



ISSN: 0975-833X

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### EXTENT OF PARTICIPATION OF POULTRY FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN HOUSING MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF POULTRY FRAMING

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#### ARTICLE INFO

##### Article History:

Received 06<sup>th</sup> June, 2015  
Received in revised form  
18<sup>th</sup> July, 2015  
Accepted 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2015  
Published online 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015

##### Key words:

Participation, Layer poultry farmers,  
Housing management,  
Decision making.

#### ABSTRACT

A study was conducted at the Namakkal district in Tamil Nadu to understand the extent of participation of poultry farmers and their families in general management activities. A sample of 42 poultry farmers, 30 extension personnel, 30 technology developers were surveyed using an interview schedule and data were analysed using appropriate statistical tools. The results revealed that the major level of participation was from the family head followed by his wife and family members in housing management and decision making. In most of the activities requiring constant monitoring and supervision, and outside mobility in which role of head was more. Wife and others role were more in labour depended job.

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**Citation:** Mathialagan, P., 2015. "Extent of participation of poultry farmers and their families in housing management activities of poultry framing", *International Journal of Current Research*, 7, (9), 20611-20613.

## INTRODUCTION

The poultry industry in India is growing 8-12 per cent per annum. What was largely a backyard venture before the 1960s has been transformed into a vibrant agribusiness. Today, India is the third largest egg producer in the world (Pathak, 2014) with an annual production of 70 billion eggs (Ayyappan, 2014). Undoubtedly, this impressive growth is a result of several factors, such as active developmental support from the state and central government, research and development support from research institutes, international collaboration and private sector participation. Very important dimension in poultry farming is housing management. It has indirect effect on the production performance of a flock. The Primary objectives of providing housing to poultry is to protect them from sun, rain and predators (ICAR, 2002). The main purpose of poultry housing is to moderate the range of micro environment to which the birds are exposed and optimize their production and better survivability by protecting them from extreme climates and satisfactory working condition for workers inside the poultry house (Girish *et al.*, 2010 and satheeskumar, 2011). Confine the birds, Provide protection from a harsh environment, Satisfy the welfare needs of the birds are three

requirements that the poultry house must satisfy for achieving a high standard of production efficiency (Sreenivasaiah, 2010). If the birds are highly comfortable the production potential of the birds will be exhibited maximum. To design the comfortable poultry housing, selection of an elevated and well drained area, electricity, with adequate good quality water, orientation of the shed, floor space, right flooring, timum height and width of shed, open sides for proper ventilation and light, designs of the cage, feeder, water facilities etc., are contributing factors. These activities should be performed perfectly otherwise production will be affected. Further to plan the training programme for updating the knowledge and skills to the layer poultry farmers on housing management the status of the actual role performed by the farmer and his family is needed for effective conduct of the training. Therefore, a study was conducted to identify the level of participation of poultry farmers in poultry housing management and also in decision making.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted at Namakkal Block of Namakkal District in Tamil Nadu as it has the maximum number of poultry farmers. Based on the number of poultry farmers in each panchayat, the panchayats were grouped into three categories, of which ten per cent of poultry farmers were

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chosen for the sample by applying the principle of sample proportion to size from each category, 42 poultry farmers were chosen using the principles of systematic sampling. The data were collected by using a well structured and pre-tested interview schedule and were analyzed statistically. The respondents were asked to indicate the degree to which they were actually involved in each poultry farm activity on a three – point continuum, which were regularly, occasionally and never. They were given a score of 2, 1 and 0 respectively. This framed the index to the extent of participation in each of the activities for a particular respondent.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained regarding the extent of participation of poultry farmers and their families in housing management is presented here.

construction supervision, material procurement, and location of engineers. whereas wife played a little role in the activities like site selection and construction of farm building but the children, brother and mother had negligible participation in poultry house management. The role of the head was predominant here because for most of the activities related to housing management were he has to mobilize people from outside or he has to go outside to get it done like procurement of materials, selection of engineers, and getting electrical service. Further to participate in the activity like construction supervision one should follow from the morning to evening, head could do this because women has to look after the house hold activities. Hence head role is dominant in the poultry housing management. These findings are not in accordance with the results of Narmatha *et al.*, (1995). Table 2 reveals that as expected the head of the family participated to' maximum extent in all the three decision making activities.

**Table 1. Extent of participation of poultry farmers and their families in housing management activities of poultry framing n=42**

S.No	Activity	Head	Wife	Others			Total	H- Value
				Children	Brother	Mother		
1.	Selection of site							
a)	Land area	81	19	8	3	3	14	234.39**
b)	Soil	81	18	5	3	3	11	
c)	A way form main road	82	18	5	3	3	11	
d)	Other requirements	80	18	7	1	3	11	
	Accessibility to road and availability of electricity							
2.	Construction of Farm Buildings							
a)	Type of poultry house	80	17	8	3	2	13	
b)	Poultry farm plan preparation							
	- Direction	79	15	7	3	1	11	
	- Orientation of shed	79	15	8	3	1	12	
	- Width	79	15	7	3	2	12	
	- Foundation- Feet depth	80	15	5	3	2	10	
	- Sides	79	15	7	3	2	12	
	- Roof	79	14	8	3	2	13	
	- Internal Structure	79	14	8	3	2	13	
	- Flooring	79	14	8	3	2	13	
	- Interval between sheds	79	14	8	3	2	13	
	- Floor elevation	80	14	8	3	2	13	
	- Cages	79	14	9	3	2	14	
	- Water tank	77	13	8	3	2	13	
3)	Procurement of material for construction	77	-	9	3	-	12	
4)	Selection of engineer for construction	59	-	-4	2	-	6	
5)	Supervision of construction	78	6	7	3	-	10	
6)	Applying and getting electricity service	80	-	6	3	-	9	

\*\* Significant at 1 % level (Table value at 1 % level: 9.1)

**Table 2. Extent of participation of poultry farmers and their families in decision making activities of Poultry farming n=42**

S.No	Activity	Head	Wife	Others			Total	H- Value
				Children	Brother	Mother		
1	Decisions to start poultry farm	82	26	7	3	2	12	
2	Decision regarding type of poultry farm	80	25	9	3	2	14	27.9*
3	Resource mobilizations	80	24	7	3	2	12	

\*\* Significant at 1% level (Table at 1% level :9.1)

It could be observed from the Table 1 that in poultry housing management activities, the dominant person was the head of the family (score value range : 59-82) followed by wife (score value range : 6-19). The extent of participation of children, brother and mother was found to be very low. The children had and edge regarding poultry house management compared to the brothers and mother. The participation of the head was maximum in the construction of farm building, selection of site for the poultry house building, getting electrical service,

Their score value ranged from 80 to 82, whereas the score for house wives ranged from 24 to 26 only. These finding of the study are in confirmity with results of Achanta (1982) and Rani and Bhava (1982). The score is still low for the children, brothers and mother with a range of 2 to 9. The permanent labourers working in the farm had no say in decision making regarding poultry related activity. The H- Value of 27.9 for the decision making activity indicates that the significant variation

with regard to extent of participation of farm family members in poultry related decisions.

### Conclusion

The study indicates that the head had major participation in housing management of poultry farming followed by wife and family members. Similar results were observed for the decision making activities. The results of this study can be utilized by the training organization to conduct role based training to improve the poultry housing management skills of the poultry farmer and their family and also to change their attitude towards their involvement in farm activities.

### Acknowledgement

Facilities provided by the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai is gratefully acknowledged.

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