

Government initiatives for empowerment of Indian Poultry sector

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The Central Government support in poultry sector can be categorized into four sections viz. Capacity development, Input and service support, Financial support and Policy issues. There are four Central Poultry Development Organizations (CPDO) in addition to National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), network of 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Centre of Excellence for Animal Husbandry (CEAH) and several institutes of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) are engaged in capacity building as well as input and service to stakeholders. National Livestock Mission (NLM), Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and many more schemes extend financial support to the sector. Government is also making policy for trade, health and welfare, contract farming guidelines etc.

Keywords: Capacity, Government support, Policy, Poultry sector, Schemes

Indian poultry sector is an important component of the livestock and agriculture economy of India, and contributed about 4.99 MMT of chicken meat (5th largest in the world) and 138.38 billion eggs (2nd position in the world) to the food basket of the country during 2022-23. The growth rate of egg and meat production was always more than 6%. The poultry sector added about ₹ 2.3 lakh crores to the national economy in the year 2022-23 and IMARC Group has projected this figure to reach ₹ 3.47 lakh crore by 2028 with impressive growth rate (CAGR) of 10.18% during 2023-2028. IMARC Group enlisted many factors responsible for higher growth rate like population growth, increasing demand for poultry products, changing consumer dietary preferences, rising disposable incomes, and rapid growth in the food service sector, etc. Indian poultry sector can be broadly divided into two sub-sectors – a highly organized Commercial sector and an unorganized traditional

Backyard sector. Backyard poultry constituted about 37.22% of total poultry population and produced 20.2 billion eggs (14.6%) in 2022-23. Rest of the eggs and major proportion of chicken meat came from the commercial poultry sector. The remarkable achievement of the Indian poultry sector is the combined efforts of private and public sector stakeholders along with government policy and schemes. This article deals with the different schemes and programs of Central Government to empower the poultry sector of India.

Broadly, the Central Government support in poultry sector can be categorized into four sections namely Capacity development, Input and service support, Financial support and Policy issues.

Capacity development

Commercial and Intensive poultry farming requires a very high level of technical skill in farm management, nutrition, health care, marketing, etc. There are about 5,000 veterinarians,

working in the poultry sector, most of them trained from Government Veterinary Institutions. Lakhs of other technical / supportive persons are engaged in the sector who act as backbone in the functional aspect of the sector. Most of them are trained by Public Sector Organizations. There are four Central Poultry Development Organisations (CPDO) in the country located in 4 different locations of the country (Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Mumbai) which impart training to stakeholders on different aspects of poultry production. Many Veterinary Institutions also impart training to poultry farmers and other stakeholders along with students to enhance the knowledge and skills in science, research and technologies. There is a network of 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) in India at district level which impart training and other support to the stakeholders across the country. These KVK are supported by Central Government through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad is regularly organizing Certified Livestock Advisor (CLA) course to train the trainers. MANAGE also imparts 3-5 days training to Poultry Entrepreneurs to make their efficiency better. Agri-clinics & Agribusiness Centres (AC&ABC) programme is also run by MANAGE for students of agricultural sector. The MANAGE, a premier educational institute and ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) and other organisations also offer courses in Agri Business (MBA and Diploma) for the graduates of veterinary and agricultural discipline. The AC&ABC centres help the poultry entrepreneurs in the field condition. ICAR-Directorate of Poultry Research (ICAR-DPR), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad and ICAR-Central Avian Research Institute (ICAR-CARI), Izatnagar, Bareilly are the premier organisation of Central Government which play crucial roles in research, technology dissemination and capacity development of students and other stakeholders. Recently, a Centre of Excellence for Animal Husbandry (CEAH), an Animal Husbandry Academy of India has been set up at Hessarghatta, Bengaluru for capacity building of stakeholders.

Input and service support

Input: ICAR-DPR, ICAR-CARI and CPDO have developed many improved poultry varieties which have high demand among poultry farmers. State Universities also developed few improved varieties of poultry through independent research and also under All India Coordinated Research Project funded by Central Government. These varieties are also very popular in the respective regions. Many KVKs, State Government and other organizations are also rearing parent lines from these organizations and supplying the backyard chicken varieties to the farmers. Under Development Action Plan for Scheduled Caste (DAPSC) and Development Action Plan for

Scheduled Tribes (DAPST), many organizations in the country are supporting the SC and ST people through poultry intervention. These intervention lead to livelihood generation, creating sustainable food security for the beneficiaries and there is surplus produce for the urban market.

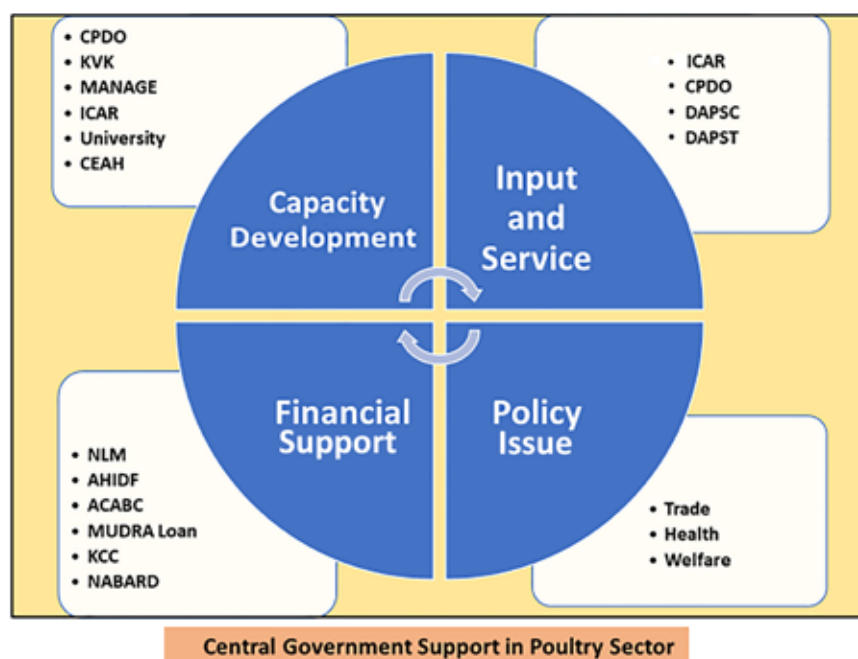
Service: Many commercial poultry units get service from public sector organisations for disease diagnosis, feed testing and advice on many critical issues. They also take up contract research to solve the problems of the industry.

Financial support

National Livestock Mission (NLM) is a scheme of Central Government for helping financially to the eligible poultry entrepreneurs to establish a new poultry venture. Under the NLM scheme, beneficiaries may be individual person, Self Help Group (SHG)/ Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO)/Farmers Cooperatives (FCOs)/Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and Section 8 companies for the establishment of parent farms, rural hatchery, brooder cum mother unit for production of hatching eggs and chicks and rearing of the said chick up to four weeks in the mother unit. The Central Government provides 50% capital subsidy (up to ₹25 lakh) for the cost of the project for the

establishment of parent farm, rural hatchery and mother unit with a minimum 1,000 parent layers.

The Prime Minister's *Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan* set up ₹15,000 crore Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF). Individual entrepreneurs, private companies, MSME, Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Section 8 companies can be benefitted under this scheme. Poultry farmers can be benefitted under this scheme for Meat Processing and Value Addition Infrastructure, Animal Feed Plant, Breed Improvement Technology and Breed Multiplication Farms (modern technology based integrated/ advanced poultry farms, poultry farm including purchase of parent and grandparent stock, hatcheries with environmentally controlled facilities, layer farm with environmentally controlled system, broiler breeder farm with environmentally controlled system), Animal Waste to Wealth Management (Agri Waste Management) and Setting up of Veterinary Vaccine and Drugs Manufacturing facilities. The project under the AHIDF shall be eligible for loan up to 90% of the estimated/ actual project cost. The beneficiary contribution in case of Micro and Small units as per MSME defined ceiling could be 10% while in the case



of Medium Enterprises, as per the defined MSME ceiling, beneficiary contribution could go up to 15%. The beneficiary contribution in other categories of enterprises could go up to 25% or more. Interest subvention is 3% for all eligible entities and the maximum repayment period is 8 years inclusive of moratorium of 2 years on principal amount.

To supplement efforts of public extension, agricultural development and create gainful self-employment opportunities for unemployed agricultural graduates, agricultural diploma holders, intermediate in agriculture and biological science graduates with PG in Agri-related courses, MANAGE runs Agri-Clinics And Agri-Business Centres (ACABC) Scheme. In this scheme, individual or Group projects under Agriculture/Allied sectors can be taken up with no margin money up to ₹5 lakh and 10-15% above ₹5 lakh. There is no collateral security up to a loan amount of ₹10 lakh and repayment period is 5-10 years depending on the project. There is 36% subsidy for General category, 44% for Women, SC/ST, North

Eastern & Hill States. Total project cost up to ₹20 lakh (Individual) and ₹100 lakh (for a group of 5) is eligible for subsidy.

ACABC is also qualified for availing of loan under PMMY (MUDRA Yojana), as it is a service activity based upon a business model, providing the loan up to ₹10 lakh per centre.

A separate Kisan Credit Card (KCC) for Animal Husbandry can be helpful for farmers on which up to ₹ 2 lakh can be used in poultry production at a prescribed interest rate.

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is also promoting poultry farming through the Self-Help Groups (SHG) and Farmers Producer Organization (FPO) in all parts of the country.

Policy issue

To empower the poultry stakeholders and improve this sector, government formulates policies and if necessary amends to ease the business. Government is making policy for import and export (Trade related) framework,

disease control and monitoring, contract farming guidelines etc. As Animal Husbandry is a state subject, so Central Government role is to support the State Government for the betterment of poultry farmers and the development of the poultry sector.

CONCLUSION

Poultry sector is an important component of livestock economy of the country and engages about 30 million persons in the sector. Many of our stakeholders are not aware of different government schemes and types of support available. Proper use of human resources and other types of resources depends on knowledge, skill and attitude along with the facilities available. Government agencies and private organizations should work together especially in input supply, health care, capacity development and marketing to get maximum production, productivity and profits to the poultry farmers in our country.

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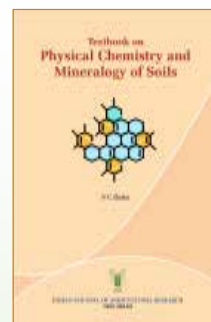
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