

## RESEARCH NOTE

## Constraints Perceived by the Broiler Farmers in Sivasagar District of Assam

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### ABSTRACT

*A study was undertaken during January, 2013 to December, 2013 to identify the constraints perceived by the broiler farmers in Sivasagar district of Assam. For the study, altogether 135 numbers of broiler farmers were selected randomly and purposively from nine development blocks of this district, who possessed a minimum of 100 numbers of birds in their farms. The data were collected by personal interview with the help of pre-tested interview schedule containing a list of constraints and the farmers were asked to rank them. The data so collected were tabulated and analyzed statistically by using Garretts' ranking technique. Among the constraints identified, lack of organized marketing facility was the main constraint and was ranked the first followed by higher cost of feeds and medicines, lack of availability of quality chicks, higher cost of chicks, higher mortality of broiler birds, lack of veterinary facilities, introduction of contract farming, labour problem, lack of bank loan facility and lack of knowledge on scientific broiler farming.*

**Key words:** Constraints; Broiler farmers; Organized marketing facilities;

Broiler farming has been playing a important role in solving unemployment problem in Assam as it has been gaining momentum day-by-day since last decade. As the people in the North-Eastern region are in general non-vegetarian in food habit and they prefer to take meat over egg and fish in their meals. Fortunately broiler meat is comparatively cheaper and is easily available than the other meats. Rural people also which are mostly malnourished or undernourished can ensure their livelihood and nutritional security through broiler farming. At present broiler farming in Assam is mostly concentrated in Kamrup (metro & rural), Nalbari, BARPETA and Morigaon districts of Assam. Therefore, the present study was undertaken to identify various constraints perceived by the broiler farmers of Sivasagar district of Assam.

### METHODOLOGY

For the present study 15 numbers of broiler farmers were selected randomly and purposively from each of nine developments blocks of Sivasagar district. Thus a total of 135 numbers of farmers were selected from all the blocks. The farmers were selected on the basis of their flock size of minimum 100 numbers of birds per

batch. The data were collected by personal interview with the help of pre-tested interview schedule during January, 2013 to December, 2013. The interview schedule containing a list constraint and the farmers were asked to rank them according to the severity of the constraints faced by them. The data so collected were tabulated and analyzed statistically by using Garretts' Ranking technique. These were then transformed into units of scores by using the following formula:

$$\% \text{ position} = \frac{100(R_{ij} - 0.05)}{N_j}$$

Where,  $R_{ij}$ =Rank given by the  $i$ th factor by the  $j$ th individual  
 $N_j$ = Number of factor ranked by the  $j$ th individual

The per cent position was converted into scores by referring by *Garrett and Woodworth (1969)*.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It was revealed that majority of poultry farmers with mean score (79.07) faced the constraints of lack of organized marketing facilities for live broiler birds in Sivasagar district which ranked 1st among all the constraints (Table 1). In a similar study, *Sheikh et. al. (2013)* found almost all poultry entrepreneurs suffered constraints regarding low egg prices during summer

season with mean score of (85.45), while some of the respondents were constrained by low wholesale prices of egg. The lack of organized marketing facilities in this district might be due to smaller farm size, fluctuation of demand of meat round the year etc.

Higher price of feeds and medicines was another important constraint with 68.94 mean score and ranked 2nd. Higher cost of the feed ingredients and non-availability of feed mill in this district might be the reason for it. *Mane et. al. (2007)* also found that the main problem encountered by the poultry farmers was high cost of feeds in North-Konkan region of Maharashtra.

**Table 1. Constraints perceived by the broiler farmers of Sivasagar district**

Factors	TS	GMS	Rank
Lack of availability of quality chicks	6663	49.36	V
Higher cost of chicks	8481	62.82	IV
Higher cost of feeds and medicine	9307	68.94	II
Higher rate of mortality	9299	68.88	III
Lack of organized marketing facilities	10675	79.07	I
Lack of knowledge on broiler farming	3735	27.67	VIII
Lack of veterinary facilities	6183	45.80	VI
Labour problem	2231	16.53	X
Lack of bank loan facility	2937	21.76	IX
Introduction of contract farming	4429	32.81	VII

GMS=Garett's Mean Score; TS=Total Score;

Higher rate of mortality in broiler birds was also a major constraint and was ranked 3rd among the constraints studied. The present findings were in agreement with the findings of *Sheikh et. al. (2013)*. Higher rate of mortality in broiler birds might be due to inferior quality chicks, lack of knowledge on scientific broiler farming, lack of experience in broiler farming etc. The other major constraints perceived by the broiler farmers were higher cost of chicks, lack of availability of quality chicks, lack of veterinary facilities, introduction of contract broiler farming, lack of knowledge on scientific broiler farming, lack of bank loan facility

followed by labour problem. Higher cost of chicks might be due to non-availability of hatchery in this district and procurement of day old chicks from other distant places as most of the chicks were procured from Guwahati (Kamrup), they got dehydrated and weak due to longer transit time (more than 8 hours). Lack of veterinary facilities was also one of the major constraints faced by the famers. This might be due to the shortage of manpower in the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Govt. of Assam. Introduction of contract broiler farming in this district in the recent days created a major threat to the small farmers with 200 to 500 numbers of broilers per batch. The cost of production per kilogram of live broiler bird was comparatively lower in contract farming than in case of small broiler farmers and the entire market was controlled by the large companies viz. Sona, Suguna, Venky etc. Lack of bank loan facility was also an important problem faced by the farmers of Sivasagar district. The present findings regarding major constraints perceived by the poultry farmers are in agreement with the findings of *Mane et.al. (2007)* and *Sheikh et. al (2013)*.

**CONCLUSION**

From the above study it can be concluded that poultry farmers of Sivasagar district faced various constraints such as un-organized marketing facilities, high price of feeds, chicks, medicine, lack of veterinary services, loan facilities etc. Therefore, proper attention on the above points is necessary while making policies for this district. These are important guidelines for the policy makers. Further attempt should be made to establish poultry co-operative societies and poultry SEZ (Special Economic Zone) to facilitate marketing of poultry and poultry products for the benefit of the small poultry farmers.

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