

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY  
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT  
POLICY

Voluntary  Public

**Date:** 12/26/2013

**GAIN Report Number:** IN3158

## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### Water Buffalo Meat Value Chain

**Report Categories:**

Livestock and Products

**Approved By:**

Allan Mustard

**Prepared By:**

Allan Mustard

**Report Highlights:**

A private-sector study of the Indian water buffalo meat value chain reveals that this sector should grow at 15% per annum in coming years. Carabeef production could easily increase by another 50 percent if male buffalo calves currently allowed to die were salvaged and fed out. Buffalo meat production is highly lucrative for farmers, who receive 70 percent of the price paid by consumers.

**General Information:**

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (FICCI) published a public-domain report, [\*Overview of the Indian Buffalo Meat Value Chain\*](#), in December 2013, based on primary research conducted in 10 states of India accounting for high production of carabeef (water buffalo meat), the largest number of export-oriented production units, and the major procurement centers for live buffalo. Carabeef production in municipal slaughterhouses for domestic consumption was 936,000 metric tons (carcass weight equivalent or CWE) in 2011/12; export of carabeef, all boneless, in that year was 985,481 metric tons, or about 1.6 million tons CWE. The report concluded that up to an additional 1.72 million metric tons (CWE) of carabeef could be produced in India if male buffalo calves currently allowed to die were salvaged and fed out. This implies that with proper incentives in place, production of Indian carabeef could rise by another 50 percent based on the existing calf crop, most of which would be exported. The report states carabeef production is expected to grow at 15 percent per year “in coming years.” Carabeef is a byproduct of the dairy industry; farmers capture up to 70 percent of the price paid by consumers for domestically consumed carabeef, and up to 55 percent of the price of exported carabeef. Major constraints on expansion include environmental regulations, transportation costs, and scarcity of land for processing plants. The full report is available for download at no charge from <http://www.ficci.com/publication-page.asp?spid=20331>