

# DOES LIVESTOCK SECTOR IN SRI LANKA LEAD TO A DEAD END?

By  
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As humans, our bodies cannot synthesise some amino acids (essential amino acids) and it is important to get these from food sources. Consumption of meat and eggs is essential for us to intake the much-needed essential amino acids. Consumption of livestock products (red/white meat, fish, milk eggs etc.) provides us with proteins, fat, vitamins and minerals. If we avoid eating meat, we won't be able to meet the daily requirements of nutrients.

Rearing livestock - cattle, buffalo, goats, sheep and poultry species-has become a challenge in Sri Lanka. There is social pressure for rearing them for meat purposes. On the other hand, rearing them has become difficult due to the skyrocketed feed/feed ingredient prices and reduction in the availability of the above due to the prevailing economic crisis. Let us first talk about the social pressure. Sri Lanka, being a multi-ethnic group country, needs to cater to the demands of people from different races. Some prefer to eat meat, while some don't. The last demographic survey, the Department of Census and Statistics reported that the ethnic composition of our country is 75% Sinhalese, 15% Tamil, 9% Muslim and 1% other ethnic groups. The same report published the composition of religion as 70% Buddhism, 12.6% Hindu, 9.7% Islam, 1.4% Christian and others. In a study done in an area where the majority of the population is Muslim (68%) and Hindu (18%), the pattern of meat and processed meat consumption are given in Table 1 and 2, which show that the majority of demand is for beef and chicken. The authors of this study further stated that the consumers prefer to have meat once or two times a week. Out of the total population of 22.18 Mn (Anonymous 2022a) in Sri Lanka, a majority consumes at least one type of meat.

**Table 1: Pattern of meat consumption**

Meat type	% of consumers
Beef	54.5
Mutton	11.4
Chicken	33.0

Source: (Jemziya & Sivarajah 2020)

**Table 2: Pattern of processed meat consumption**

Meat type	% of consumers
Processed beef	54.0
Processed mutton	4.3
Processed chicken	41.4

Source: (Jemziya & Sivarajah 2020)

According to Table 3, chicken is the highest-produced meat in Sri Lanka compared to others. However, mutton, beef, chicken and pork are also imported to the country every year and suppliers spend millions of rupees to cater to the demand from consumers and industries (Table 4).

**Table 3: Production of meat in Sri Lanka in the year 2020**

Type of meat	Unit	Total production
Chicken	'000MT	236.79
Egg	Mn	2,934.55
Pork	'000MT	9.82
Beef	'000MT	27.86
Mutton	'000MT	2.5

Source: (Anonymous 2021)

It is easy to shut down an agricultural operation, but it will take years and years to revitalise such an industry to the level that existed

**Table 4: Import of meat and meat products in the year 2021**

Item	Unit	2021
Beef	Quantity (MT)	34.34
	Value LKR (Mn)	51.57
Mutton/lamb	Quantity (MT)	0.02
	Value LKR (Mn)	0.02
Chicken	Quantity (MT)	770.68
	Value LKR (Mn)	205.91
Pork	Quantity (MT)	19.09
	Value LKR (Mn)	18.17
Other meat and edible offal	Quantity (MT)	0.66
	Value LKR (Mn)	0.69
Preserved meat, pig fat and poultry fat	Quantity (MT)	4.22
	Value LKR (Mn)	4.30
Total	Quantity (MT)	829.01
	Value LKR (Mn)	280.66

Source: (Anonymous 2021)

**Table 5: Livestock Statistics in the year 2021**

Livestock (number)	Statistics 2021
Cattle	1,131,080
Buffalo	333,210
Goat	361,740
Sheep	12,010
Swine	99,010
Poultry	24,310,690
Ducks	19,835
<b>Production</b>	
Milk production (L)	42,775,457
Eggs (number)	162,809,310

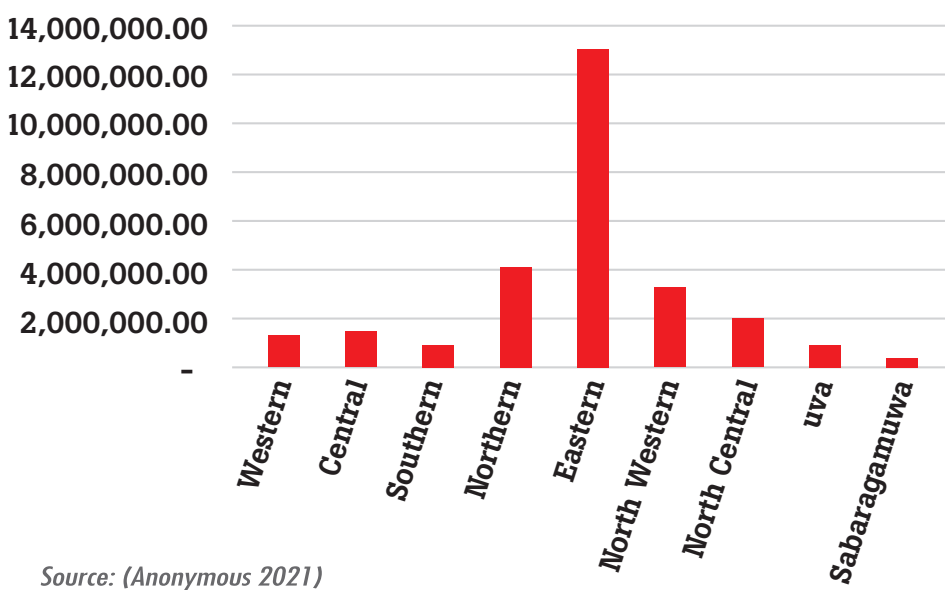
In Sri Lanka, the majority of the livestock farmers are smallholders who depend on the forages available in the surroundings and concentrate on feeds in the market. The two main feed ingredients that are imported to the country are maize and soybean meal which are abundantly used by poultry and other feed manufacturers (Table 6). Import restrictions due to the recent Forex issue, increase in the world market price of these two ingredients, policy changes related to LC, depreciation of LKR, and difficulties in obtaining freight facilities were the main issues identified as what restricted the importation of the above two feed ingredients in the year 2021 onwards (Anonymous 2022b). As a result, the prices of these two feed ingredients along with the other imported feed ingredients have skyrocketed.

(economy next 2023). This decision could have a negative impact on the local chicken industry in the long run. The main reason for the low egg production within the country was the dollar crisis, which led to the non-availability of many inputs essential for the industry. Owing to the low availability of these inputs, their cost increased tremendously and became scarce in the local market. In poultry farming, more than 70% of the cost of production is incurred on feeds. As a result, many small-scale poultry farmers faced the issue of maintaining poultry farms. Many farmers started to sell the layer birds for meat and shifted to broiler farming (economy next 2023). This led to the reduction of the parent stocks and as a result, the price of a day-old layer bird became unaffordable by the small-scale farmers. It is easy to shut down an agricultural operation, but it will take years and years to revitalise such an industry to the level that existed. The authors started research with village chicken with funds from the National Research Council in 2022 and had to spend more than the estimated due to the high price of feed ingredients. At the time of the proposal writing in 2019 the price of one kg of maize meal was LKR 12.50 and by the time the research was implemented in 2022 it was LKR 250.00 marking a 20-fold increase in the price.

Thus, it is clear that the recent abrupt decisions and unwise actions taken by relevant authorities to patch up the situation without paying attention to the long-term repercussions have affected the livestock industry immensely and left the small and medium-scale livestock and poultry farmers, who represent the live wire of the sector, out of business. The authorities need to make informed decisions to reinstate the conducive environment immediately, though the 'point of no return' has almost passed.

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**Figure 1: Beef Production by Province 2021 (kg)**



Source: (Anonymous 2021)

**Table 6: Maize and soya bean meal imports**

Ingredient	2020	2021	% change
Maize (MT)	26,932.06	4837.50	-82%
Soya bean meal (MT)	213,610.00	192,565.53	-10%

Source: Anonymous (2022b)

## THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Dear heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked many favours. This time I ask you this special one (mention favour). Take it dear heart of Jesus, and place it within your heart where your Father sees it. Then, in his merciful eyes it will become your own favour and not mine. Amen. Say this prayer three times for three days and your favour will be granted. Never been known to fail. Must promise publication of prayer.  
N.G.

## Notice

Requesting pardon from Sri Lankans under section 131 of the National Drug Regulatory Authority Act of 2015 and as ordered by the Honourable Court.

We the undermentioned P. Rayland Leonard Fernando and Jayasuriya Arachchige Don Christopher Amila Pushpa Kumara owners of "Chris Pharmacy" situated at 79/01

Liyanagemulla Seeduwa, hereby inform the Sri Lankans that we were charged in the Magistrates Courts of Negombo under case number M/68776 on 01/06/2023 for the following five offences: conducting a business of sale of drugs without holding a license issued by the National Drug Regulatory Authority and selling at our Pharmacy at retail prices, to Drug addicts and others without Medical prescriptions, drugs the sale of which have been limited by the Drugs Authority, not employing a Pharmacist, hoarding of drugs which have been stealthily brought by individuals, and stocking of drugs issued to Doctors as samples. We were found guilty of such offences, by the Magistrate Courts, and a fine of Rs. 200,000.00 was imposed by court on Myself (Amila Pushpa Kumara) and a fine of Rs. 100,000.00 on P. Rayland Leonard.

We hereby promise that such offences will not be committed by us in the future and beg pardon from all the Sri Lankans for offences committed by us. Jayasuriya Arachchige Don Christopher Amila Pushpakumara

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

### CANCELLATION OF LICENCE ISSUED TO KANRICH FINANCE LTD, DUE TO THE AMALGAMATION WITH NATION LANKA FINANCE PLC UNDER THE FINANCE BUSINESS ACT, NO. 42 OF 2011

The public is hereby informed that, subsequent to the amalgamation of Kanrich Finance Ltd with Nation Lanka Finance PLC as part of the Masterplan for Consolidation of Non-Bank Financial Institutions Sector, the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka has cancelled the Licence issued to Kanrich Finance Ltd to carry on finance business under the Finance Business Act, No. 42 of 2011, with effect from 31.07.2023.

Further, registration of Kanrich Finance Ltd issued under the Finance Leasing Act, No. 56 of 2000, has been cancelled by the Director, the Department of Supervision of Non-Bank Financial Institutions, with effect from 31.07.2023.

Director / Department of Supervision of Non-Bank Financial Institutions  
Central Bank of Sri Lanka

Central Bank of Sri Lanka, No. 30, Janadhipathi Mawatha, Colombo 01  
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