

2.1.2.2 Livestock

Livestock contributes 31 per cent of the total agricultural GDP. Besides the production of milk, and meat, livestock also provides animal power and farmyard manure to farmland for maintaining soil fertility. The country experienced about 15 per cent increase in the number of livestock during the last 14 years (1984 to 1998) (Figure 2.1; Table 2.4). The Hills have the highest number of LU and over half of the total livestock are

reared in the Hills, followed by the Terai and Mountain. In case of stocking rate, the Terai has highest LU/ha where as the national average is 6.5 LU/ha.

Ecological Region	Livestock Unit (LU)	Stocking Rate (LU/ha)
Mountain	1,286,585	1
Hill	5,812,277	20
Terai	4,127,053	58
Total	11,225,915	6.5

Source: MOAC, 2000.

Estimates show that there were 6.28 million cattle, 3 million buffaloes, 5.3 million goats, 0.547 million pigs and 10.15 million fowl in the year 1988/89 while the cattle number increased to 7.02 million, buffaloes 3.52 million, sheep 0.85 million, goats 6.32 million, pigs 0.87 million and fowl 18.6 million in 1999/2000. There is an increase in the livestock density from 5.95 per ha in 1981/82 to 7.4 per hectare in 1991/92.

The amount of livestock products such as milk, meat and egg is increasing while wool production is decreasing in Nepal (MOAC, 2000).