

CONSTRAINTS PERCEIVED BY THE CHICKEN FARMERS IN MANIPUR

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted in two purposively selected districts viz. Bishnupur and Imphal West districts of Manipur with a view to find out the socio-economic traits of the chicken farmers and to study the constraints faced by them. A total of 100 respondents were selected randomly from the study area and data were collected from them by a pretested, valid and reliable interview schedule. Besides the socio-economic variables, some important constraints of chicken farming assessed earlier by Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Method conducted in two villages- one in each district were incorporated in the interview schedule.

The study revealed that average age, average experience and average family size were 40.56 years, 5.12 years and 5.54 numbers respectively in Bishnupur district. The corresponding figures in Imphal district were 39.30 years, 5.14 years and 5.32 numbers. The average annual income are Rs. 1,05,700.00 in Bishnupur and Rs. 87,500.00 in Imphal West district.

In respect of educational qualification, half (50%) of the respondents in Bishnupur district had graduation and above qualification followed by 26 percent having read up to higher secondary level and only 24 percent up to class X in Bishnupur district. But in Imphal West district majority of them (38%) read up to class X and equal number (26%) read up to higher secondary and graduation and above, and only 10 percent read up to middle school. While scoring applied mean score of education was 5.26 in Bishnupur and 4.68 in Imphal West district. Out of all these variables only educational qualification showed a significant mean difference between two districts at 1 percent level of probability. Constraints perceived by majority respondents were- electricity supply failure, bandh and blockade, high rise of price of day old chick and feed, market fluctuation, lack of awareness regarding poultry farming and lack of financial assistance.

Key words: Constraints, chicken farmers, Manipur.

INTRODUCTION

Poultry farming is an emerging sector of agriculture in Manipur where thousands of educated youths are engaged in poultry farming and allied

activities. However, demand for poultry products in the state outbids the production. This situation has been exploited by private sector which makes lucrative profits. Assam and West Bengal are used to the need of readymade poultry feed and day old

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chicks in Manipur. Of late a scattering of small scale broiler units have been observed in Manipur. Newly developed breeds such as Giriraja and Vanaraja are gaining popularity among the farmers, never the less there are many constraints. Under such circumstances the study was undertaken with a view to find the socio-personal traits of chicken farmers in Manipur and to study the constraints faced by them.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Manipur state. Out of nine districts, two districts viz. Bishnupur and Imphal west were purposively selected. Two blocks were selected from each district at random and finally four blocks constituted the study area. Taking five villages at random from each block, twenty villages were selected and from each village five chicken farmers were selected at random to make the sample size 100. A farmer having a minimum of 20 numbers or more chicken and rearing them for a year or longer continuously was selected as respondent. The data were personally collected by the researcher with a pretested, valid and reliable interview schedule. However, for constraints analysis Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) method was used in two villages- one in each selected district. The major constraints received by the poultry farmers were identified by conducting PRA. These constraints were incorporated in the interview schedule and opinions of the respondents regarding whether they perceive it as a constraint were taken during data collection. The collected data were tabulated, processed and analysed. Statistical analyses like Frequency, Percentage and t- test were conducted to draw the inference.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic status

Table. 1 revealed that a mean age of the respondents in Bishnupur, Imphal West districts and in pooled sample were 40.56, 39.30 and 39.93

years. The insignificant mean difference between the two districts indicated that farmers of similar age group were engaged in chicken farming. Similar findings were reported by Mohsin et. al. (2008).

The mean experience in chicken farming was found to be 5.12 years in Bishnupur, while it was 5.14 years in Imphal West and 5.13 in pooled sample. The insignificant mean difference between the two districts indicated the fact that the trend of chicken farming is a recent phenomenon. Duration of poultry farming were reported as six years by Masuku (2011) and three years by Taru et.al. (2010).

In respect of family size, mean was 5.54 numbers in Bishnupur, 5.10 in Imphal West and 5.32 in the pooled sample. The little higher mean family size in the study area in comparison to other parts of the country was due to the prevalence of joint family system in the study area. Similar findings were reported by Borthakur et.al. (2010) and Yhome et. al. (2011).

The average annual income from chicken farming was Rs. 1,05,700.00 in Bishnupur and Rs. 1,01,950.00 in Imphal West district. In pooled sample it was 51,600.00. The insignificant mean difference between the two districts and overall view of Manipur state made it amply clear that annual income from chicken farming was neither high nor too low but there was scope to enhance it. Annual income from chicken farming in Assam was 71,000.00 and above as reported by Borthakur et.al. (2010) and Gogoi (2004).

In respect of educational qualification half of the respondents (50%) in Bishnupur district were graduates and had higher qualification also followed by 26% with secondary level education and only 24% up to class X. However in Imphal West district, majority (38%) studied up to class X while 26 percent read up to higher secondary, another 26 percent had graduation and above and only 10% up to middle school. With scoring, the

Constraints perceived by the chicken farmers in Manipur

mean for education in Bishnupur was 5.26, while it was 4.97 in Imphal West and 4.57 in pooled sample. The mean difference was significant ($t = 3.25$) at 1% level of probability.

The significantly lower level of education in Imphal West district which had urban base looked paradoxical prima facie. A closer scrutiny made it amply clear that Imphal town being the capital of Manipur state provided the educated youth employment in various sectors, other than chicken farming and this was not the case in Bishnupur district, where more numbers of educated youth adapted chicken farming as a vocation in Bishnupur.

Constraints of chicken farming

Data in Table. 2, reveals constraints obtained by PRA method in two villages one in each district. The most important constraints viewed by majority of the respondents were bandh

and blockade, high rise in price of day old chick and feed, electricity failure, market fluctuation, lack of awareness regarding poultry farming and lack of financial assistance. Yhome (2008) also studied the constraints faced by the poultry farmers in Nagaland and reported similar constraints like high cost of day old chick and feed, electricity failure, price fluctuation etc.

CONCLUSION

Middle aged people in Manipur have engaged in chicken farming, this is a recent phenomenon in the state. Majority of them have a family of more than five members with an annual income of about Rs. 51,000.00. The most important constraints viewed by majority of the respondents were bandh and blockade, increased day old chick cost and feed, electricity failure, market fluctuation, lack of awareness regarding poultry farming and lack of financial assistance.

Table - 1
Socio-personal and economic status of respondents in Bishnupur and Imphal-West districts (mean \pm s.e) in Manipur

Sl. No.	Attribute	District	Mean \pm S.E	't' - value
a.	Age (Years)	Bishnupur	40.56 \pm 1.35	0.69 ^{NS}
		Imphal – West	39.30 \pm 1.22	
		Pooled sample	39.93 \pm 0.91	
b.	Experience of chicken farming (Years)	Bishnupur	5.12 \pm 0.47	0.03 ^{NS}
		Imphal – West	5.14 \pm 0.50	
		Pooled sample	5.13 \pm 0.34	
c.	Family size (no.s)	Bishnupur	5.54 \pm 0.24	1.28 ^{NS}
		Imphal – West	5.10 \pm 0.22	
		Pooled sample	5.32 \pm 0.16	
d.	Annual income from chicken farming (Rs.)	Bishnupur	105700.00 \pm 14417.97	1.02 ^{NS}
		Imphal – West	87500.00 \pm 10452.27	
		Pooled sample	96600.00 \pm 12595.04	
e.	Educational qualification	Bishnupur	5.26 \pm 0.12	3.25 **
		Imphal – West	4.68 \pm 0.14	
		Pooled sample	4.97 \pm 0.95	

NS= Non-significant, *= Significant at 5% level, **= Significant at 1% level.

Table - 2

Distribution of respondents according to frequency on constraints in Bishnupur and Imphal-West districts of Manipur

Sl. No.	Constraints	Districts		
		Bishnupur	Imphal-West	Pooled sample
1.	Electricity supply failure	32(64)	38(76)	70(70)
2.	Bandh and blockade	41(82)	35(70)	76(76)
3.	High rise of price (day old chick and poultry feed)	36(72)	40(80)	76(76)
4.	Market fluctuation	34(68)	28(56)	62(62)
5.	Lack of awareness regarding poultry farming	29(58)	31(62)	60(60)
6.	Lack of financial assistance	26(52)	33(66)	59(59)
7.	Difficulty in marketing of ready bird	22(44)	17(34)	39(39)
8.	Lack of government supply/subsidy on chick/feed/ vaccine/medicines/scheme/loan	12(24)	21(42)	33(33)

Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage.

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