

Livestock Farming in Urban Areas: Bringing the Village to the City

Priyanjena Chacko J^{1*}, Ramadass S² and Sanchana Dhas A. K¹

¹PG Scholar, Dept. of Agronomy, SRMCAS, SRMIST, Chengalpattu-603201

²Assistant Professor and Head, Dept. of Agronomy, SRMCAS, SRMIST, Chengalpattu-603201

Corresponding Author

Priyanjena Chacko J

Email: pc9238@srmist.edu.in



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ABSTRACT

As a creative way to connect rural and urban life, urban livestock farming is fostering community well-being, sustainability, and food security. Cities can improve nutrient recycling through the use of organic waste and lessen their reliance on outside food supplies by incorporating livestock like poultry, goats, and dairy animals into their urban environments. Through waste management and the creation of green spaces, this technique not only provides fresh, locally produced animal products but also supports environmental sustainability. But issues like space constraints, trash disposal, and health standards need to be handled with careful planning and policy backing. The concept of "bringing the village to the city" is genuinely embodied by urban livestock farming, which promotes sustainability and resilience in metropolitan areas.

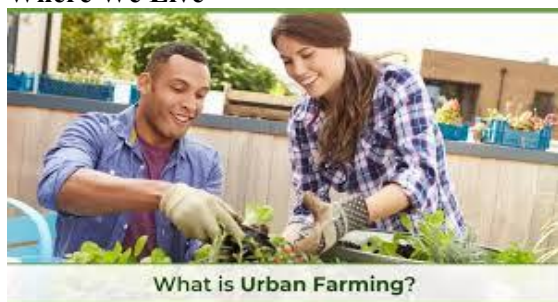
INTRODUCTION: Farming Finds a Place in the City

Urban livestock farming—raising animals like cows, goats, and chickens within cities—blends tradition, sustainability, and survival. Though often overlooked, it has deep historical roots and remains vital in many developing regions, offering fresh food, income, and cultural



value. It recycles urban waste into resources like manure and biogas, supports livelihoods, and strengthens food security during crises. Yet, challenges like space constraints, sanitation, and regulatory barriers demand thoughtful management. Ultimately, this practice proves that agriculture thrives even in crowded cityscapes, forging a resilient bond between people and animals amid urban life. By 2050, there will be 9.6 billion people on the planet, up from the current 7.2 billion (GERBER *et al.*, 2014). The FAO (2011) projects that the demand for animal products (meat and milk) would rise sharply as a result of the establishment of a global middle class and dietary variety, rising by 73% and 58%, respectively, between 2010 and 2050. As urban populations increase, economic standing improves, and dietary habits change, there is an increasing demand for items derived from animal sources (Delgado, 2005; Oosting *et al.*, 2014; Tacoli and Agergaard, 2017; Worku *et al.*, 2017).

What Is Urban Farming? Growing Food Where We Live



When we think of farming, we often imagine vast green fields, tractors, and villages far from the hustle and bustle of city life. But farming today is no longer restricted to rural areas. A growing trend known as **urban farming** is bringing agriculture into towns and cities, allowing people to grow food right where they live. *“Given the physical difficulties of getting food into town, it is hardly surprising that most pre-industrial cities were compact by modern standards. A day’s journey by car, a distance of around 20 miles, was the practical limit for bringing in*

grain overland, which limit the width of the city’s arable belt. The simple laws of geometry meant that the larger a city grew, the smaller the relative size of its rural hinterland became, until the latter could no longer feed the former.” (Steel, 2008: 70. Rooftops, balconies, backyards, communal gardens, or even vacant area tucked between buildings can be the setting. While some people raise fish in little tanks or birds for eggs, others cultivate vegetables in pots. Because it helps families save money, delivers fresh and nutritious food right to people's doorsteps, and allows them to make extra money by selling leftover produce like milk, eggs, or vegetables, this practice is becoming more and more popular. Urban farming not only provides food and revenue but also helps the environment by recycling garbage, lowering the need for long-distance food transportation, and bringing vegetation to areas that are dominated by concrete. Additionally, it fosters community because community farms and shared gardens provide chances for collaboration and closer links within the neighbourhood.

Why Keep Animals in Cities



At first, the idea of keeping animals in cities might seem unusual, but it is steadily becoming a part of modern urban life. Many families now raise chickens, goats, cows, or even fish in small spaces, as these animals provide them with fresh milk, eggs, and meat right at home. For some, it also serves as a way to earn extra income by selling surplus products within their neighbourhood. Urban livestock proves especially valuable during times of crisis, such as food shortages or

transport delays, because it ensures a reliable source of nutrition. Beyond food and income, these animals also help reduce waste—kitchen leftovers, fruit peels, and vegetable scraps can be used as feed instead of being discarded. In this way, keeping animals in cities goes beyond meeting dietary needs; it supports families, reduces waste, and makes urban living more sustainable.

Fresh Food Nearby

Urban farming gives people the advantage of having fresh food right at their doorstep. Instead of relying on produce that travels long distances, city residents can grow vegetables or raise animals for milk and eggs in small spaces like rooftops or balconies. The food they consume is fresher, tastier, and more nutritious since it is harvested or produced locally. This also helps reduce household expenses and dependence on market supplies. Moreover, it builds trust in food quality, as people know exactly how their food is grown. Overall, urban farming promotes healthier eating habits and a stronger connection between people and their food.

A Source of Income:

Urban farming isn't just about putting food on the table—it can also bring in extra money. Many people in cities sell the surplus vegetables, fruits, milk, or eggs they produce to neighbours, small shops, or local markets. What may begin as a simple garden on the balcony or a few chickens in the backyard can slowly turn into a regular source of income. For some families, this extra money helps pay for everyday needs, school fees, or even medical expenses. By making the most of small spaces, urban farmers not only provide fresh food for themselves but also open doors to better financial stability.

Challenges of Raising Animals in Cities

Raising animals in cities isn't always easy. Space is often limited, and crowded sheds can make animals unhealthy or less productive. If hygiene is not maintained, waste and odours may bother neighbours and even lead to the spread of diseases. Managing feed and water for animals in busy urban areas can also be a struggle. On top of that, many city governments have strict rules about keeping livestock, which can make it harder for families to continue the practice. These challenges show that while urban livestock farming has many benefits, it also needs careful planning, cleanliness, and cooperation to work smoothly in city life.

Future of Urban Livestock

The future of urban livestock is bright as cities adopt innovative and sustainable food systems. Modern setups like rooftop dairies, community poultry, and aquaponics are replacing traditional methods. Supported by smart technologies, urban livestock will complement rural farming by shortening food chains, reducing waste, and providing fresh local produce. With growing focus on food security and sustainability, it will become a key part of resilient, self-reliant cities.

CONCLUSION: City and Farm Hand in Hand

Agriculture doesn't have to end at the outskirts of cities, as demonstrated by urban animal production. Farming can survive even in the midst of concrete jungles, demonstrating the compatibility of modern life and customs. Keeping animals in cities may give people access to fresh, healthful food, generate reliable revenue streams, and even benefit the environment by recycling garbage and creating greener areas if done with the right care, cleanliness, and community collaboration. Simple pictures like a cow being milked in a local dairy or a hen laying eggs on a tiny

balcony serve as a reminder that food is more than simply what we see on store shelves. It starts with the connection that has sustained humanity for many generations: that between humans and animals. This relationship is maintained in a new context through urban livestock farming, demonstrating that cities can continue the traditional farming rhythm while creating a more sustainable and healthy future.

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