

Dr Kamalakanta Saha

M.V.Sc., Ph.D.

**DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY &
VETERINARY SERVICES, WEST BENGAL**

Phone 033-2248-5545

Fax 033-2243-9284/2214-1570

e-mail dahvswb@rediffmail.com

dahvswb@darahwb.org



**Directorate of Animal Resources
and Animal Health**

Govt. of West Bengal,

New Secretariat Buildings (3rd floor)

1, Kiran Sankar Roy Road

Kolkata- 700 001 and

Writers' Buildings, Block-F, 4th floor,

Kolkata- 700 001

INTRODUCTION

The Directorate of Animal Resources and Animal Health, Government of West Bengal in co-ordination with Government of India, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, has completed the 18th All India Livestock Census in the state of West Bengal in due time. Apart from enumeration, supervision, compilation and tabulation, this huge census work also involves publication of both hard and soft copies of the report.

Dr. P. K. Bhattacharjee, Joint Director of Animal Husbandry (Statistics) and Additional State Livestock Census Officer, 18th Livestock Census, West Bengal, Shri T.R. Nath, Statistical Officer and Deputy State Livestock Census Officer, 18th Livestock Census, West Bengal and many other Officers and Staff of this directorate have efficiently shouldered the responsibility of completing the census work with perfection.

Planners as well as all people working in animal resources and associated sectors will be amply benefitted from the useful findings of this elaborate census work.

(K. Saha)

Director of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services
and

State Livestock Census Officer

18th All India Livestock Census, West Bengal

Kolkata

February, 2009

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सत्यमेव जयते

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सत्यमेव जयते

P.K. BHATTACHARJEE

M.Sc. (Statistics), Ph.D.

Joint Director of Animal Husbandry (Statistics)

Directorate of Animal Resources & Animal Health

Government of West Bengal

Writers' Buildings, Kolkata- 700 001

Block-F, 4th Floor

Phone (033)2254-4263

TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE 18TH LIVESTOCK CENSUS

The total count of livestock population and its composition is available from the livestock census, which is the most important single source of data. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, conducted the 18th Livestock Census with reference date 15th October 2007. The census operations are carried out in different States and Union Territories by the respective State Governments. Undoubtedly an expensive statistical exercise this census it is indispensable for understanding the demographic structure of our livestock so as to be properly equipped to carry out livestock improvement programmes in the country. The livestock census covers not only livestock but includes information on fisheries and agricultural implements and machinery.

In 1919-20, the first livestock census of cattle was conducted. The subsequent censuses were conducted at intervals of five years. 18 such livestock censuses have been completed till now.

In the 18th Livestock Census, breed-wise data of indigenous cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, pig and fowl was collected for the first time in the State of West Bengal. In the present report the cross-bred and indigenous cattle have been clubbed together as in the earlier reports for comparability with the past.

Canvassed schedule of enquiry in each household obtains information on 512 items for each household. In addition, information on another 127 items on livestock and fishery infrastructure and commercial poultry birds stock is collected for each mouza, ward and each commercial poultry farm. Field workers undertake house-to-house enumeration to ascertain stock of livestock, agricultural implements and machinery, fishing craft and tackle (as well as number of persons engaged in fishing and ancillary activities), etc., possessed by households and institutions. The field work is mainly conducted by primary workers, consisting of staff drawn from the Animal Resources Development Department and Pranibandhu personnel¹.

State-level training of trainers was arranged at Barasat, in the district of North 24 Parganas. A manual of instructions was circulated to all districts. State-level Livestock Census Officers and Headquarters Officers of the Statistical Cell also trained the block/municipality/sub division Livestock Census Officers. The trained officers in turn trained the enumerators in the field work. A tabulation manual was prepared and sent to all districts to obtain the data in tabulated form.

Livestock, Poultry, Agricultural Implements and Machinery, and Fisheries are the four main parts of the Livestock Census. As these four parts involve a huge amount of data compilation, appropriate software called LCMS (Livestock Census Management System) has been developed. In West Bengal, Geographical Information System (GIS) has been developed for digital mapping of livestock data at all levels for each district. The systematic data base prepared in the 18th Livestock Census goes down to the level of mouza/para. The district profile includes pictorial graphs and the write-up gives a comprehensive account of the State's livestock position.

¹educated unemployed youths trained in livestock care by Paschim Banga Go-sampad Bikash Sanstha, a Govt. of West Bengal organisation

I would like to place on record my deep appreciation for Sri Anisur Rahaman, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Animal Resources Development Department, Sri D.K. Chakraborty, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Animal Resources Development Department and Dr. K. Saha, Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Directorate of Animal Resources and Animal Health for their constant encouragement in compilation of the Report on the 18th Livestock Census. Their valuable suggestions have greatly contributed to the successful completion of the Livestock Census.

We are thankful to Dr. D.K. Das, Chief Executive Officer, Paschim Banga Go-sampad Bikash Sanstha, for his encouragement in the engagement of Pranibandhus in the enumeration work.

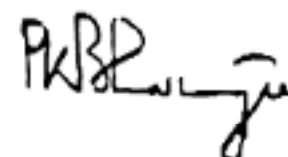
This report has received immense help and cooperation from all officers and staff of the Animal Resources Development Department. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all of them for their whole-hearted support.

The preparation of the report has been made possible primarily due to the keen interest of Sri Tushar Ranjan Nath, Statistical Officer and Deputy State Livestock Census Officer, 18th Livestock Census, West Bengal who worked very sincerely and with great zeal in achieving the target of releasing the results in the shortest possible time. Sri Nath developed the aspects of computerization, digital mapping and analytical work, and prepared the district profiles with the Assistance of Dr. Arindam Kundu, Statistical Officer and Assistant State Livestock Census Officer, Smt. Supriya Roy, Bengali Translator and Assistant Livestock Census Officer (Publicity) of this Directorate has also worked hard to make possible the elaborate and informative introductory write up on each of the nineteen districts and for the state of West Bengal as a whole. I also acknowledge the contribution made by other officers and staff of the Statistical Cell in bringing out the results in a very short time.

The statistical help received from the Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics, Government of West Bengal Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India and other different organisations/institutions for various analytical parts of the Report is thankfully acknowledged.

The management of Silpabarta Printing Press Ltd (a Government of West Bengal Undertaking) and workers deserve appreciation for their untiring cooperation in printing of books and computerized tabulation.

I am sure that scientists, researchers, policy planners and livestock data experts will benefit immensely from the information contained in this publication. We look forward to suggestions and comments on the information contained in this publication, which will be valuable for our future publications.



(P. K. Bhattacharjee)

Joint Director of Animal Husbandry (Statistics)
and

Additional State Livestock Census Officer,
18th Livestock Census, West Bengal

Kolkata
February, 2009



Sanghamitra Ghosh, IAS,
District Magistrate
South 24-Parganas

Foreword

It is a pleasure to announce that 18th All India Livestock Census, Agriculture Implements and Machinery, Fishery Statistics, West Bengal has been successfully completed in South 24 Parganas district in due time. The census was conducted with a view to collect actual data for proper planning on Livestock Resources Development and upliftment of rural economy.

I hope all this information and data so prepared and compiled in this book will be immensely helpful to formulate micro-level planning associated with Animal Resources Development and researches.

I convey my thanks to all concerned for publishing this valuable document.


(*Sanghamitra Ghosh*)
District Magistrate
South 24-Parganas

