The aqua feed is manufactured under highly scientific methods with modern plants using latest technologies. Multinational companies from Thailand and Taiwan have already invested in this business. Aqua products are mostly exported from India.

Recent research is mainly focused on utilisation of bypass fat and bypass protien in ruminants, role of various additives in increasing production and use of synthetic amino acids. Scientific developments in the feed manufacturing is an area where all manufacturers are concentrating their attention. Feed industry will increasingly use biotechnology, upto date scientific formulations and natural and herbal products to improve productivity.

India has entered into an agreement with its trade partners under the W.T.O. The changes in the liberalisation process will be slow but certain. The government is opening up imports in a phased manner. It is expected that by April 2003 this process will be completed. From April 2001, 930 items are open for import under O.G.L. These items include the agricultural products including dressed chicken, milk, and milk products.

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