The proposed 7-point approach for augmenting livestock production in Assam.

Meeting with senior officials of State Innovation and Transformation Aayog (SITA), Assam.

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Assam State Veterinary Roadmap Project
General statements to justify proposed approaches:

✓ Curative veterinary service is ‘Private good’ for a commercial farm and as such Public investment should focus on preventive, regulatory and business facilitation related services. Public curative service need to focus more on poor smallholders.

✓ The economic value of livestock depends on its productivity. Veterinary service should ensure that animals do not suffer from diseases with proactive actions covering all aspects of health monitoring, feeding and farm management.

✓ Livelihood support to poor, facilitation of private investment across value chain, food safety and protection of public health are few key areas of activities for public veterinary services.

✓ Government’s direct intervention in the form of commercial farm operation, price control and marketing of livestock product may be detrimental to the growth of private operations.
Roadmap Report of the department highlighted the detail action plan of A. H and Veterinary Department for above goals. The sectoral action plans / district level plans of the department should converge on this.
Roadmap Report of the department highlighted a 10 point general action plan of A. H and Veterinary Department to achieve above. The sectoral / district action plan should converge on this.
Basis of all these analysis is ICMR recommendation and government sample survey of production data. No single comprehensive demand study for local produce in last 10 years!

Inter-state import indicates supply gap but not the demand for locally produced products!
Demand survey for local produce and fixing of realistic and sustainable production target at the level of Panchayat, Production cluster and village.
Emergence of commercial farm operations
Emergence of value chain critical operations
A total of 350 trucks* carrying table eggs are entering Assam in a month. Out of these a minimum of 100 trucks are unloaded for consumption within Guwahati city alone. The calculation thus indicates total interstate import of table egg of 94.66 million per month.

The hatcheries in North east India imports 2.4 million hatching egg per week or 9.6 million per month from other parts of the country.

Estimated total per day sale of broiler chicken in North east India is 661 tons out of which 521 tons are produced within the region and 140 tons enters the state from neighboring states.

Source: Report of Lotus Chicks Pvt Ltd (2016-17), Guwahati, Assam
*One truck carries in an average 1288 cartoon having 210 eggs each or 270480 number of eggs
Unique Production Systems: *Khutis* in forest and riverine areas

Recognized ‘*Lakhimi*’ Breed
Mass production to market led production: Focus on value chain critical operations, safety, nutrition, brand building and niche marketing

(Special emphasis on enterprises that uses state’s unique farming system and indigenous animal as their branding strategy)
The state average of the aerial distance of a PVSI -primary veterinary service infrastructure (SVD / BVD / VH) from district HQ is 25 km. There is hardly any PVSI beyond 100 km.
Distribution of NGOs Working in the AH Sector in Assam

Source: NGO-DARPAN of NITI Aayog
Potential to develop clusters:
Targeted delivery of productivity oriented quality veterinary and extension service to identified production clusters to scale up production of quality products.
Partnership with panchayat and community organizations to address the ‘Last mile problem’ of preventive and curative service delivery for livelihood support to poor smallholder farmers.
Mass centric to client centric approach of services: Investment on mobile facilities to reach out to farmers at their doorstep.
Instead of dairy, focus on small farm animal and backyard poultry in remote and hilly areas as livelihood support program.
Just 12% of the respondents reported availing loans from financial institutions for livestock farming. Only 4% of commercial farms have bank account in the name of their enterprises (Current Accounts).
Improve access to credit through promotion of current account, Livestock Farm Decision Support system, Private data service for productivity monitoring of supported units by banks etc.