



SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF FARMERS ENGAGED IN BACKYARD POULTRY FARMING

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Abstract

With the commercialization of broiler and layer farming, native chicken farming is still in the hands of marginal and landless farmers. This study was conducted to document the socio-economic status of farmers engaged in native chicken farming in Perambalur district of Tamilnadu. The sample size consisted of 30 poultry farmers. The primary data were collected with the help of well-structured, pretested interview schedule developed based on the variables selected by experts opinions and published literatures. From this study it was recorded that males and females are almost equally involved in native chicken farming and majority of them are middle aged. More than three fourth of the farmers belongs to BC followed by MBC (16.67%) and SC (6.67%). Eighty percent of them had school education and thirty percent have more than 10 years of experience in the desi bird farming activities. Nearly one half of the farmers were landless and thirty per cent of the farmers reared only desi birds for their livelihood. Seventy per cent of them rear native chicken along with livestock such as goats and cows. To have additional to farmer unemployment, it is suggested that native chicken farming might be taken by marginal and landless farmer.

Introduction

Most of the Indian population depend upon agriculture. For the small and marginal farmers animal husbandry act as a supplement occupation and provide livelihood. The poultry industry in India is one of the fastest growing sector. While broiler farming and layer farming have grown and become institutionalized as commercial enterprises, native chicken farming still exists among backyard farmers. Small-scale commercial native chicken farming system is being developed, with the customers receiving a good response for desi bird meat and eggs. The present study was undertaken to record the socio-economic status of native chicken rearing farmers in Perambalur district of Tamilnadu. So as to disseminate need based technologies.

Research methodology

The present study was conducted to record the social and economic status of the farmers involved in the native chicken rearing. The primary data were collected from 30 samples farmers by simple random sampling method in Perambalur district of Tamilnadu. The well structured pre-tested interview schedule was prepared in consultation with the subject matter specialist and published literatures. The data were collected by means of personal interview. Thus the collected data were analyzed using simple frequency and percentage.

Results and Discussion

From Table 1, it could be noted that majority of desi bird farmers (43.33%) were middle aged followed by old (30.00%) and young aged (26.67). These results were not in favour with Balamurguan *et al.*, (2017) who opined that majority of the farmers belonged to young age group. Interestingly, more than one-half of them were females and rest were males (46.67%). Less labor intensive activity in desi bird farming might favored women to be involved in desi bird farming activities. This finding contradicts with the findings of Jatto (2012) and Balamurugan *et al.*, (2017). Considering the community of farmers, more than three-fourths belonged to backward class (76.67%) followed by Most Backward Class (16.67%) and Scheduled Caste (6.67%). None of them belonged to Other Communities (OC). More than three-fourth of the desi bird farmers were Hindus, Muslim (16.67%) and Christian (6.67%). This result indicates that desi birds are reared by all community and religion.

Table 1: Socio-economic profile of desi bird farmers in Perambalur district of Tamilnadu n=30

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Age	Young (< 35 years)	08	26.67
	Middle (36 – 45 years)	13	43.33
	Old (> 45 years)	09	30.00
Gender	Male	14	46.67
	Female	16	53.33
Community	Other Community	00	0.00
	Backward Class	23	76.67
	Mostbackward Class	05	16.67
	Scheduled Caste	02	6.67
Religion	Hindu	23	76.67
	Islam	05	16.67
	Christian	02	6.67
Education	Illiterate	06	20.00
	Primary Education	12	40.00
	Secondary Education	03	26.67
	Graduated	04	13.33
Family type	Nuclear Family	20	66.67
	Joint Family	10	33.33
Occupation	Agriculture and Livestock Rearing	22	73.33
	Only Livestock Rearing	08	26.67
Desi bird farming experience	Less than 10 Years	21	70.00
	More than 10 Years	09	30.00
Landholdings (in Acres)	Landless	14	46.67
	Marginal (up to 2.5 acres)	09	30.00
	Small (2.6 – 5.0 acres)	07	23.33
	Large (above 5.00 acres)	00	0.00
Livestock possession	Desi birds with Cows	08	26.67
	Desi birds with Cows and Goats	10	33.33
	Desi birds with Goats	03	10.00
	Desi birds	09	30.00
Gender involved in farming activities	Male	06	20.00
	Female	12	40.00
	Both	12	40.00

Further, the table reveals that 20.00 per cent of the farmers were illiterates and 80.00 per cent of them had some formal education from primary to collegiate level. Thus the education level of farmers could be right tapped to disseminate the latest scientific desi bird rearing practices. This contradicts with the findings of Mandal *et al.*, (2006) who reported that majority of desi bird farmers had low level of education. Nearly 70.00 per cent of the desi bird famers had nuclear family and rest had joint family. This result is in agreement with Sharma *et al.*, (2018) who also reported that majority of desi bird farmers had nuclear family type. While studying their occupation, it was found that majority (73.3%) of them had agriculture and livestock and rest reared only livestock (26.67%). Considering, the desi bird farming experience, 70.00 and 30.00 per cent of the farmers had less than 10 years and more than 10 years of experience, respectively. Regarding land holdings, less than one-half of the farmers were landless followed by marginal (30.00%) and small famers (23.33%). None of the farmers were large farmers.

Considering the livestock possession, 33.33 per cent farmers reared desi birds with cows and goats, whereas 30.00 per cent famers had only desi birds, and desi bird with cows (26.67%) and desi bird with goats (10.00%). Forty and 20.00 per cent of the females and males were involved in desi bird farming activities, respectively. Remaining 40.00 per cent of both gender shared the farm activities like feeding, egg collection and putting the birds into cages.

Conclusion

Desi bird rearing provides additional income to the rural poor and also ensures nutritional security in access to animal protein in the form of egg and meat. The present study revealed that farmers of all age, educated and both genders involved in desi bird farming activities. Hence suitable scientific rearing practices in desi bird farming may be developed for better adoption so as to ensure higher income and provides livelihood support to the rural poor. Further, farmer friendly extension approaches may be evolved to disseminate the technical know-how to the desi bird farmers.

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