

## **Livestock Production System in SAARC Countries**

**Inderpreet Kaur<sup>1\*</sup>, Varinder Pal Singh<sup>1</sup> and Amandeep Kullar<sup>2</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup>College of Dairy Science and Technology, GADVASU, Ludhiana 141 004, Punjab, India*

*<sup>2</sup>Guru Nanak National College, Doraha, Ludhiana, Punjab, India*

**KEYWORDS** Consumption. Demand. Growth. Meat Yield. Milk Production

**ABSTRACT** Agriculture remains the predominant sector of the SAARC region's economies but it is dominated by small holdings. Livestock is an integral part of region's agriculture that provides draught power, farm yard manure, livestock products and employment to large population and is growing faster than crop sector. Milk and milk products is the most preferred item, meat comes next. South Asia is the hub of milk production. In India, surprisingly, the meat yield of all species remained stagnant during 2001 to 2012. Milk productivity and meat yield of different species, however, varies significantly across the SAARC countries which imply there is scope to improve it further. The growth in the livestock production is largely coming from the population increase which may not be sustainable in the future. The productivity levels need to be enhanced by better feeding and management in short run and by improving genetic base of the animals through breeding programmes in long run. There is need of more investments in research and development in livestock sector so as to meet growing demand for animal products in SAARC countries.