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Good Dairy Farming Practices Can Feed the World, Example of Pakistan Dairy

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Abstract

Milk is primary source of nutrition including protein and lactose. Approximately 150 million households around the globe are engaged in milk production. In developing countries milk is produced by smallholders and milk production contributes to household livelihoods, food security and nutrition. Milk provides relatively quick returns for small scale producers and is an important source of cash income. In the last three decades, world milk production has increased by more than 59 percent, from 530 million tonnes in 1988 to 843 million tonnes in 2018. While in Pakistan this increased from 12 million tonnes to 48 million tonnes a quadrupling in last three decades. Pakistan ranks 4th in the world with 42 million tonnes production of milk every year. Pakistan is surplus in milk production but it is least commercial enterprise due to lack of proper planning in collection, transportation and distribution chains. Millions of liters of milk is wasted due to absence of value chain addition methods and processing facilities. The dairy sector contributes 11.2 percent in Pakistan's GDP and 60.5 percent to overall agricultural value added and source of income for over 8 million families. Nearly one billion head of livestock are kept by more than 600 million small farmers and herders in rural areas around the world. Livestock are a vital component of the livelihoods of both the rural and urban poor in developing countries. For the households involved, animals are a means of generating capital assets as well as an important source of nutrition. The landless producers take livestock production as vital activity, which supplements income and give them employment opportunity in addition to their traditional occupation. The greatest impact of livestock in sustainable development designed to help the poor is enhancement of livestock-production systems. Livestock and their products provide direct cash income; animals are a live bank for many farmers and are critical to agricultural intensification via provision of power and manure for fertiliser and fuel. They are closely linked to the social and cultural lives of millions of resource poor farmers for whom livestock ensures varying degrees of sustainable farming and economic stability.

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