

## **BROILER PRODUCTIVITY AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS OF BROILER FARMERS**

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### **Extended Summary**

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Poultry known as an emerging sub-sector of livestock play a pivotal role in the economic development by providing employment and nutrition in Bangladesh. The emergence of broiler farming and the related backward forward linkage opened up new dimensions for the employment of farm owners, traders, service-providers, researchers and other business in different parts of Bangladesh. Short life cycle and quick return of profit attribute to its popularity to the broiler farmers, however drop out is also a common feature due to various problems. Broiler production has become a specialized and speedy business at present time. Broiler industry can generate income and the technology is also beneficial to create employment opportunities through the establishment of hatcheries, feed mills, equipment factories, processing plants, veterinary medicine industry, education and research institute etc. (Haque *et al.* 2007). Savar upazila was selected for this study as it is a potential area for poultry enterprises. Some established parent stock farm and feed mills have created a positive impact for the expansions of broiler farm in that area. Environmental pollution, dropout factor, policy management, input and output problems etc. are important areas of research.

The research has been done to achieve the following objectives-

1. To determine and describe the socio-economic status of broiler farmers.
2. To asses the extent of productivity of broiler by the farmers.
3. To identify the constraints faced by broiler by the farmers.
4. To determine the association and influence of selected independent variables on the broiler productivity levels.
5. To assess the awareness of farmers about bird and other bio security measures of broiler farms.

Traditionally poultry production research is involved with poultry feeds and nutrition, breed performance, management works, genetic analysis. There are some socio economic researches works have been done on broiler production. Broiler farmers bagged litter material and sold it to the owner of fish and crop producers which possess a threat to bio-security of poultry farms (Islam *et al.* 2007). Poultry industry is facing different new threat and suggested to improve from traditional farming practice. Moreover most of the farmers do not follow the hygienic system of disposal of dead bird (Hossain, *et al.* 2001). It is reported that the major portion of the farmers (79%) used pellet diet and stored feed in normal

room which deteriorate the quality of feed (Hossain and Beg, 2006). Keeping above point in mind the objectives are prioritized. The study will give a details scenario of broiler sector in Bangladesh and the findings will help the poultry policy makers as well as broiler farmers for its improvement.

To achieve above goal a field survey was investigated to assess the broiler productivity and associated factors of broiler farmers. Along with the structured interview schedule, the data on independent variables such as age, education, family size, land possession annual family income, credit need, cosmopolitaness, organizational participation, extension contact, number of batch produces per year, experience on poultry farming, size of farm, investment of farm, annual operational cost etc. were collected. Broiler productivity, management, bio-security and marketing were considered as dependable variables for this research work. Drop out broiler farmers were also interviewed to find out the reason.

Farmer selection was done randomly from six different villages in Savar upazilla. Face to face in interview and questionnaire survey were done and information was converted to data for data analysis. However some early opinion may draw from the collected data and information. Some independent variables like capital size, annually income, flock size, education-training, veterinary and poultry husbandry extension services were closely related with broiler productivity. Among dependable variables issues the major problems of broilers farmers were price of chicks, feed cost and quality cost and potency of vaccine.

Broiler market is established and farmers can sell any time except those who bought the feed on credit. Small scale farmers who don not have financial ability to buy feed on demand, use the feed from local feed seller on credit with condition that they will pay after selling the bird. Those farmers are forced to sell the chick just after 30 days.

Moreover, farmers said that during any upcoming festival or occlusion the hatchery owners form syndicate to increase the price of chicks. Most of the farmers of the farmers of the study area were not aware about bio-security of poultry farm. A changing feature was observed in the area that some poultry farmers stopped broilers business due to the development of other industries in that locality and they are thinking to convert the farm into residence to rent. Their opinion is that this will ensure the income and they can avoid business risk. Although the broiler farmers of that area familiar with the term bio-gas, however the technology is not available to them. Though bird flue create major impact on poultry industry but farmers are not afraid about bird-flue. According our observation, the structure of the poultry house varied from farmers to farmers. There are not unique size and design. Though light is an important factor for broiler production but farmers are not aware about the impact of light intensity to broiler production. It is also observed that there is no ideal management that is to be followed by the broiler farmers. Management system is not unique to all farmers for this reason production varied from farm to farm.