

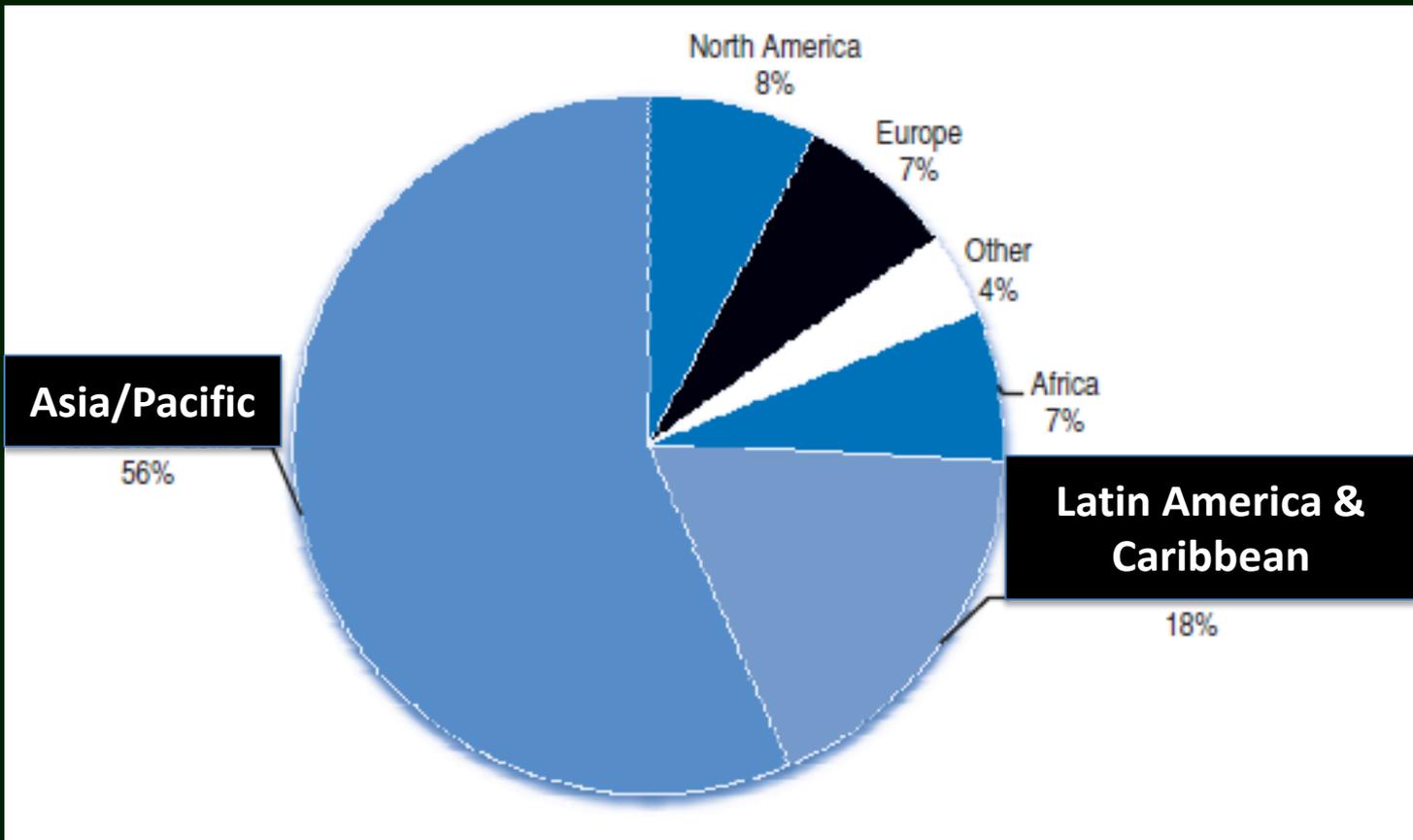
Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty
Worldwide



HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

hsi.org

Regions with the greatest growth in animal consumption











Animal Welfare & Food Security

**The confinement of egg laying hens in India:
Perceived impacts on nutrition and economic
security in low income households**



India is the 3rd largest producer of eggs in the world



~80% of those eggs are produced in battery cages





Facilities with tens of thousands of birds = norm



Egg Industry controlled by a handful of large companies



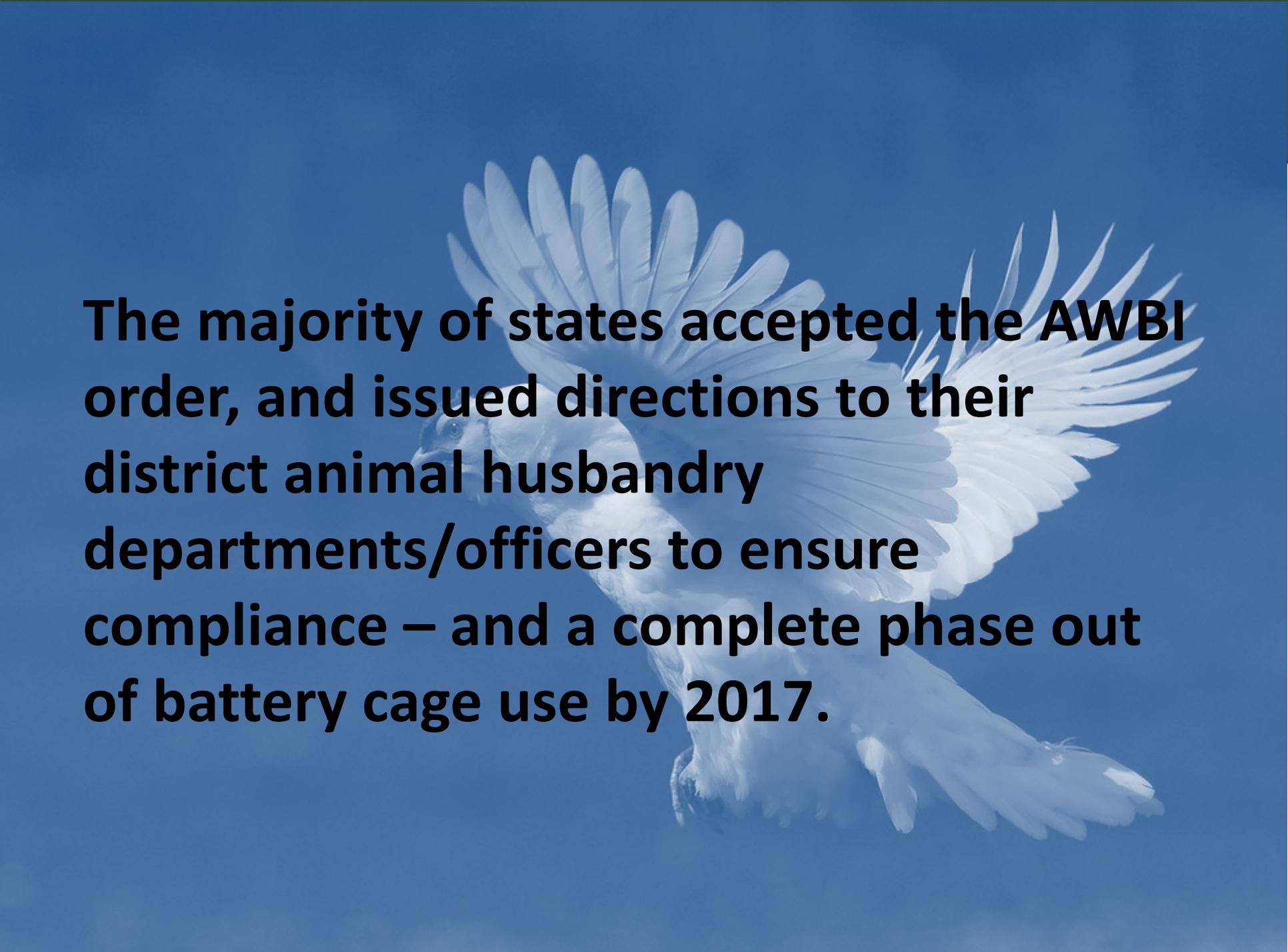


Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. A person is treating animals violating the anti-cruelty law if s/he:

Section 11(e): “keeps or **confines any animal in any cage or other receptacle which does not** measure sufficiently in height, length and breadth to **permit the animal a reasonable opportunity for movement”**

On February 16, 2012, the AWBI wrote to the Central Government and all State Governments , stating that the use of battery cages violates the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1960), and advising that the respective Governments issue directions to poultry farmers, prohibiting the use of battery cages in egg production and **phasing out the existing facilities by 2017.**



A white bird, possibly a swan or a large goose, is shown in flight against a solid blue background. The bird's wings are fully extended, and its tail feathers are visible. The bird is positioned in the center-right of the frame, facing left. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

The majority of states accepted the AWBI order, and issued directions to their district animal husbandry departments/officers to ensure compliance – and a complete phase out of battery cage use by 2017.

India: Court issues notice on hens in battery cages

LAYERS

1068

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A court in Chandigarh, the capital city of the Indian states of Punjab and

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**Federation of Indian Animal
Protection Organizations**

vs.

**The Union of India
(and others)**



paper for more than a year before she's slaughtered.

India is the third largest producer of eggs in the world. Currently, at least 70% of its eggs come from

RESPONDENTS:

1. The Union of India, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, **Ministry of Agriculture**
2. The Union of India, Animal Welfare Division, **Ministry of Environment and Forests**
3. The Union of India, **Ministry of Finance**
4. The **Animal Welfare Board of India**
5. **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development**
6. **All State Governments/Union Territories**
7. **Poultry Federation of India**

Key Elements of Union of India Response

- Egg Industry Generates Employment
 - **Evidence that industrial poultry production/caged production generates more employment than higher welfare production?**

Key Elements of Union of India Response

- Egg Industry Generates Employment
 - **Extensive review of literature by HSI suggests loss of income employment:**
 - **Small farmers pushed out of market (outcompeted)**
 - **Employment opportunities diminish (industrial facilities need fewer workers)**
 - **Monopolistic behavior by poultry companies, inequities/problems with vertical integration**

Key Elements of Union of India Response

- Eggs are a high quality (complete) protein. Eggs must be affordable (cages are required to keep them affordable)
 - **Any evidence that cage-free production would make eggs unaffordable?**
 - **On what scale of farm/factory does the use of cages actually impact costs? A ban on cages might not impact production costs for small farmers (few thousand birds or less), but could increase costs on for large factory farms (tens of thousands of birds or more)?**

Key Elements of Union of India Response

- Eggs must be affordable (cages are required to keep them affordable)
 - **Where is the evidence that a price increase for factory farmed eggs would impact food insecure populations/populations that need to increase their ASF consumption?**
 - **Evidence that food insecure households acquire eggs/ASF from market (factory farm) as opposed to local (barn/free-range) production.**

Key Elements of Union of India Response

- There is a need to continue increasing egg production efficiency and production. Increased production minimizes malnutrition
 - **Where is the evidence that increasing efficiency improves food security?**
 - **Where is the evidence that increased production on factory farms increases access to eggs by households/individual suffering from malnutrition?**

Key Elements of Union of India Response

- Proportion of the population that is malnourished in India is the highest in the world (40%). More than 1/3 of the world's malnourished children live in India.
 - **Does industrializing the poultry sector solve this problem?**
 - **Over the past 50 years, egg and chicken meat production has been radically transformed from a largely backyard activity to a massive agro-industry, but malnutrition persists, and the urban-rural and inter-income-quintile inequalities in nutritional status have widened throughout India.**

Key Elements of Union of India Response

- The proportion of the population that is malnourished in India is the highest in the world (40%). More than 1/3 of the world's malnourished children live in India.
 - **India is burdened with two different nutrition-related health problems: undernutrition and anemia in one hand, and overweight or obesity on the other.**

Key Elements of Union of India Response

- The proportion of the population that is malnourished in India is the highest in the world (40%). More than 1/3 of the world's malnourished children live in India.
 - **Elevated adiposity levels more associated with the richer sections of the society, noticeably in urban areas .**
 - **For example, 24% of urban Indian adults are now overweight and approximately the same percentage of urban children in New Delhi are overweight or obese.**

Key Elements of Industry Response to Writ Petition

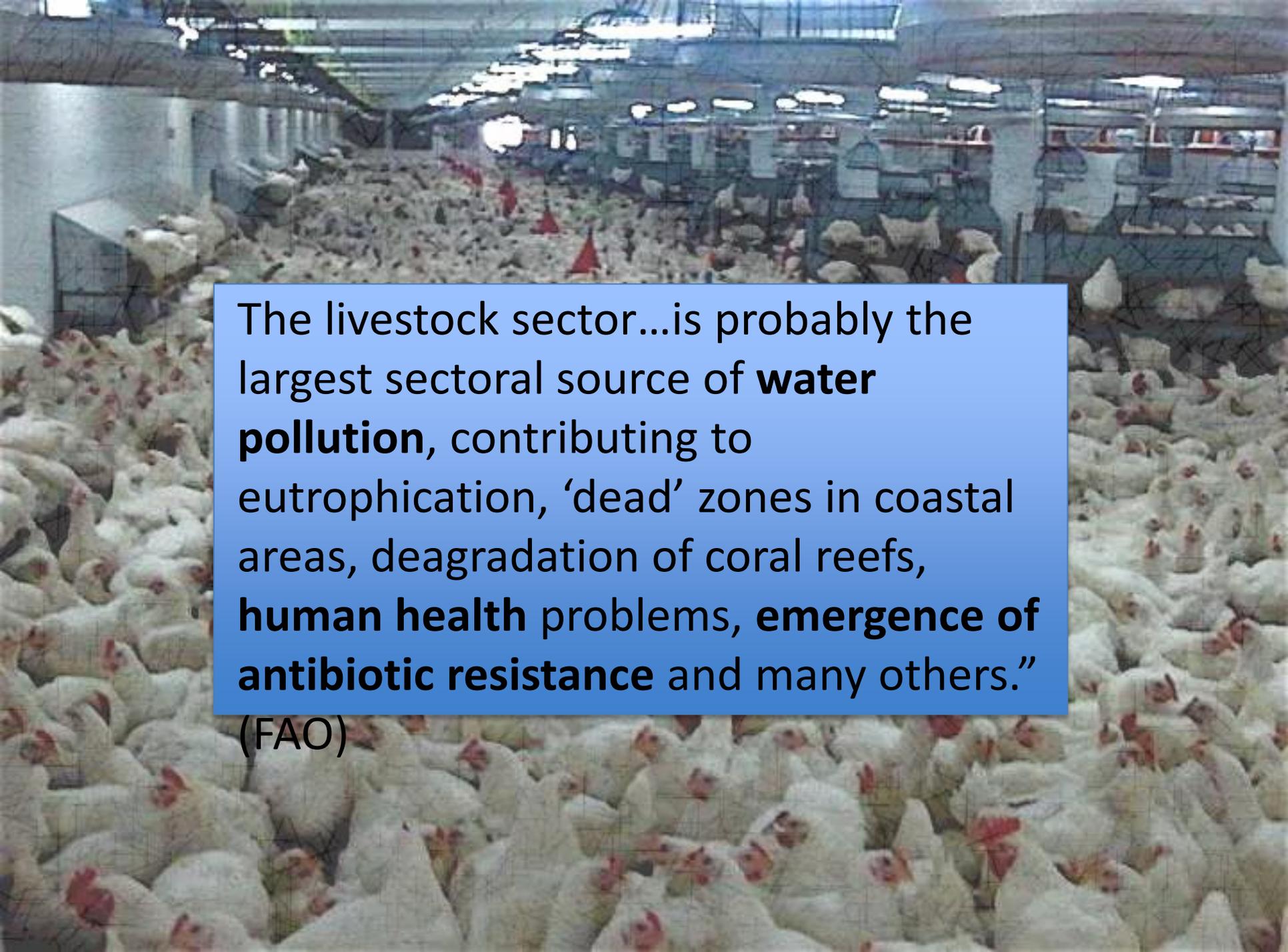
- The present availability of eggs is still far below the Indian Council of Medical Research recommendations of 180 eggs per capita per annum.
 - ***Is per capita* consumption the most useful number in a nutrition-transition country? Shouldn't we be looking at disaggregated data?**

India: Different food production systems, Different food consumption patterns



Increasing relevance of this discussion globally

The livestock sector emerges as one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global.....it should be a major policy focus when dealing with problems of **land degradation, climate change and air pollution, water shortage and water pollution** and loss of biodiversity.” (FAO)

A large indoor poultry farm with thousands of white chickens in cages. The birds are densely packed in rows of cages that stretch into the distance. The lighting is bright, and the overall scene depicts a large-scale industrial farming operation.

The livestock sector...is probably the largest sectoral source of **water pollution**, contributing to eutrophication, 'dead' zones in coastal areas, degradation of coral reefs, **human health** problems, **emergence of antibiotic resistance** and many others.”

(FAO)

- **~33% of arable land used to produce feed crops, in addition to vast areas of forested land that is clear-cut to graze or grow feed for farmed animals.**
 - **Globally, more than 60% of corn and barley, and over 97% of soymeal, are fed to farm animals.**
- **The conversion of energy and protein in animal feed into edible meat calories and protein is highly inefficient.**

Beyond India

- Project financed in China: Increasing the number of hogs produced by one single company from 0.5 million to 1.3 million/year.
 - Average Chinese already eats 86 pounds (39 kilograms) of pig meat each year, compared with 59 pounds in the United States.

Beyond India

- Financing expansion one of the largest poultry producers in Europe (largest in Ukraine, accounts for 50% of Ukraine poultry production).
 - ~50% of adults suffer from one or more chronic diseases, and either obese or overweight.
 - 67% of deaths from CVD(2009)

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