

ADOPTION OF POULTRY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN SOLAPUR, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The study revealed that majority of the member farmers of the poultry society were educated, of middle age, medium size of family, medium annual income and medium size of land holding. These member farmers had good experience of poultry keeping. Majority of the member farmers had medium social participation, less use of sources of information, communication channels, Cosmo politeness but high economic motivation and state of modernization. It was also found that education, family size, annual income, landholding, experience in poultry keeping, social participation, sources of information, communication channels, Cosmo politeness, economic motivation and state of modernization had association and correlation with the knowledge of the farmers. Most of the farmers had sizable number of poultry birds. The egg yield from the poultry bird was satisfactory. Most of the farmers knew improved practices like debeaking, artificial hatching, supply of recommended poultry feed, improved poultry house. Vaccination programme, deworming and culling.

Key words : Poultry farmers, Knowledge, Poultry co-operative society

The poultry farming in India has now become a ancillary village occupation as well as industry organized on a commercial line. At present it is an effective tool for rural development. A new dimension has been added to it with growing realization that poultry farming can play an effective role in socioeconomic upliftment of the small, marginal farmers and landless agricultural laborers for which adoption of appropriate technique is the must for obtaining optimum returns. The Government of India is giving importance for the poultry development since, this activity can augment the employment and regular income of rural poor. Earlier poultry keeping was backward activity restricted to rearing of few local birds. Now a days, with the availability of hybrid strain along with the modern management tools, many entrepreneurs have started poultry farming on scientific lines and progressing significantly.

The scientific poultry keeping in India was advocated by Christian Missionaries towards the beginning of the 20th century. The first mission poultry farm was established at Etawah, Uttar Pradesh in the year 1912.

The organized efforts to develop poultry in the country was started in the year 1957, when second five year plan was launched. The regional poultry farms were setup at Bangalore, Bhuvaneshwar, Bombay, Delhi and Simla.

The day old chicks of White Leghorn and Rhode Island Red breeds from reputed breeding farms in U.S.A.

were imported in the year 1956. The period between the second five year plan and fourth five year plan was actually the turning point in the history of poultry industry in India.

The member farmers in the poultry co-operative face innumerable problems in poultry keeping namely, lack of government support, lack of finance from banks, agencies for purchase of poultry management practices and lack of veterinary aids, scarcity of drinking water. With a view of these problems present study was undertaken with the following specific objectives.

Objectives :

1. To study the Socio-economic characteristics of the member farmers of the Rajhuns Co-operative poultry society.
2. To study the adoption of the recommended poultry management practices of the member farmers.

Hypothesis:

Personal, Social; economical and Psychological characteristics of the member farmers are related to the adoption of recommended poultry management practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out in the Malshiras tahsil, Solapur district of Maharashtra. There were 37 Co-operative poultry societies in the district and out of that 9 poultry co-operative societies functioning in the Malshiras tahsil. Rajhuns co-operative poultry society Akluj was the largest poultry co-operative society in Asia was selected purposively. This poultry co-operative society covered 114