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Karnataka High Court rules Poultry Farming is Agricultural, not Commercial activity

The Karnataka High Court in a September 5, 2023 judgment has ruled that poultry farm being run on an agricultural land is an agricultural activity and not a commercial activity. Accordingly, the Gram Panchayat does not have any power to levy any tax.

KPFBA welcomes order

The Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Breeders Association (KPFBA) President, Dr. B.Sushanth Rai has welcomed the landmark decision stating that this has cleared the air on how poultry farming is an agricultural activity, requiring all the support. Several Gram Panchayats were insisting on poultry farmers to pay taxes, making it difficult for poultry farms to function.

Panchayat has no power to levy any tax

The High Court while observing that Schedule IV of the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act, 1993, does not contain any other classification of a poultry farm entitling the Panchayat to levy any tax, ruled that poultry farm being run on an agricultural land not being a commercial activity but being an agricultural activity, the Panchayat would not have any power to levy any tax in terms of Schedule IV read with Section 199 of the Act.

Referring to the decision of *State of Karnataka, Rep by its Secretary, Revenue Department and others vs. E. Bhaskar Rao [ILR 2003 KAR 2064]*, a Single Judge Bench of Justice Suraj Govindaraj reiterated that a building which had been put up on an agricultural land cannot be said to be a commercial building and the poultry farm activity cannot be said to be a commercial activity entitling the Panchayat to levy any tax let alone under the provisions of the 1993 Act.

Briefly, the petitioner is the absolute owner of the agricultural land, wherein he had set up a poultry farm. With an intention to obtain electricity connection, the petitioner had approached the Karnataka Electricity Board, wherein the Board requested for a 'No Objection Certificate' from the Gram Panchayat to be secured and furnished. When the petitioner approached the first respondent, a demand of Rs.1,37,602/- was made on the ground that the petitioner would be liable to make payment of taxes on the property as if it is an industry which has been run therein. The petitioner at that time having no option had made a payment of sum of Rs.59,551/- but after realizing that the respondent did not have any authority to call for or demand such payment has filed the present petition challenging the said levy.

After considering the submission, the Bench noted that Clause A of Schedule IV of the Act deals with Tax on Buildings, which sub-classifies the Buildings into Residential Buildings and Commercial Buildings.

It is in that circumstances that the Bench observed that the levy as prescribed in the Column 2 thereof has been specified, that if any building is used for residential purpose, then the levy could be made on residential basis and if the building is used for commercial purpose, then the levy could be made on commercial basis in terms of Clause A(i) and Clause A (ii) respectively.

Panchayat directed to refund amount

Accordingly, the High Court directed the Sondekoppa Gram Panchayat to refund the amount of Rs.59,551/- deposited by the petitioner within a period of six weeks.



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High Court directs Gram Panchayat not to levy tax on poultry farms till next date of hearing

The Dharwad bench of the Karnataka High Court has directed the Karnataka Government not to levy tax on poultry farms and poultry farming till the next date of hearing, asking the government to file objections, if any, and seek vacating of the interim order granted by the Court. The High Court said that the petitioners contended that the definition of agriculture includes poultry farm and poultry farming and the Gram Panchayats cannot levy tax on the poultry farming activities, which falls within the domain of agricultural activities.

Thirteen poultry farms from Karnataka had approached the court, seeking relief. The Court said that the petitioners were assailing the vires of the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Gram Panchayats' Tax, Rate and Fees, Rule 2021.

The Court added that by impugned Rules, the Government was intending to levy tax even on poultry farming. The Court said the matter requires consideration at the hands of the court.

The Poultry farms which filed the case included Sri Lakshmi Poultry Complex Pvt Ltd; Vijayalakshmi Poultry Complex; KPR Agros Poultry Pvt Ltd; Sri Lakshmi Venkateswara Poultry Farm; M.Surendra Reddy Poultry Farm; Vaishnavi Poultry Farm; Eggbro Poultry Farms; Sree Renuka Poultry Farm; M.L.Swathi Poultry Farm; Patri Poultry Farm; Kittur Chennamma Poultry Farm; and Merla Farms Siddasamudra. These farms are from the districts of Vijayanagara; Dharwad; Koppal and Belagavi.

The Panchayats were levying at the rate 0.2% on registered value.



Export potential remains untapped

India exported 664,753.46 metric tonnes of poultry products valued at Rs. 1,081.62 crores (\$134.04 million) to the world during 2022-23, up from 2,55,686 MT valued at Rs. 435 crores (\$58.7 million) in 2020-21. The major export destinations being Oman, Indonesia, Maldives, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam and Japan, as per the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA). The Middle East and South Asia remain the focussed markets for India.

Singapore is a market that needs to be explored after Malaysia, its neighbour, curbed export of chickens from June 1, 2022 to ensure that there is sufficient supply in the domestic market. It did not set any date for resuming exports. "The government's priority is our own people," Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob said in a statement, adding that authorities will also investigate allegations of cartel pricing.

Singapore imports poultry meat and products worth \$398 million with Brazil accounting for 50%; Thailand: 28%; United States: 6% and Malaysia: 5%. Brazilian poultry is currently one of the most price competitive in the Singaporean market.

There is enormous potential to export dressed chicken to Singapore. As of now, only a few processing companies are exporting to the island nation. Though exports have been increasing in the past few years, the trade is small in comparison to the global trade, considering that India is among the top 5 producers of chicken and egg products.



The global poultry market is expected to grow to \$493.21 billion in 2026 at a CAGR of 8.9%.

If Indian poultry products have to be accepted globally, the export products have to comply with international standards, particularly with regard to disease-free poultry and poultry products. It is perceived that the Indian exports have low pathogenic avian influenza (LPA) vaccination. The processing centres in India need to invest in the best of processing equipment, laying emphasis on hygiene, packaging and ensuring longevity.

Vasanth Kumar honoured with 'Lifetime Achievement Award'

The NRS Group recently bestowed 'Lifetime Achievement Award' on Mr. C.Vasanth Kumar, founder Trustee and past President of Poultry Farmers and Breeders Association of Maharashtra at the Poultry Expo Award ceremony in Pune. He is also the President of Quality Poultry Product Pvt. Ltd. The award was presented by Marathi film actress Sonali Kulkarni.

The other awardees are: Mr. Raju Bhosale, Mr. Shyam Bhagat "Best Corporate Layer Farmer 2023"; Dr. Mahesh Shiwankar, Vice President of Japfa Comfeed for "Best Executive with long service"; Mr. Rajendra Thorat, Managing Director of Om Chicks for 'Best Broiler Poultry Integrator 2023'; Mr. Das, CEO of Baramati Agro for "Best Chicken Processing Company award 2023"; Dr. Shrilankeshwar Waghole of Bhairvanath Poultry Farm for "Best Nutritionist"; and Mr. Rahil Somajee of Roshanali's for "Best Poultry Distributor award".



National Nutrition Week, emphasis on healthy life

For a week, CSIR-CFTRI celebrated the National Nutrition Week-2023 at government schools and colleges of Mysuru, spreading the importance of nutrition for leading a healthy life. The theme of this year's Nutrition Week is "Healthy diet going affordable for all" and various activities were organised for government school and colleges to create awareness on the importance of nutrition and its role in leading a healthy and disease-free life.

National Nutrition Week is an annual event observed in India that focuses on raising awareness about the importance of nutrition. It is commemorated every year in the first week of September. The week-long event is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India for educating the people on the significance of balanced diets, adequate nutrition, and the impact of the right food choices on improving overall physical and mental health.

National Nutrition Week accelerates its action towards promoting the nutritional status of women and children. The government is keenly focussing on the primary life stages in women — pregnancy, infancy, childhood, and adolescence, thus going with the theme "Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat", according to a government press release.

The event took off with a lecture on importance of micronutrients in growth and development for schoolchildren of Government High School Hootagalli followed by a quiz competition. A talk on general nutrition and benefits of millets was organised for students of Government Junior College, Vontikoppal, Mysuru, and a 'pick and speak' competition on various concepts of nutrition was conducted, the release said.

A debate competition was organised on 'Benefits of traditional vs modern foods' for high schoolchildren in CFTRI School and the importance of good nutritional practices was emphasised. Essay writing competitions

were conducted for CFTRI students and employees on lifecycle nutrition.

The week was concluded by the valedictory function where Dr. Praveen Kulkarni, Professor in Community Medicine and Vice-Principal, JSS Medical College, Mysuru addressed the gathering and he touched upon the current nutrition scenario, dietary practices and corrective measures from the medical perspective. He elaborated the actions needed to make healthy diets more available and accessible for all Indians and sustainable diet recommendations.

The session was presided by Dr. Vijayanand, Chief Scientist and Head, Fruit and Vegetable Technology, CSIR-CFTRI who emphasised on the dietary approaches as solutions for correcting malnutrition and mentioned about the malnutrition alleviation programmes undertaken by CSIR-CFTRI in his remarks.

Winners of various competitions were awarded with certificates and mementos during the event. The awareness programme covering more than 300 students was very well received and was appreciated by the children and teachers, the release said.

Poultry source of high nutrition

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has categorically stated that

- Eggs can be a source of nutritious food for poor households throughout the year.
- Folic acid in eggs can help reduce the incidence of neural tube defects in pregnancy – a common ailment among vulnerable women in developing countries.
- Both poultry meat and eggs can be easily enriched with important omega-3 fats and other critical nutrients – such as selenium and iodine, as well as folic acid – which are often lacking in poor people's diets.

How to identify whether egg is a fresh or not?

If we keep very fresh eggs in water, it will sink in to the bottom of water and lay on their sides. If an egg stays at the bottom but stands on its small end, it's still acceptable to eat; just not quite as fresh and if the eggs floats on water it considered as old egg.

INNOVATIONS IN POULTRY

T-Moov, poultry robot for farms

Designed for demanding environments, with for instance poor litter conditions or flat feed chains, T-MOOV keeps your birds moving and reduces the count of floor eggs.

T-MOOV has 6 adjustable speeds and thus adapts specifically to the flock (species, strain, etc.). The maneuvering angles are adaptable to the building type. Possible combinations of sound and visual stimuli create some variety for the animals.

T-MOOV moves randomly and autonomously in all sorts of buildings, including the narrowest ones. Its ability to cross the potholes and bumps of an irregular litter is second to none. Its compact size also allows it to go under the feed chains.

Simple to use

T-MOOV starts with two buttons and does not require any technical installation. And yet, it adapts to your farming thanks to its mobile application, no matter what birds you're rearing, be they turkeys, reproduction hens or layers!

HatchCargoSystem

The HatchCargoSystem is world's most innovative system where it concerns the transport and protection of hatching eggs. It makes the use of steel farm trolleys superfluous. The HatchCargoSystem allows loading 40% more eggs on the same truck, compressing the return load with 55% compared to steel farm trolleys.

The HatchCargoSystem contains a specific plastic pallet, special stackable setter trays for 150 eggs and a smart designed clip to secure the stacks. All items are made of the very best plastic available in the market.

BASF rat menace stopper

BASF's Selontra rodent bait provides fast colony kill in as few as seven days. BASF, the world's leading manufacturer of Pest Management Solutions, has Selontra, a rodent bait, an innovative soft bait formulation that offers pest management professionals and poultry and livestock growers fast, efficient and effective rodent control.

"BASF has spent five years researching, developing and field testing this product," says Jason Meyers, Technical Service Representative in Professional and Specialty Solutions for BASF. Selontra rodent bait's patented formulation uses the active ingredient cholecalciferol.

The rodent bait demonstrates proven palatability and is readily consumed by rats and mice in U.S. field trials, even when other food sources are available. No resistance to cholecalciferol has been found in rats or mice, and the development of resistance is considered highly unlikely because of its mode of action. In addition, field studies have shown that this new formulation delivers fast colony kill, using less bait than traditional rodenticides, and is also effective at killing anticoagulant-resistant rodents. Selontra rodent bait achieved complete control of infestations in as few as seven days. It also provides a shorter baiting program that requires less labor and materials to kill rodent populations. Further, Selontra rodent bait is especially durable in the environment, remaining stable and intact in extreme temperatures ranging from 0 to 177 degrees Fahrenheit



PERSON OF THE MONTH

M.R.Manickam*“invest in latest technologies and good management practices”*

M.R.Manickam shocked his grandfather telling him that he would start a poultry farm, away from his degree in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering from SJCE, Mysore. Not just his grandfather, his family from Alampatty, a small village near Namakkal district in Tamil Nadu, was against the idea of poultry business, having invested in his engineering education. But Manickam was convinced that poultry sector was his calling.

After completing degree, Manickam and friend S.A.Imtiaz started an industry specializing in the manufacturing of egg albumin flakes. It didn't stop there. Then they realising that instead of sourcing eggs from outside, it is better to start a small poultry farm, little realizing that this ancillary unit would turn out to be the main business down the line. However, there was an initial set back for the flakes unit which became sick and the shutters came down. The partnership also got dissolved. It came as a blessing in disguise as the small poultry unit continued to do well. He started a new poultry unit with a capacity of 9,000 birds, 3km from the existing unit.

An ambitious Manickam was not the one to rest. Keen on expanding his business, he started investing in latest technologies and brought in good management practices, resulting in production of quality products – eggs in this case. The unit has over 60 employees producing 1.8 lakh eggs per day, running one of the most automated poultry units in the country. In 2013, he was awarded the 'best layer farmer' in Hyderabad. He remains motivated and continues to provide high quality protein at affordable prices.

Fortunately for Manickam, he has a highly educated family which is backing him in his venture, taking it to greater heights. His wife Sampoorna Manickam is a double masters degree holder and was an assistant professor of botany before their marriage. Post marriage, she has been involved full time in the business and Manickam thinks this is one of the main reasons for his success. His son Vasanth is also a double Masters' degree, having graduated from both Oxford and Cambridge universities. He returned to Mysore, giving up his work at Goldman Sachs in London, to be part of the journey Manickam has started. Manickam's daughter-in-law Swathee is also a double Masters' degree holder from the US, but now part of Megha farm, while his daughter Meghana who has a Masters from Stanford University is working with Shell.

Manickam has inspired all of them in one way or the other. The farm at K.Hemmannahalli at Mysore with over 3 lakh layers with an annual production capacity of 70 million table eggs is a model farm, having been the first to introduce gas brooding, automatic egg collection etc in the region. The integrated feed mill currently produces around 800 metric tons of high-grade layer poultry feed every month.

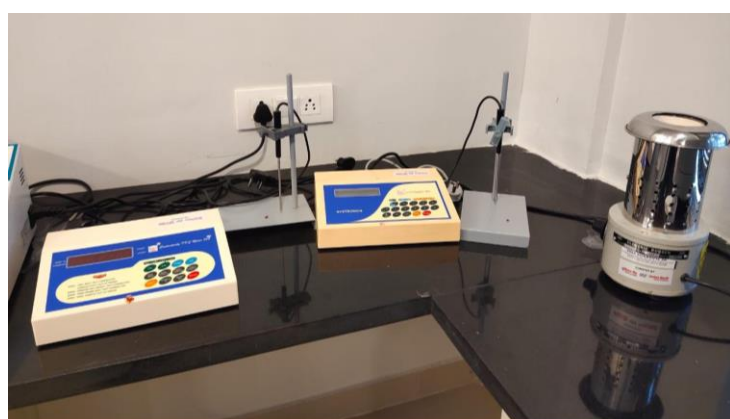
Technology is key for Manickam. With technology partners – Azra Poultry Equipments, Bangalore and Hellmann Poultry GmbH & Co., Germany, Megha farms has implemented an advanced poultry unit with a multi-decked cage system housed in an open shed, which was a first in the country. The farm's 4-tier battery cages system is something to emulate.

Manickam has been expanding his business regularly. The broiler breeding unit, spread over 30 acres, is situated about 40 km from Mysore. The operations are split across three different locations. The staff and operations of this unit are completely isolated from the rest of the layer and hatchery operations to ensure maximum biosecurity. The unit currently houses 30,000 broiler parents with its captive feed mill and cold room facilities. The hatching eggs produced here are processed at his in-house hatchery for the production of day-old broiler chicks. The hatchery currently can handle 8 million hatching eggs annually. All in all, Megha Farms under the leadership of Manickam is a trail blazer.



Numbers of samples processed for the FY2023-24

NUMBERS OF SAMPLES PROCESSED FOR THE YEAR 2023-24									
SI No	Test	Details	Apr 2023	May 2023	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sept 2023	TOTAL
	NIR	BROILER FEED	24	21	24	26	27	17	1391
	SCANN	DDGS	1	5	4	1	1	1	13
1	ING	DORB	4	3	6	4	9	2	28
		FULL SOYA FAT					2		2
		GROUNDNUT CAKE	6	7	9	5	8	2	37
		LAYER FEED	14	16	15	8	21	11	85
		MAIZE	2	9	2	4	3	3	23
		MAIZE GLUTEN							0
		MEAT AND BONE MEAL		2	2	1			5
		POULTRY MEAL							0
		FERMENTED RAPE SEED MEAL						4	4
		RAPE SEED MEAL	7	8	12	6	12	5	50
		RICE					2	2	4
		RICE POLISH							0
		SCANNED EROR							0
		SOYABEAN MEAL	6	19	14	11	26	21	97
		SUNFLOWER	4	4	4	1	5	1	19
		SILKWORM PUPAE				1			
		OTHERS				11			11
	2	POST MORTEM Examination (Autopsied)	30	53	20	17	42		162
	3	MYCOTOXIN	4	6				2	12
	4	AST		1		2			3
	5	TOTAL VIABLE COUNT Quality	1	4		3		2	10
	6	E.COLI COUNT				3		2	5
	7	TOTAL MOLD COUNT	2	4					6
	8	WATER SAMPLES-PH		2		6	1	4	13
	9	WATER SAMPLES -TDS	1	1	3	6	1	4	16
	10	UREASE ACTIVITY		4	5	11	5	1	26
	11	FEATHER EXAMINATION				6			
	12	FECAL EXAMINATION					6	2	8
	13	SEROLOGY			4			6	10
	TOTAL		106	169	124	133	171	92	795



List of tests done at KVFSU-KPFBA Laboratory

<p>1 Nutritional profiling of poultry feed and Raw materials by NIRS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Proximate analysis(Moisture, Dry matter, Crude fibre, crude fat, crude protein) b. Amino Acid profile in raw materials c. Fatty acid profile in Raw materials d. Data on energy value e. Data on Standardised ileocecal digestibility of amino acids f. Urease activity in soysbean meal 	<p>3 Parasitology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Macroscopic examination of faces for parasite identification b. Egg count in fececs
<p>2 Microbiology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Microbial identification b. Total coliform in water and feed c. Total bacterial count in feed and water d. Total mold count in feed e. Antibiotic sensitivity test f. Rapid plate test for salmonella 	<p>4 Pathology</p> <p>Post mortem examination of dead birds</p>
	<p>5 Water quality indicator test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. PH b. Total Dissolved solids(TDS) c. Total viable bacterial count d. E.coli count in water

Contact person: Dr.B.Umakantha, Senior Scientist

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RECIPE: Instant Pot Sesame Chicken

This is a good snack while you are enjoying your favourite drink.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons sesame oil
- Boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into pieces
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup water
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 3 teaspoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons cold water
- Hot cooked rice
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds
- Thinly sliced green onions, optional

PREPRATION

In a pan heat sesame oil and saute chicken in batches. In a bowl, whisk honey, soy sauce, water, garlic and pepper flakes; stir into pressure cooker.

In a small bowl, mix cornstarch and water until smooth; stir into pressure cooker. Saute on simmer, stirring constantly, until thickened. Serve with rice. Sprinkle with sesame seeds and, if desired, green onions.



CHICKEN TRIVIA



Chickens have pain receptors like humans. Their beaks can even bleed.



A chicken's digestive, excretory and reproductive tracts come together at the cloaca. The intestinal opening presses shut when an egg is laid, so a hen won't lay and poop at the same time.



An increase in the size of a hen's comb indicates she will lay eggs soon.

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