

Uncontrolled Grazing

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OUTLINE

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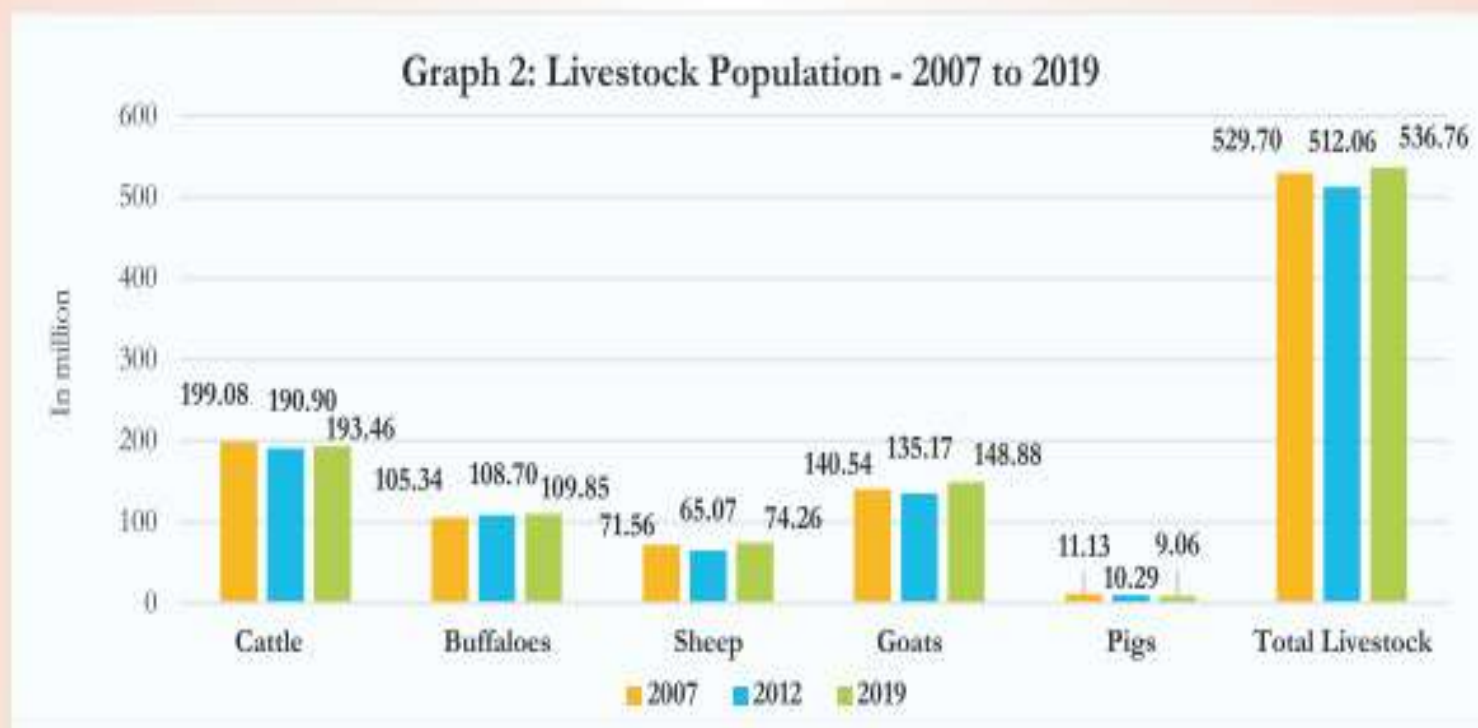
OJT Experience sharing

- Whether Grazing is trivial offence?
- How many Grazing offences booked?
- Where the illegally grazing animals were caught?(Inside PA/Core area of TR/RF/Public highways inside PA)
- How animals were brought to range office?
- Or kept inside protection camps?
- Whether offences were compounded u/s 68 IFA or u/s 54 of WLPA ?
- Whether Graziers arrested?
- Whether plantations damaged by grazing?

Indian scenario

- No National Grazing policy
- Increasing livestock population
- Reduction in traditional grazing grounds
- Grazing rights under FRA,2006 and for some forests –legal
- Unproductive cattles
- Stall feeding practice –limited extent

2.3.1 Livestock Population - 2007 to 2019



Classification of animals grazing

Duration of stay basis –

- day only- fringe villages
- stay in forest only- professional graziers/shepherds
- Passing through(Interstate movement)

Basis of Food-

- Grazing
- Browsing

Damages caused by uncontrolled heavy grazing

- Seedlings grazed- Regeneration
- Trampling/crushing of seedlings, exposure of roots- Death of seedlings
- Soil compaction and porosity reduction
- Soil erosion (if clayey soil compaction- increased run off, if sandy soil loosened- soil erosion)
- Palatable grasses depletion and replacement by unpalatable-reduced grazing capacity
- Composition of vegetation changes

Impact on Wildlife

1. Carrying capacity to support wild herbivores-reduced
2. Competition for food/fodder and drinking water
3. Disturbance to wildlife- spatial and temporal occupancy, abundance
4. Invasive weeds like Lantana spread increased-reduction in grasslands
5. Human –Animal conflict
6. Diseases and Parasites
7. Zoonotic Diseases
8. Interbreeding(wild buffaloes and domestic buffaloes)
9. Fire hazards

Challenges faced in field level

- Increasing Livestock population-migration
- Reduction in grazing lands outside forest areas
- Attitude of staff towards grazing
- Handling mob –after seizing illicitly grazing livestock
- Lack of cattle pounds after seizing
- Compounding offences even in core area of Tiger Reserves
- Transport/maintenance/ Auctioning
- Political interference

Preventive measures

- Awareness generation by JFMC/ EDC– disadvantage of keeping large no of cattles
- Functional classification of forests
- Closure or regulation of grazing
- Discouraging measures to keep excess cattle
- Meeting out grazing needs of people-fodder banks/village grazing lands – clearing encroachments
- Silage, hay making and stall feeding- Animal Husbandry dept coordination

Buffer area of Tiger Reserves

- Grazing should be **regulated in rotational manner** and **prophylactic immunisation** should be done for village livestock.
- fodder collection not permitted in disturbed areas or compartments with poor regeneration status. Above areas to have prescriptions for **“Recovery period”** before reopening them for fodder collection.
- A **“safe lopping Index”** based on site specific studies should be prescribed for fodder removal on a rotational basis.

Protection measures

- Sensitisation of staff and villagers
- Foot patrolling- sensitive & potential areas
- Safeguarding plantation areas- plantation watchers
- Drone surveillance in PA/TR
- Enforcement measures- border areas
- Non CFR areas-working plan prescriptions/ JFMC Microplan prescriptions

Protection measures

- CFR –Rotational grazing and limiting number of cattle-CFR Management plan
- Core areas of TR- CEC orders ,TCP prescriptions
- Special Anti-poaching strategy for monsoons- vulnerable to illicit grazing
- Monitoring illegal entry
- Interstate movement in border areas

Queries