

## Challenges of Poultry Farming in Manipur

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### Introduction

Poultry farming is the form of animal husbandry which raises domesticated birds such as chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese to produce meat or eggs for food with chickens being the most common. Manipur stands 3rd in livestock population and 2nd in poultry population among all states in northeastern (NER) region of India (Baishya et al., 2020). Chickens raised for eggs are known as layers while chickens raised for meat are called broilers. Poultry farming plays a pivotal role within Manipur's agricultural landscape, influencing the state economic development, socio-cultural dynamics, and food security patterns therefore its failure could drop down the economic situation of the state and proper steps are required to be taken to prevent the economic loss. Nestled in the north-eastern region of India, Manipur boasts a diverse agricultural background where poultry farming emerges as a cornerstone of livelihood for many rural communities therefore its challenges is essential to be met. It is conceived as a supplementary income source, poultry rearing has progressively assumed a more central role within the state's agricultural narrative (Bora,2018). The significance of poultry farming exceeds mere economic conditions; it resonates with socio-cultural dimensions and nutritional sustenance. Manipur's poultry sector serves as a critical avenue for income generation, employment creation and the empowerment of local communities, especially in rural areas but there are many drawbacks in benefitting the full economic benefit of poultry farming, therefore awareness and training programmes should be propagated in rural areas. Some people also do poultry for domestic uses and not in large scale due to lack of skill, awareness and fear of economic loss due to unpredictable influx of diseases. Poultry farming has provided livelihood to the rural areas of North-East India by providing employment and generation of income from it (Kumar et al,2007) but due to various factors of mismanagement both economically and environmentally sometimes poultry fails.

### Why poultry farming fails?

- 1. Avian influenza:** Despite the numerous benefits and opportunity that has been created by the poultry farming, there are numerous disadvantages and constraints that can cause a huge loss also. In the state of Manipur, disease of poultry such as Avian influenza outbreaks have been known for causing great loss economically (Hien et al,2004., Harris,2006). Limited access to timely vaccinations and biosecurity measures has resulted in periodic spikes in disease bio-security measures has resulted in periodic spikes in disease incidence. Lack of access to regular veterinary health check-ups for their flocks and failure of the farming community to attends awareness programs or disease prevention and biosecurity measures also results in inadequate knowledge of diseases, its vaccination and medication. Proper knowledge and training is important as once the diseased such as Avian influenza have touched the poultry there is low possibility of recovery from the disease and the chances of spreading and death is high (Kumar et al,2008., Selvam et al,2004).
- 2. Economic instability:** Due to the rise of the price of raw material such as feeds and housing materials makes it hard for the poultry farmer to flourish in Manipur of rural poor. The farmers also face problems such as fluctuation of the feeds seasonally and shortage of feed seasonally. Most of the farmers in Manipur are small size farmers and they need help assessing affordable and quality feed, relying heavily on the traditional feeding practices and Poultry sector has special significance due to higher production and consumption of broiler meat with rising income levels, which signifies that broiler farming is one of the potential agri-enterprises in Manipur (Kemrin et al,2019). Initiatives promoting locally sourced, nutritious feed production are being explored to address these challenges. From day to day the prices of raw material and feed has raised significantly that it is becoming difficult for the poultry farmer to make a profit out of it. Limited market information and price volatility contribute to difficulties negotiating favourable terms for farmers (Jadumani et al,2022).
- 3. Improper means of Transport:** The transport and communication problem in some rural areas are some of the biggest challenges faced by Poultry farmer of Manipur. The transport system in rural area of the state is not good resulting in high cost of transportation despite high cost of production. Small-scale farmers need help assessing



distant markets due to inadequate transportation infrastructure becoming a huge hindrance.

- 4. Improper management:** Problem inside the farm such as waste management issues have been identified, leading to water contamination in certain areas. Land degradation around poultry farms has been observed, impacting local ecosystems. Waste such as the poultry stools are need to be managed carefully and should be used for FYM, if not it will cause an environment issue (Paonam et al,2016). Dead chickens should be disposed or buried carefully in-order that it does not produce unfavourable odour in the environment. Failure in implementation of waste recycling programs will increase the environmental pollution of the participating farms. Agroforestry practices is another solution around poultry farms to mitigate land degradation and helps in promoting biodiversity.
- 5. Lack of training and awareness program on Poultry:** In rural areas, due to the lack of information the farmers did not know about medicines and control measures to deal with diseases which causes great loss in poultry farming. The rural farmers usually use traditional measures such as ITKs in control of all kinds of diseases, which is found effective for some mild diseases but of no help for severe diseases such and flu and so on .Due to lack of awareness management of the diseases is not efficient(Jayantakumar et al,2017).Some of the poultry farmers in the state of Manipur in the rural areas does not get the opportunity of avail beneficial loan in the bank to help and enhance their farm due to the lack of awareness and lack of information.

### **Conclusion**

The poultry sector in Manipur exhibits small scale and backyard farming dominating the rural areas. Challenges such as disease outbreaks, feeds availability and market access coexist with opportunities arising from technological adoption, improved feed production and government support and also investigating the impact of climate change on poultry farming in Manipur. Knowledge on exploration of market trends and consumer preferences should be implemented to guide future value - addition initiatives in the poultry sector of Manipur. Clear guidance for newcomers should be provided to enter the poultry sectors and strengthening extension services to enhance awareness about disease prevention, modern farming practises,

and sustainable environment management might help in further development of the poultry industry.

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