
UNIT 5 GOVERNMENT'S POULTRY AND PISCICULTURE PROGRAMMES

In this unit, the role of the Government (both Central and State) to give subsidies to economically weaker sections of the society is discussed. These are in the form of kind as well as service. This unit will also discuss the training programmes organised by the Government to educate the needy sections of society.

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5.0 OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- identify the progress of Poultry and Pisciculture in India,
- appreciate the contribution of these two enterprises to the farmer's incomes,
- comment on the subsidies given to the Poultry and Pisciculture enterprises and
- advise the farmers in these two sectors about the training programmes.

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The Government of India and the State Governments have undertaken either to directly establish or finance the establishment of some of the projects which need their assistance in one form or another. These projects may seek either to create more employment for the population or help the different sections of the population to increase their income, or use up the otherwise unused resources or simply provide some goods or services to the people. Hence, usually any Government project is looked at as a socially relevant project.

In the rural sector, there are different ways of actually helping people to get employment and to increase their income. Poultry production is one area where people can earn higher incomes.

5.2 POULTRY FARMS

The business which rears birds for the purpose of egg production and/or for the purpose of meat (broilers) is called a poultry enterprise. In such an enterprise, the farmers rear birds, mainly hens. Some farmers also take up duck farming as a business enterprise.

Poultry enterprise can be taken up either on a very small scale or on a large scale depending upon one's own resources. Hence, a poultry business can be started even in your own backyard or even on your roof-top. Many businessmen, however, take up poultry farming as any other business activity by investing huge sums of money over large areas of land. Such enterprises have 5,000 to 10,000 birds on their farms. On the other hand, the number of poultry birds maintained by families will be as small as 10 to 15 birds.

5.2.1 Products of a Poultry Farm

Poultry farming can be taken up for any one of the following three purposes:

- a) Egg production
- b) Broilers (for meat purposes)
- c) Professional hatcheries (sale of day old chicks)

All the three enterprises fetch a good sum of money to the farmers. Even when a poultry farm is taken up for the production of eggs, birds which are culled (taken away due to less production) also yield good returns to the farmer.

5.2.2 Importance of Eggs—Its Production and Demand

Eggs form a very good source of protein for the consumers. Doctors often advice consumption of eggs for patients who are convalescing. You might have seen advertisements often suggesting more and more use of eggs. These days, a large section of the vegetarian population also eats eggs. You often see eggs being used during breakfast. As in the case of many other food items, the main consumption centres for eggs are the semi-urban and the urban areas.

The demand for eggs is increasing gradually in India from year to year. The production of eggs is also increasing almost in accordance with the increase in demand. In India the production of eggs was 12,590 millions in 1983-84, and it increased to 13,475 millions in 1984-85. The Government has set a target of production of 19,900 million eggs by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan in 1989-90.

5.2.3 Poultry Industry

The Government has taken up a number of measures to stabilise the poultry industry in India. Improved strains have been evolved and released at the Central poultry breeding farms. The marketing of eggs has been given due emphasis with establishment of 111 egg and poultry production-cum-marketing centres. A National Hatchery Registration Programme was introduced during the Sixth Plan (1980-85) to enforce production and supply of quality chicks of both layers (birds for egg production) and broilers (birds for meat).

5.2.4 Proposals for the Seventh Plan

During the Seventh Plan (1985-90) the infrastructure already available at the Central poultry breeding farms and the state farms is being strengthened to take up scientific breeding of strains for supply of parent stock to the farmers. Backyard poultry farming is being extended to the tribal areas with an eye on nutritional standards.

An important problem with the poultry industry is marketing of eggs. It is recommended that the National Co-operative Agricultural Marketing Federation (NAFED) should take a major share in the marketing of eggs and poultry both at Regional and National levels. Training facilities for poultry farmers will be arranged in the State poultry farms.

In fact, the different subsectors in the Agricultural sector in India fall under the control of the State Governments. Hence, you find that the State Governments, with the assistance of the centre, spend a lot of money in the form of grants, subsidies and loans for the development of different sectors like crops, dairy, poultry, fisheries and other minor sectors. The Central Government mainly plays an advisory role and the role of a financier.

5.2.5 Subsidies

The subsidies given to the poultry sector are directed at the producers to ease out their difficulties. The Government gives many facilities like clinical facilities, feeding programmes, etc., whose costs are entirely borne by it. The farmers hardly pay anything for these services. Besides, the State Governments also provide a subsidy component to the

small and marginal farmers, people belonging to the economically weaker sections, tribal farmers, landless agricultural labourers etc. for establishing poultry units. Subsidies are also given to the farmers to buy feed for the poultry birds. Veterinary services are provided free of cost to the farmer. The subsidies are usually given through the local revenue officers at the Block level (Block Development Officer). The type of the subsidies given to the poultry farmers differ from state to state. Hence, it is advisable to collect this information from the local revenue offices in the place we live.

5.2.6 Training Programmes

Poultry farms sometimes are not taken seriously by some farmers. Some farmers maintain birds just to meet the small requirements of their own family. Serious poultry business must be carried out on scientific lines. The farmer needs training for scientific farming. The training facilities must be well-organised if they have to meet the needs of many farmers.

These days, such training programmes are organised by different organisations throughout the country. The Agricultural Universities and Central Institutes governed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research run such programmes. The Animal Husbandry Departments of the State Governments also contribute to these programmes. In some cases, some big poultry farms also impart training in poultry farming. The types of training programmes range from very-short-term programmes for a day to some certificate courses of the duration of one year. These training programmes cover vital aspects of poultry farming viz., construction of sheds, buying chicks, feeding the chicks, their health care, collection of eggs, culling the birds (to take out inferior ones from flock), maintenance of the farm, etc. The short duration training programmes of a day or a week confine themselves to any particular aspect of poultry farming. Thus, the poultry farmer will have a number of training programmes to choose from. Many a time, the farmers are provided free facilities like food and housing during the training programmes. Hence, the farmers can take advantage of these programmes at no extra cost to themselves and during their free time.

Check Your Progress

1 List four important reasons why Government encourages poultry enterprises by farmers.

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2 What are the products which can be produced in a poultry enterprise?

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3 Poultry enterprise can be both a small and big business. Explain.

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4 List the different benefits given to poultry farmers by the Government which are not charged to the farmers.

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5.3 PISCICULTURE

The activity of fishing is called Pisciculture. In popular terms, this business activity is usually referred to as Fisheries.

Fishing can be carried out either in the deep seas or in inland waters. In the case of deep sea fishing, (which is also called marine sector), fishing will be carried out in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) which refers to the water boundaries of our country. In the case of inland fishing, fishing activities will be carried out in inland waters like rivers, lakes, ponds and reservoirs.

Fishing provides nutritious food at the village level and also serves as a source of self-employment in the rural areas. More emphasis is being laid on inland fishing in India at present. Special efforts are being made to develop the inland fishing business.

5.3.1 Progress in India

Let us now look at the development of pisciculture in India over the last few years. The production of fish in India increased from 2.34 million tonnes in 1979-80 to 2.85 million tonnes in 1984-85, registering a growth rate of 3.1 per cent per annum. Of the total production in 1984-85, inland fish production amounted to 1.1 million tonnes, while marine fishing yielded 1.75 million tonnes. The target fixed for total fish production in the country during 1989-90 is 4 million tonnes.

For deep sea fishing, there are 75 vessels and about 1,54,000 non-mechanised traditional boats operating in the narrow coastal belt. The number of mechanised boats operating in our country in the coastal areas is about 20,000.

The potential of fishing area in India is as follows:

Exclusive Economic Zone	—	2.02 million sq.km.
Coast line	—	7517 km.
Rivers	—	29,000 km.
Reservoirs	—	1.7 million hectares
Brackish water areas	—	0.902 million hectares
Tank and ponds	—	0.753 million hectares

For the development of inland fish farming, in the tanks and ponds, the Fish Farmer's Development Agencies will lay emphasis on 'Prawn' farming (a type of fish) in brackish water areas by establishing 'Area Development' prawn farming estates. Fish seed (i.e. the fish which will be used to further breed in ponds and lakes) forms a vital input in inland fisheries. Attempts are being made to acquire them by various State Governments.

As was mentioned earlier in the case of poultry, fisheries is also a state subject. Hence, the entire aspect of inland fishing will fall under the control of the State Government.

Programmes and policies of subsidies, grants, organisation, administration and training fall under the purview of the State Governments. Only deep sea fishing is under the direct control of the Central Government.

5.3.2 Subsidies

Different State Governments grant subsidies to different activities of pisciculture. However, the guidance of the Central Government will be sought for these subsidies because there is an attempt to coordinate the activities of different State Governments in these matters by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development at the Centre.

The expenditures on overheads like organisation, management, etc., of a well knit department of fisheries is entirely borne by the State Government concerned. In addition to this, the State Governments spend a large sum of money on research, education and training, construction of fish farms, fish seed production, rearing and distribution, etc. They also incur expenses on fisheries schemes, providing harbour landing facilities, processing and marketing of fish and providing other infrastructural facilities to the fish farmers. Most of these expenses come as grants to the fisheries sector from the Government. The subsidies for pisciculture operations are granted to fish farmers in the following manner:

- 1 Subsidies to fishermen for procuring deep sea fishing vessels.
- 2 Subsidies to co-operative societies of fishermen for acquisition of infrastructural facilities.
- 3 Managerial subsidies to co-operative societies—appointing literate secretaries to co-operative societies.
- 4 Subsidy to some individuals and voluntary organisations for construction of tanks for fish culture.
- 5 Subsidy for procuring fishing gear coracle (a small rounded boat made of water proof hides) and nylon nets.
- 6 Subsidies to the members of the co-operative societies to buy their fishing requirements.
- 7 Subsidies on marine diesel engines—in an effort to mechanise the fishing operations.
- 8 Subsidy for improvement of traditional fishing.
- 9 Subsidies to local bodies to construct fish markets.
- 10 Supply of fishing requisites free of cost to tribals,

5.3.3 Training Programmes

As in the case of other sectors, special training programmes are organised by Government agencies especially the Department of Fisheries of the State Governments. The training imparted in these programmes include scientific methods of fishing, preparation and repairs of nets, running motor fishing boats, storage, preservation and processing of fish, etc. Added to these, special training programmes are also arranged for women to train them in preparation of delicacies from fish. The Governments, both State and Central, spend a portion of the money allocated to the Fisheries Sector on these training programmes. The extension units of the Agricultural Research Institutes also arrange the training programmes.

At present, the training programmes include and also lay emphasis on production of seed fish in inland waters.

There is a need for trained manpower in the fisheries sector in India. To meet these requirements, the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries and many other Central Institutes all over the country are running programmes to train specialists in the field.

Check Your Progress

- 5 Differentiate between 'deep sea fishing' and 'inland fishing'.

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- 6 What is 'seed fish'?

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- Inland Fishing** : Fishing carried out in inland waters like rivers, lakes, ponds and reservoirs.
- Kilometer** : Unit of Distance. 1 Km. = 1,000 m.
- Marine Fishing** : Deep Sea Fishing
- Marketing** : Selling the produce, provisions, livestock, etc.
- Metre** : Unit of Distance. 1 m = 100 cm
- Pisciculture** : The art and science of fishing
- Poultry Industry** : The business activity dealing with the rearing of birds (mainly hens) for the purposes of production of eggs, meat and new born chicks
- Square Meter** : Unit of area (also denoted as sq. m. or m²)

5.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

- 1 The four important reasons why Government encourages poultry enterprise by farmers are:
- Poultry production is one of the important ways of keeping people employed in rural areas.
 - Farmers can earn higher incomes through such enterprises.
 - All the three enterprises i.e. Egg Production, Broilers, Professional Hatcheries fetch a good amount of money to the farmers.
 - Eggs are important from the nutritional point of view, since they provide good quality protein.
- 2 The products which can be produced in a poultry enterprise are:
- Eggs
 - Meat
 - New born chicks.
- 3 Poultry enterprise can be taken up both as small and large scale business depending upon one's resources. A poultry business can be started even in the backyard of a house or roof-top with just 10 to 15 birds. Poultry farming can be taken up as any other business activity by investing huge sums of money over large areas of land and having about 5,000 to 10,000 birds on the farm.
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- Running of Central poultry breeding farms for evolving and releasing improved strains.
 - Establishment of Eggs and Poultry Production-cum-Marketing Centres.
 - National Hatchery Registration Programme to ensure production and supply of quality chicks.
 - Providing clinical facilities for the birds.
 - Providing subsidies for establishing poultry units and buying feed for the poultry birds.
 - Providing veterinary services.
 - Undertaking various training programmes for training the farmers in poultry farming.
- 5 Deep sea fishing is carried out in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) which refers to the water boundaries of our country. It is also known as marine fishing. Inland fishing is the fishing activity carried out in inland waters like rivers, lakes, ponds and reservoirs.
- 6 Seed fish is the fish which is used to further breed in ponds and lakes, and forms a vital input in inland fisheries.
- 7 The five subsidies given to the fisheries sector by the Government are:
- Subsidy to the fishermen for procuring deep sea fishing vessels.
 - Subsidies to co-operative societies of fishermen for acquisition of infrastructural facilities.
 - Subsidies to private individuals and voluntary organisations for construction of tanks for fish culture.

- iv) Subsidies to local bodies to construct fish markets.
- v) Supply of fishing requisites free of cost to tribals.

Practical Exercise

Record the training programmes offered by the Department of Animal Husbandry for the poultry farmers of your state. Similarly visit the office of the Department of Fisheries and list the various training programmes organised by the office for the benefit of Fish farmers.