PREFACE

The Indian livestock sector is one of the largest in the world. The livestock sector is an important instrument for social and economic development in India. It is an integral part of Indian agriculture. The Livestock sector has now become all the more significant as it contributes over one-fourth to the agricultural GDP and 95% of the agricultural labour force. It is growing faster than crop sector. For past one and half decade, India has retained its position as the largest producer of milk in the world and has now emerged as the largest exporter of beef, mainly buffalo meat. Livestock is owned by more than 70% of rural households and a major portion of the livestock-owning households are small, marginal and landless in India. Livestock resources are more equally distributed compared to land. Livestock resources are largely concentrated among the marginal and small landholders in India. Therefore, it is expected that any growth in the livestock sector will bring prosperity to the small holders. From the perspective of the poor, small animals like sheep, goats, pigs and poultry are considered important because of their low initial investment, low input requirement and quick returns to investment on a continuous basis. Livestock becomes all the more important to them because the tiny pieces of their land holdings can’t provide them with adequate livelihood.

India exhibits all the signs of being at the onset of its livestock sector boom. India is witnessing a revolution in its livestock sector called Livestock Revolution. There is a rapid rise in the demand and production of livestock products by the year 2020. Livestock production has been growing faster than any other agricultural sub-sector, and it is forecasted that by 2020, livestock will constitute more than half of the total global agricultural output in financial terms. The growth of demand for animal products is much higher in the developing world compared to the developed countries. This process has been termed as “Livestock Revolution”. It is called a revolution because change is happening rapidly and on a massive scale. One dimension of Livestock Revolution is its impact on small-scale farmers. The livestock sector’s boom can be extremely helpful in enhancing the income of small and marginal farmers. There is a hope that the Livestock Revolution will be beneficial for the Poor. The revolution offers two main reasons for optimism. First, the Poor can very easily improve their income when they have a major stake in a sector that is
growing. Second, the current rapid intensification of animal production comes at a time when the rural poor direly need higher returns to their shrinking land than field crops alone can offer.

On the other hand, it is not guaranteed that small-scale producers will be able to take advantage of these opportunities given by Livestock Revolution. The right policies and technologies need to be in place to enable them to do so. The revolution has profound implications on social equity, environment, human health, food security and farm animal welfare.

In India, the impacts of Livestock Revolution have not yet become negative as the farming system is still predominated by mixed crop, livestock farming, but in future it may cast ill effects for example in case of poultry sector the industrial system is rapidly growing and cause problems for small-scale farmers so right now it’s only a concern rather than implications as our country is only in the initial phases of Livestock Revolution.

In the era of Livestock Revolution, laissez-faire policy will be very dangerous because the bulkiest share of livestock in India is owned by small-scale producers, so any repercussion in the sector due to the negligence of policymakers is going to hit hard small scale producers and can swell rural poverty further. Hence, policy makers should take note of the Livestock Revolution and make efforts as hard as possible to make it a boon rather than a bane for small farmers of our country.

**Small scale producers are the focus of this thesis. In the present study, the small-scale producers have been defined as marginal and sub-marginal farm households that own or/and cultivate less than 2.0 hectares of land. These are farmers who depend greatly on livestock for their livelihoods. They are often involved in small-scale farming systems where livestock plays a central role as a source of food, income and critical inputs for agricultural production (such as draught power and fertilising manure). Small-scale farmers/producers/holders are used interchangeably in the thesis.**

The present study aims to understand the structural changes in the global livestock sector and examine the status of the Indian livestock sector in the world. It also aims to examine the structural shifts in Indian livestock sector because of Livestock Revolution. It highlights the importance of livestock sector of the agricultural economy in general and for small-scale farmers in particular. It evaluates the impact of the Livestock Revolution on small-scale livestock producers in India.
along with highlighting the issues and constraints faced by them. Finally, it concludes the entire research work and gives possible guidelines for the policy framework.

The study has been divided into seven chapters. The first chapter deals with the contains the objectives of the study, data and research methodology Second chapter discusses the definition of Livestock Revolution it highlights the countries and regions witnessing Livestock Revolution along with showing the status of Indian livestock sector in the world. It also highlights the international competitiveness of livestock products. The third chapter shows the structural shifts in livestock population, production, value of livestock output and consumption and international trade of livestock products Fourth chapter shows the significance of livestock in agricultural economy of India in general and for small-scale producers in particular Fifth chapter indicates the impact of Livestock Revolution on small scale producers and chapter six deals with the issues concerning small-scale producers in India in the era of Livestock Revolution. Chapter seventh concludes the entire research work and make policy implications which are helpful in raising the income and livelihood of small-scale producers during Livestock Revolution.