

Impact of Lockdown on Subsidiary Occupations

Palwinder Singh*, A P S Dhaliwal & G S Dhillon
Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bathinda

*Corresponding author: psbkvk@gmail.com

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The outbreak of Covid-19 is being seen all over the world. The epidemic began in Chinese city Wohan, but in a short time it has affected the entire world. Its arrival in India took place in the month of January in Kerala and gradually spread in whole India. This epidemic in Punjab was reported on March 19th, 2020 in Nawanshahar. Subsequently, the Punjab Government imposed lockdown from March 21, 2020 which results direct effect on economic conditions of state. Today we talk about the agriculture and allied occupations. During lockdown farmers had to face a lot of difficulties and in this regard a very effective strategy was formulated by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Bathinda, which is as follows:-

- Seed of kharif crops, vegetable kits, fruit plants etc. were provided to the farmers so that the people would not face any difficulty due to lockdown.
- The curfew pass was made available to dairy farmers for marketing of milk & milk products.
- Poultry farmers were helped in smooth marketing of eggs & meat.
- Additional produce was utilized by making pickle, marmalade & sauces.
- Assisted in cold storage & marketing of fruits, mushroom, & vegetables.

Best Practices against Lockdown in Animal Husbandry

After reviewing the various occupations mentioned above, the farmers are requested to follow the following suggestions for better and smooth livestock production to avoid economic downturn.

1. All the farmers of the group are advised to download and register Arogya Setu app in their mobiles.
2. All the farmers are advised to strictly follow Government directives on Social Distancing in all activities.
3. All farmers are advised not to allow any outsider near their animals.

4. Clean milk production practices should be followed.
5. Wash hands with soap/sanitizer and use of mask is must before and after doing daily management of animals.
6. All the utensils used for production and management should be clean/sanitized with 1% hypochlorite.
7. To maintain animal's healthy proper amount of clean water, forage and good housing especially protection from heat should be done.

Economical Impact of Lockdown on Animal Husbandry

During lockdown period our farmer faced following problems as follows:-

1. Dairy Farming:

- Non availability of migration passes for movement to city for dairy medicines, feed supplements etc.
- Carriage problem of liquid nitrogen for frozen semen at farm level and quality semen of high yielder bulls, which results breeding problem during lockdown.
- Loss in sale of raw milk up to Rs 5-6/litter by to organised sector.
- Animal husbandry services available telephonically as well as on door step.
- Private supply of quality semen disturbed in lockdown.
- Breeding problem in some remote areas also reported due to non availability of inseminator.
- No occurrence of disease outbreak improves animal health due to restriction of visitor.
- Sale purchase of animal stopped.
- Requirement of milk in market decreased due to closer of local dairies, cantonment areas, sweets shops, hotels, restaurants as well as marriages which has resulted in loss of Rs. 10 per litre.
- Door step Sale of milk not effected, only excess milk not utilized.
- Rural areas near city shows less effect than remote corners,
- Supply of feed, medicine also affected in remote areas.
- Procurement of milk by Verka increased upto 20-25% while rate decreased upto 12-13%.Sale of milk products of Verka increased due to door step supply.

2. Poultry Farming:

- Covid-19, during early phases effect the sale of egg & meat due to misconception of presence of viruses in non-veg. items.
- Sale of egg in local market stable now but decrease in rate upto 40-50%.
- Major problem faced by broiler farmer due to no purchase in market.
- To avoid losses, Egg laying birds are moulted i.e. kept without feed for 7-8 days, then started feeding from 10 gram/bird/day and increased daily by 10 grams to normal in 22 days. Hence Egg lying is restored to normal in 28 days and even feed cost is saved.
- Local ingredients are being used for feed formulation like khani, nakku etc
- Feed and medicine supply was hindered earlier but normal nowadays.
- Shopkeepers are supplying old stock of medicines due to lack of production and supply.

3. Pig farming:

- Pig farmers are facing high losses upto 40%.
- Due to lack of sale the price of pork has reduced to 50%.
- Due to lack of purchasers in Punjab farmers are forced to sell the animals at low rates to other states like Assam at lower prices.
- Non availability of waste from hotels, restaurants increased the feed cost.
- Breeding has been stopped at farm level by opting for castration of boars.

Future Planning:

According to the facts mentioned above, we are all well aware that there is unbearable loss during lockdown even after using common sense. In the **Dairy farming**, it is very important to pay attention to these points in future: Formulation of balanced & economical diet, regular checkup of animals, de-worm, vaccination and clean milk production. In **Poultry farming**: Bookings of a quality chicks from reputed hatchery, Sorting of non laying hens, Protecting birds from the swear heat stress, Vaccination, proper marketing of egg & meat is the key to future success. Similarly, in **Pig farming** collecting waste for pig feeding to reduce cost, breeding and breed improvement, Vaccination and better marketing are important points for the future success. Hope all the

facts will prove as a light house to the farmers. New comers advised to take skill development trainings before the start of any live business in future.

