
CHAPTER IV

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**PROBLEMS FACED BY THE POULTRY FARMS IN KARWAR TALUKA
AND ITS PROSPECTUS**

4.1 : PROBLEMS FACED BY POULTRY FARMS IN
KARWAR TALUKA

4.2 : PROSPECTUS

4.1 : PROBLEMS FACED BY POULTRY KEEPERS

IN KARWAR TALUKA :

The problems that are being presented in the following pages are based on the discussions with the poultry keepers of all 21 farms of Karwar Taluka. A close look at the working conditions of these farms revealed that they have problems at all levels, from brooding of day one chicks to marketing of 7 to 8 weeks old broilers and eggs. The reasons are many, some the result of lack of proper training and most due to poor infrastructure. These problems are categorized as

- 1) Medicine,
- 2) Electricity,
- 3) Marketing,
- 4) Transport,
- 5) Lack of storage facilities,
- 6) Insurance.

1) Medicine -

This is the major problem of small and medium farmers mainly to those who have poultry in villages. It was found that 8 farmers located in villages faced acute shortage of medicines and stress reducing vitamins. The medical shops found mainly in Karwar town, and they do not sell these medicines, because demand for these medicines is infrequent and limited and they are costly too. These farmers, owing to limited resources and

limited number of birds, find the costly medicines unaffordable and uneconomical.

For example, a bottle of medicine sufficient for 1000 birds, can not be preserved after opening it to medicate a batch of 500 birds. For this they have to maintain a refrigerator which is beyond their budget. Since the demand for poultry medicines is very limited, only 2 medical shops at Karwar sell a few cheaper and low quality medicines. Effective medicines used to combat disease like Ranikhet are not available in Karwar at all. The veterinary hospital, only one of its kind, also has no stock of these medicines.

2) Electricity -

All the 21 respondents expressed that their major problem is that of electricity. Though North Canara has 2 hydro-electricity projects, the people of Karwar face current failure almost every day for a hour. During the rainy season, this is stretched to 3-4 days at a time. Though 4 big farmers have their own generators and the remaining 17 farm owners are affected in a severe way. The chicks and also layers are the worst affected ones. Current failure always results in high mortality and decrease in egg production. Maintaining generators is uneconomical and also gives way to noise.

3) Marketing -

It was found that all the 13 farms situated in villages of Karwar town are facing problems in marketing their products. They are forced to sell their products to wholeseller due to limited and fluctuating demand in villages. The religious activities in the months of August and September bring the demand almost nil. Inadequate market information also is a major handicap which makes them sell their products at cheaper rates. The weak staying capacity of eggs and broilers makes storage impossible.

The big farmers in nearby villages and the town places poultry owners (farmers) comparatively face less difficulty in marketing. The big farmers have their own transport means to carry their products to the neighbouring towns like Ankola, Kumata and Honnavar, Some times the state like Goa. About 4 respondents have their own cold storage facilities and 3 respondents have their own retail shops. It is therefore they do not find the acute problem of marketing as compared to the farm owners located in interior villages.

The 8 small and medium poultry farm respondents find marketing of poultry manure a difficult task. This is mainly because of the small size of poultry farms and

no demand state for poultry manure. The traditional approach to this manure is the main reason. However, the other six big farmers have found a solution to this, in the form of manure gas plants. The setting up of these plants has helped them solve to some extent their marketing of manure and also current failure.

4) Transport -

It was found that all the village farmers (i.e. 13 farmers) find a lack of transport facilities. All these farm owners cannot afford owning vehicles or touring them, they order feed and chicks in small quantity and hence transport cost becomes unbearable. Mortality rate increases due to long distance between the hatcheries and the farms. The chicks are brought from Goa, Miraj and Manglore, and feed supplied from Sangli and Hubli. Whereas big farm owners face less difficulties, due to they are purchasing feed and chicks in bulk quantity.

5) Lack of Cold storage facilities -

In the opinion of the 17 respondents, their greatest problem is lack of cold storage facilities in Karwar, (only 4 big farmers have refrigerators) they have to keep the birds alive till marketed. So, cost per bird increases due to extra feeding. It leads to over weight,

but customers prefer not to purchase heavy weight birds like 4 to 5 kg. The over weight birds get affected easily by diseases. It was further found that after 8 weeks. Intake of feed is more while weight gained by birds is less. So result is loss.

6) Insurance -

It was seen that 8 respondents particularly small and medium size farms are facing following problems.

Farm owners cannot fulfill the demands of Insurance Company due to the following reasons.

- (a) To make a claim, the insurance company require the minimum death of 25% of total stock, which is rare.
- (b) Veternity Doctor should certify it, but he is not available in the hours of need.

contd...

4.2 : PROSPECTS :

Poultry egg and meat are important sources of high quality proteins, minerals and vitamins to balance the human diet. Specially, developed breeds of chicken are now available with an ability of quick growth and high feed conversion efficiency. Depending on the farm size, farming can be main source of family income or can provide subsidiary income and gainful employment to farmer throughout the year and poultry manure has high fertilizer value and can be used for increasing yield of all crops.

Looking at the past performance and present conditions, the annual growth of poultry farm and production is increasing in Karwar Taluka. In this connection, certain specific questions were asked to the farmers in order to know their future plans and business expansion. As an answer to these questions all the farmers want to continue in the same business.

As development in the field of science is taking place very fast, many new improved techniques are introduced in this business. The availability of egg and poultry meat does not meet the local demands, keeping in view the demand for egg and meat in Karwar, the Animal Husbandry Department has proposed to introduce new poultry units and expand existing units and make them more viable. So modest programmes have been projected for 1995-96.

In Karwar, the growth of population is increasing very fast, due to Kaiga Project, Konkan Railway, Sea birds etc. So it leads to increase in eggs and meat consumption.

On the basis of the above mentioned discussions and observations made during the period of survey, it can be said that the farmers have good prospect for further development and expansion, for the continuation of this business for long future successfully.
