POULTRY FARMERS OF KOHIMA AND DIMAPUR DISTRICTS OF NAGALAND-A PROFILE

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A study was conducted to assess various socio-economic variables of chicken farmers of Kohima and Dimapur districts of Nagaland. The chicken farming in both the districts was in the hands of majority of Naga male population in the age group of 42 years having formal education up to high school/secondary level and doing chicken farming for 1-7 years. Only 12.50 to 18.34% of the chicken farmers had undergone training on chicken rearing. Average annual income per family from chicken farming was found to be higher in Dimapur (Rs. 78245.92) than that in Kohima (Rs. 48996.33) district.

Keywords: Poultry, farmer, social, economic variable.

With the advantages of poultry rearing of low investment and quick return poultry rearing, particularly chicken plays a significant role in the socio-economic development of farmers of North eastern region of India. Therefore, an attempt was made to study the current status of various social and economic variables of poultry farmers of Kohima and Dimapur districts of Nagaland.

The study was conducted during the year 2008 in Kohima and Dimapur districts of Nagaland, as these two districts have the unique combination of urban, semi-urban and rural characteristics with different tribes, religions and socio-economic background. Four blocks from each district and three villages from each block were selected for the study. From every selected village, 10 chicken farmers, each having flock strength of 5 and above chicken were selected. Thus, 120 farmers from each district were selected. The data regarding different aspects of socio-economic status were collected with the help of a well developed and pre-tested schedule by means of direct questioning and were subjected to analysis to arrive at valid conclusions.

All the respondents in Kohima district and 95.83% in Dimapur district were Nagas and more than 93% of the respondents in both the districts followed Christianity. Men dominated various chicken farming activities in both Kohima (55%) and Dimapur (55.83%) districts. Similar finding was reported in Kashmir Valley by Banday et al. (2005). The average age of chicken farmers was almost same (42 years) in both the districts. This indicated that youth in their last part of age resorted to chicken rearing as one of their income generating activities. Similar finding was reported by Kumar et al. (2004), in backyard farming in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Majority of the respondents in Kohima (82.50%) and Dimapur (84.16%) districts were married and overwhelming population of these two districts had nuclear family (83.34% and 66.67%).

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respectively). This finding fall in the lines of the observations of Borthakur (2006). The family size of Kohima of 5.618 was significant (P<0.05). Family size ranged from 5 to 8 numbers. Singh and Jilani (2005) and Borthakur (2006) also reported such observations. Majority of the respondents in Kohima (79.17%) and Dimapur (86.67%) districts were engaged in chicken farming for 1-7 years, while 15.83% in Kohima and 6.67% in Dimapur were engaged for 8-15 years and the remaining (5.0-6.67%) for 16-22 years indicating longer duration of chicken rearing for better nutrition and income. This finding was in agreement with the observations of Raju et al. (2005) and Borthakur (2006).

The present study of educational qualification revealed that majority of the respondents were high school/secondary passed in Kohima (54.15%) and in Dimapur (52.50%) followed by graduate in Kohima (8.33%) and Dimapur (21.67%), middle school in Kohima (19.17%) and Dimapur (17.50%), indicating higher percentage of literates among the farmers. Highly significant difference shown by 't value' indicate that the farmers of Kohima were lagging behind in comparison to farmers of Dimapur as far as formal education was concerned. Majority of farmers with high school/secondary qualification observed was in agreement with those of Borthakur (2006) and Pant et al. (2006).

The average land holding of the chicken farmers of Dimapur (1.75 acres) were more than that of Kohima (1.618 acres). As the farmers were similar in terms of land holding, the mean difference between two districts was found non-significant. However higher land holding by poultry farmers ranging from 2.6-5.0 acre was reported by Pant et al. (2006).

In case to training of chicken rearing more numbers of farmers were found to be trained in Dimapur (18.34%) than Kohima (12.51%) indicating that few members of farmers in both the districts were trained. This might be due to either inadequate government-run extension programmes or lack of interest of farmers in poultry training. Borthakur (2006) also reported that 87% of the respondents in Dibrughar district of Assam had not undergone any formal training on poultry rearing.

The annual income from chicken rearing in Kohima (Rs. 48996.33) was found to be lower than that of Dimapur (Rs. 78245.92). The high standard deviation values in both the districts indicated that there was variation in average income due to rearing of different numbers and varieties of chicken. The difference between mean values of two districts was highly significant (P<0.01). Higher income recorded in Dimapur might be due to better communication between quantum of trade and commerce and better economic activities. To have an understanding about the social concern and association of the chicken farmers with any other organization, it was found that all the respondents were having membership of atleast one organization in Kohima (54.17%) and association with more than two organizations in Dimapur (40%). The mean values between two districts were not significant. This finding got support from the studies of Singh and Jilani (2005) and Borthakur (2006).

Majority of the farmers had relationship with more than two developmental departments, as recorded in Kohima (39.17%) and in Dimapur (43.33%) followed by three and one, indicating that the farmers had a conviction that with exposure to developmental departments, they could improve their productivity through acquiring knowledge in farming and thereby their livelihood. The 't' value between two districts was significant (P<0.05). Such a finding was also reported by Saha et al. (2005). It was found that self interest followed by friends and family were the most influencing agents which had motivated the farmers to take up chicken rearing. The reason might be attributed to their tradition of chicken rearing, importance of chicken to their cultural and aesthetic life and to the growing commercial or economic benefit.
Poultry farmers of Kohima....

REFERENCE


