

CONSTRAINTS IDENTIFIED IN POULTRY FARMING IN REASI DISTT. OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, INDIA

ABSTRACT

Poultry farming plays an important role in the livelihood for the farmers of hilly areas of J&K. The hilly area farmers face lot of constraints in poultry farming which affect their poultry birds productivity. Poultry farming is an important occupation in Reasi distt. of J&K. In order to identify the constraints involved in the poultry farming by the farmers residing in hilly areas, the present study was conducted in hilly district Reasi of Jammu and Kashmir which was selected purposively. A sample of 120 poultry farmers was selected purposively from the selected villages. The major constraints identified were lack of lack of poultry feed in some months of the year, high disease incidence and lack of improved strains of poultry. Majority of poultry farmers opined that there is need to encourage the farmers for growing the Azolla specially in off season, need of subsidy of poultry feed, awareness-cum trainings on poultry farming and market channel for the sale of products(eggs&meat) for better remunerative prices for the meat and eggs.

Keywords: Poultry, poultry health, hilly areas, constraints

INTRODUCTION

Presently poultry is one of the fastest growing segments of the agricultural sector in India. This sector has been observed as one of the most significant activities of the rural people. As per industry sources, the domestic poultry market in India is valued at between 6-7 billions of which chicken(meat and eggs) account for 90 per cent of the market. Poultry farming has been practiced by the farmers of the Union Territory of J&K since the time immemorial. Poultry farming has been found as an important enterprise in J&K. This sector has gained tremendous growth over the years and is helpful to create income and employment opportunities among the farmers of J&K. Poultry farming has great scope in the hilly areas of J&K. Although lot of progress has been made under this sector but still J&K is deficient in meat and egg production and demand of meat and eggs is mitigated by purchasing them from the other states of the

country. In J&K about Rs.2000 crores of meat is imported every year from the outside of J&K. There is need to excel in the poultry production to mitigate the demand. Egg and meat laying poultry strains have been introduced in the Union Territory of J&K to excel the meat and eggs production in J&K. The poultry sector can ensure the income, employment and nutrition securities among the farmers of J&K.

The economic status of the farmers of hilly areas can be improved by improving the poultry sector in rural areas of J&K. Farmers residing in hilly areas adopt the poultry farming as an enterprise but they face many problems. Keeping in mind the important bottlenecks faced by the poultry farmers of hilly distt. Reasi of J&K, a study on "Constraints identified in poultry farming in hilly distt. Reasi of Jammu and Kashmir, India" has been undertaken with the specific objective:

- (i) Constraints identified in poultry farming in Reasi distt. of Jammu and Kashmir, India.

Material and Methods

The present study was conducted in hilly district Reasi of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir which was selected purposively as the KVK is catering the farming problems in the distt. Out of 12 C.D Blocks 4 C.D. Blocks namely Reasi, Pouni, Panthal and Arnas were selected randomly. A sample of 120 poultry farmers was selected purposively from the selected villages. The constraints in rearing of poultry birds were identified. The data from the selected farmers were collected and the schedules prepared for the purpose. Farmers opinions were taken regarding the solutions of the bottlenecks faced by the farmers of selected areas. The data collected for the study purpose was classified, tabulated and required statistical tools were used for interpretation.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Table 1: Poultry Farmers Units

S.No.	Poultry Farmers Unit Size	Criteria	Frequency	Per centage

1.	Small Size Unit	1- 1000 birds	104	86.66
2.	Medium Size Unit	1001-2000 birds	11	9.16
3.	Large Size Unit	2001 and above	5	4.16

The table 1, reveals that out of 120 poultry farmers, 86.66 per cent were having small size units, 9.16 per cent were having medium size units while 4.16 per cent were having large size units.

Table 2.Constraints identified in the poultry farmers in Reasi distt. of J&K

S. No.	Constraints identified	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Lack of poultry health aid	56	46.66
2.	High infestation of diseases	23	19.16
3.	Lack of improved strains of poultry	47	39.16
4.	High cost of feed	42	35.00
5.	Lack of poultry feed in some months of the year	93	77.50
6.	Less market prices for the products(eggs & meat)	38	31.66

The figures in table 2, reveals that 46.66 per cent respondents said that there was lack of poultry health aid in there areas, 19.16 per cent farmers said that there was high infestation of poultry diseases in their areas and they had difficulty to treat their poultry birds.39.16 per cent

respondents were of the opinion that their was lack of improved strains of the poultry which caused low productivity in the meat and eggs products.35.00 per cent poultry farmers faced the high cost of poultry feed. Due to high cost of feed and their low income, they were unable to provide the quality feed to their poultry birds.77.50 per centpoultry farmers faced the poultry feed problem in some months of the year. Due to lack of availability of local maize grains on the hillspecially in May and June, the production of poultry birds was reduced. 31.66 per cent of poultry farmers were getting less market prices for their products.

The finding is in line with the findings of Mapiye and Sibanda (2005),Mohi and Bhatti (2006),Karin and Jonathan (2007),Olaniyi et al (2008),Grepay (2009),Moreki (2010),Ngosa (2011),Saiful et al(2012), Gasura et al(2013),Addis and Malede (2014), Tyagi (2014), Lal et al(2016)and Chawke et al(2021),

Table 3. Farmers’ response for the solution of the problems in poultry farming in Reasi distt. of J&K

S. No.	Farmers opinion	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Awareness-cum-trainings for proper poultry health care	54	45.00
2.	Training for preparing the low cost balanced feed for the poultry	36	30.00
3.	Availability of improved breed of poultry	72	60.00
4.	Subsidy on quality feed	87	72.50
5.	Encourage the farmers for growing the Azolla especially in off season of the year	101	84.16
6.	Provide market channel for the sale of products(eggs&meat)	48	40.00

The table 3 reveals that 89.50 per cent respondents said that there was need to made availability of improved strains of poultry.84.16 per cent respondents said that there was need to encourage the poultry farmers for growing the Azolla especially in the off season of the year.72.50 farmers said that there should be subsidy for the quality feed for the poultry, while 60 per cent farmers responded that there is need of availability of improved breeds of poultry. 45.00 farmers said that there was need for the awareness-cum-training for proper poultry health care. 40.00 per cent farmers said that government agencies should provide proper market channel so they can fetch more returns from the poultry products.30.00 per cent respondents said that they should be imparted training on preparation of low cost balanced feed for the poultry.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that majority (86.66 per cent) of respondents were having small size units of poultry. Majority (77.50 per cent) of respondents said that theylack poultry feed in some months of the year whichwas the major constraint in poultry farming in hilly areas. 89.50 per cent respondents opined that there was need to made availability of improved strains of poultry which was another major constraint in the poultry farming in the hilly areas of J&K. 72.50 percent respondents said that there should be subsidy for the quality feed for the poultry.

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