

## **CONSTRAINTS FACED BY POULTRY FARM ENTREPRENEURS IN BANASKANTHA DISTRICT, GUJARAT**

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### **ABSTRACT**

A study was conducted to identify the constraints in poultry farming by collecting data from 110 poultry farm entrepreneurs in Banaskantha district of Gujarat. The data was analyzed by statistical tools. The constraints faced were availability of birds and personal, situational, economic and marketing aspects of the poultry enterprise. Most poultry entrepreneurs faced low egg prices during summer, high costs of feed and medicine, lack of adequate credit facilities, fluctuating prices for the poultry products, increased risks and uncertainty of the poultry enterprise, high mortality of chicks and non-availability of veterinary aids. These were the major constraints perceived by poultry entrepreneurs. The establishment of poultry co-operative societies, mobile lab diagnostics available in 24 hours, provision of loans to needy poultry farmers at reasonable interest rates and awareness programmes on various scientific poultry farm management practices will lessen the prevailing constraints, improve poultry production and create better livelihood opportunities and more economic activity in rural areas.

### **INTRODUCTION**

In recent years there has been increasing recognition among the development community about the role that backyard poultry production can play in sustaining and enhancing poor people's livelihoods. There is also growing evidence which demonstrates the role of rural family poultry in enhancing food and nutritional security of the poorest, reducing their livelihood vulnerability and insecurity and promoting gender equity (Ahuja and Sen, 2007; Otte, 2006). The poultry sector in India has undergone

a major shift in structure and operation in the last two decades, transforming it from a mere backyard activity into a major commercial activity with the presence of large integrated players and successful implementation of contract poultry farming on a large scale. The transformation involved sizeable investments in breeding, hatching, rearing and processing. The Indian poultry sector has been growing at around 8-10% annually over the last decade and more than 15 % in the last three years. The production capacity has responded with increased integration and increased penetration of contract of poultry farming (ICRA, 2011). Gujarat has three regional poultry breeding farms, eight district poultry farms and seven poultry demonstration centres of the government, one government broiler farm, 1369 private sector broiler farms and only one poultry farmers' co-operative society. As per the livestock census 2007 of Gujarat, the poultry population is 1.34 crores which is only 2.42% (rank 16) in the country; the estimated meat production of 2008-09 is 15000 tones which contributes only 0.81% of national output (Anynomes, 2010). Poultry farming is one of those most promising areas that can ease the enormous amount of demographic pressure on agriculture and global meltdown and other emerging zoonotics diseases such as bird flu. Hence, the present study was carried out to identify the constraints in poultry farming of Bansakantha and to suggest suitable policy measures to overcome the hurdles faced by poultry farmers.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study was conducted by collecting data from the poultry entrepreneurs of Banaskantha district. Eighteen villages from two talukes,

Palanpur and Vadgam, which had a high percentage of the population engaged in poultry farming, were chosen for the study. The data were collected by the personal interview method with the use of a pre-tested interview schedule.

Garrett's ranking technique was followed to analyse the constraints perceived by poultry entrepreneurs. Farmers were asked to rank the factors that were limiting poultry production. These were then transformed into units of scores by using the following formula:

$$\text{Per cent position} = 100 \frac{(R_{ij} - 0.50)}{N_j}$$

where  $R_{ij}$  - Rank given for the  $i^{\text{th}}$  factor by the  $j^{\text{th}}$  individual

$N_j$  - Number of factor ranked by the  $j^{\text{th}}$  individual.

The percent position was converted into scores by referring to the table given by Garrett and Woodworth (1969). Then for each factor the scores of the individual respondents were added together and divided by the total number of respondents for whom scores were added. These mean scores for all the factors were arranged in descending order and the most influencing factors were identified through the ranks assigned.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Constraints regarding availability of birds*

About 65.4) mean score of poultry entrepreneurs faced constraints with regard to the high death rate of poultry birds, while a small proportion 20.90 mean score of the respondents pointed to the constraints of non-availability of birds in time.

### *Personal constraints*

Data presented in Table 1 revealed that 15.45 mean score of poultry entrepreneurs faced constraints regarding inability to pay constant attention, followed by 00.00 mean score and 8.18 mean score of respondents who faced religious constraints because all respondents were Muslims and lacked support from family members.

### *Situational constraints*

Majority (78.18) mean score of poultry entrepreneurs described constraints regarding risk and uncertainty and a highly fluctuating market. No respondents faced electricity and water crises because Gujarat is the only state to provide 24 hours electricity while "Jyotigram Yojna" and also Sardarsarovar Yojna provide water in dry areas of the district. (Table 1)

### *Economic constraints*

The great majority (83.63) mean score of poultry entrepreneurs faced constraints regarding the price of feed because of global meltdown and increased commodity products and globally crude price rates which are high. However, 76.36 mean score of respondents also faced constraints in getting loans and the high rate of interest on any loan. The majority (70.09) mean score of respondents spoke of constraints because of the high price of medicine. A large proportion (62.73) mean score of respondents expressed concern about the lack of finance in the poultry sector and 43.63 mean score had problems because birds were costly; 10.09 mean score of poultry entrepreneurs faced constraints due to the high cost of electricity. (Table 1)

### *Marketing constraints*

Almost all (85.45) mean score poultry entrepreneurs suffered constraints regarding low egg prices during the summer season, while 39.09 mean score of respondents were constrained by the low wholesale price of eggs. 21.82 mean score of respondents faced constraints due to breakage of eggs during transportation. (Table 1)

### *Management constraints*

About 70.91 mean score of respondents pointed out the non-availability of prompt veterinary aids, while an equal percentage (22.72) mean score of respondents described the inferior quality of feed received from feed agencies and non-availability of laborers. Nearly half (43.63) mean score of respondents were constrained by the non-availability of grading equipment and 78.18 mean score reported constraints regarding losses due to changes in environmental

conditions because of the effects of global warming. (Table 1)

The findings are in agreement with the findings reported by Nimbalkar (1998), Amudha and Veerabhadraiah (2000), Mayekar *et al.* (2001), Patel *et al.* (2002) and Thorat (2005).

### CONCLUSION

The present study concluded that the major constraints in poultry farming were lack of veterinary services, the high price of medicine and feed, lack of adequate long term credit facilities and fluctuating prices for poultry products. There are important implications for policy makers. The authorities should establish poultry co-operative societies and poultry SEZ (Special Economic Zones) to help poultry farmers increase economic activity, creating livelihood opportunities in rural areas. Poultry farming can play a major role in improving food security problems in our country.

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**Table 1**  
**Distribution of the poultry entrepreneurs by their constraints faced in poultry management practices. (n=110)**

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Mean Score	Rank
A.	Availability of birds			
1	Non-availability of improved birds in time	23	20.90	XIII
2	Death rate of birds is high	72	65.45	VI
B	Personal constrains			
1	Inability to pay constant attention	17	15.45	XIV
2	Religious constraints	00	00.00	---
3	Lack of supports from family members	9	8.18	XVI
C	Situational constrains			
1	Risk and uncertainty	86	78.18	III
2	Difficulty in getting electric supply	00	00.00	---
3	Difficulty for water	00	00.00	---
D	Economic constraints			
1	Lack of finance	69	62.72	VII
2	Difficulty in getting loan	64	58.18	VIII
3	High cost of feed	92	83.63	II
4	High price of medicine	78	70.91	V
5	High charge of electricity	12	10.90	XV
6	High rate of interest on loans	84	76.36	IV
7	Birds are costly	48	43.63	IX
E	Marketing constrains			
1	Low egg price during summer	94	85.45	I
2	Irregular payment of sale of eggs	12	10.90	XV

3	Wholesale price of eggs is low	43	39.09	X
4	Breakage of eggs during transportation	24	21.82	XII
F	Management constraints			
1	Inferior quality of feed received from feed agencies	25	22.72	XI
2	Non-availability of prompt veterinary aids	78	70.91	V
3	Non-availability of labourers for poultry enterprise	25	22.72	XI
4	Non-availability of grading equipment	48	43.63	IX
5	Losses due to change in environmental conditions.	86	78.18	III

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