



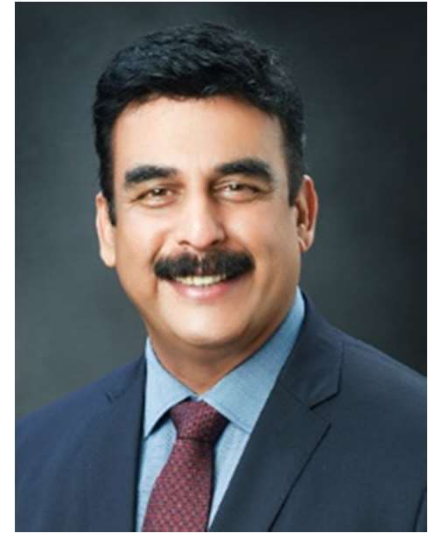
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Skyrocketing price of maize is hurting poultry sector

By Dr. Sushanth Rai, President, KPFBA

- KPFBA urges Government of India to intervene,
- Restrict export and allow import of maize, when necessary

The Karnataka Poultry Farmers & Breeders Association (KPFBA) has written to the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Mr. Parshottam Rupala, urging him to use his good offices to pressurise the Union Government to regulate maize export and import. With price of maize skyrocketing in the recent past, up from Rs. 16,000 per metric tonne to Rs. 22,000 per metric tonne, the poultry sector has been hit the most. Maize is one of the main constituents of a healthy meal for a chicken.



We are given to understand that the prices of raw materials such as maize and soya bean are going to see further upward trend. This will have a direct impact on poultry farming wherein the cost of raw materials will soar which will have an impact on retail price. We are already witnessing chicken being sold at Rs. 260 to 275 per kg in the retail market. With margins squeezed the poultry sector has no other choice but to increase prices at the retail level.

The government has to regulate or else chicken consumption will further get affected in India. As such India is low on nutrition index. It is high time the government promotes nutritious foods and chicken and eggs are rich in protein and also are known for their immunity feature. Chicken and eggs are the cheapest non-vegetarian protein sources available in the market and this supply chain should not be affected by constant volatility in prices of raw materials.

This is not the solution as any steep hike in chicken prices has impact on consumption patterns. The poultry sector, like many other sectors, is just trying to recover from the effects of the pandemic. And now this price hike. The poultry sector has been facing one challenge of the other. Last year, there was severe shortage of Soya DOC and the prices spiralled, leaving the poultry sector with very few alternatives to poultry feed.

The KPFBA seeks from the Government

1) Restrictions on Export of Maize: Government should put quantity restrictions on export of maize, as Indian maize is the cheapest compared to other countries. We request the Government to first fulfil the domestic needs of maize on priority and allow exports only if there is surplus.

2) Exemption of Import Duty on Maize: The Government should exempt import duty on maize for the poultry sector. At present farmers are paying a 15 % import duty on maize. If the government exempts import duty, it will be beneficial to the poultry farmers to import maize in case of any shortage.



KPFBA and NECC raise objections to draft Karnataka Panchayat Raj Rules 2021

The Karnataka Poultry Farmer's and Breeder's Association (KPFBA) and the National Egg Co-ordination Committee have raised several objections to the draft Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (gram panchayat's tax, rate and fees) Rules, 2021, stating that if it comes into effect the poultry sector of Karnataka would be 'crippled'.

The KPFBA & NECC delegation submitted demands to the Minister for Animal Husbandry, **Shri. Prabhu B.Chauhan**; Secretary, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries; Principal Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department; President and Managing Director of Karnataka Cooperative Poultry Federation (KCPF) and Commissioners of the two departments. In the meeting, the government officials assured the delegation that they would take up the points with the Panchayat Raj Department and said that these were draft rules and can be rectified.

Poultry farms cannot be included in 'Agricultural Based Manufacturing Units'

In the letter submitted, the KPFBA President, Dr. B. Sushanth Rai raised objections to the draft rules published by RDPR on 29-12-2021. "From perusal of the definition clause at Rule 2(3) it is seen that, Poultry Farm, has been included under the definition of Buildings used for Agricultural Based Manufacturing Units. Upon defining the Poultry Farm as Agricultural Based Manufacturing Unit, it has been made assessable to Taxes under Chapter III, Rule 15(4)."

Poultry farming is defined under Karnataka Land Reforms Act

"First of all, poultry farming has not been defined under the Karnataka Grama Swaraj and Panchayath Raj Act 1993. Poultry Farming is defined under the Karnataka Land Reforms Act i.e., under Section 2(1)(d) of the said Act." As per the Land Reforms Act, Agriculture includes aquaculture; horticulture; dairy farming; poultry farming; breeding of livestock; and grazing. He added that including poultry farms under the definition of Agricultural Based Manufacturing Unit in the proposed Rules would be contrary to established law and was illegal and untenable. The Karnataka Land Revenue Act does not mandate for conversion of the lands where Poultry Farms are constructed as poultry farming itself is agriculture and poultry farms are mostly on agricultural lands."

Unless the lands are converted under section 95 of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, poultry farms cannot be assessed to taxes by the Local Bodies, much less the Gram Panchayats.

The KPFBA said "Poultry farming is not a manufacturing process where some agricultural raw materials are used, processed and a new product is manufactured. It is an agricultural activity much like sericulture where silk worms are cultivated to produce silk." The KPFBA said that to raise a batch of chicks in to consumable chickens, it takes about 35 to 40 days. Thereafter to rear the next batch of chicks there must be a gap of about one and a half months. In a year, a farmer can rear chicks in five batches, maximum.

High Court judgment on 'right to put up construction on agricultural land'

The President cited the judgment of the High Court of Karnataka in E.Bhaskar Rao Vs. State of Karnataka wherein the former challenged the Revenue Authorities who demanded Rs. 7,01,283 towards land conversion fine. The High Court held that the occupant of a land held for agricultural purpose has 'right to put up construction for his farm house and quarters for labourers etc as poultry farm activities are equated with agricultural activities.'

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Nutrition and feeding

In terms of cost, feed is the most important input for intensive poultry production, and the availability of low-priced, high-quality feeds is critical for the expansion of the poultry industry. For maximum performance and good health, poultry need a steady supply of energy, protein, essential amino acids, minerals, vitamins and, most important, water. Recent advances in poultry nutrition have focused on three main areas:

1. Developing an understanding of nutrient metabolism and nutrient requirements;
2. Determining the availability of nutrients in feed ingredients; and
3. Formulating least-cost diets that bring nutrient requirements and nutrient supply together.

Practical poultry diets are formulated from a mixture of ingredients, including cereal grains, cereal by-products, fats, plant protein sources, vitamin and mineral supplements, crystalline amino acids and feed additives. Increasing costs and decreasing supplies of traditional feedstuffs (due in part to food-feed competition and population growth) are expected to affect the future expansion of poultry production. This highlights the urgent need to make greater use of a wide range of alternative feeds (e.g. insect meals, food waste, agro-industrial byproducts) and to use fewer human-edible components in poultry diets. The use of most alternative feedstuffs is currently negligible, owing to constraints imposed by nutritional, technical and socio-economic factors. In many circumstances, feed resources are either unused and wasted, or used inefficiently.

A major nutritional problem in developing countries is the biological and chemical contamination of poultry feeds, which may have serious consequences on bird performance and the safety of poultry products for humans. Of the potential contaminants, mycotoxins are the most widespread, particularly in hot, humid conditions, and mycotoxin decontamination must be a part of feeding strategies.

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KPFBA delegation meets Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

The KPFBA delegation comprising Mssrs. Nanje Gowda, MLA of Malur; Govindaraj, MLC; Anilkumar, MLC; Prasanna of Nandini Poultry Farm, MC Member – KPFBA; and Raju Kallandur, met the Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj and submitted a memorandum objecting to the draft rules framed under the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayath Raj Act 1993. The Minister assured to look into the matter after discussing with his department. The Minister also sent a memo to the Principal Secretary, RDPR on the matter.



Person of the Month : Mr. Manjesh Kumar Jadav

He is called the 'go to man'. Rightly so, any crisis in the poultry sector, one of the first persons to be contacted is Mr. Manjesh Kumar Jadav, a professional with over four decades of experience. His rapport with poultry farmers, traders and the major producers is at the core of his 'problem solving' approach. It was this that helped in 'integration' of the poultry farmers and the big players and he came to be known as the 'mastermind' for having brought about this contractual system. The integration was possible as Mr. Jadav is rooted the ground and has a keen sense of business acumen that is easy to understand.

Presently, the General Manager of Venkateshwara Hatcheries, Mr. Manjesh Kumar Jadav has traversed the sector with enormous understanding, having started his career with Godrej Agrovet and later moved on to Suguna, Hindustan Lever etc holding various positions. A post graduate in Science from Bangalore University, Mr. Jadav has firm grasp on poultry matters and for that reason he continues to be the Chairman of the Broiler Coordination Committee of KPFBA. Prior to that he was its General Secretary from 2013-15 and 2017-2019, a period which saw him come up with new initiatives.

Mr. Jadav is of the view that the poultry sector is going through a crisis of sorts. After the pandemic dealt a body blow to most sectors, the poultry sector has been compounded by a major challenge – that of over production. "We are producing 1.3 crore chicks per day, while the availability of raw materials has not been commensurate and the growth in consumption has been slow. It is a saturated market. We are already seeing reduction by 10 to 15 % in placement of chicks. The poultry sector needs to come up innovative ways of marketing, enhancing quality of products, reasonable pricing, if it has to expand the market size."

At 61, Mr. Jadav is constantly thinking on how to make the poultry sector vibrant and he believes that all it requires is a collective effort and strong organizations such as the KPFBA.



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NECC says draft rules discriminatory

NECC said that "as per the provisions of Section 199 of the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Act, 1993, the concerned gram panchayat can levy tax upon buildings and lands which are not subject to agricultural assessment. Any Rules thereof cannot override the Act itself by mandating something contrary."

Karnataka already importing 50 lakh eggs from other States

NECC also pointed out that no other State had come out with such legislation and in fact, states such as Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have promulgated beneficial legislations while providing subsidies to poultry farms. "There is no tax on lands and buildings used for poultry farms in Gujarat, Punjab, Madhya

Pradesh etc." NECC mentioned that Karnataka is already receiving about 50 lakh eggs per day from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and if these draft rules come into effect, then Karnataka will have to depend upon other states for its poultry requirements.

The delegation comprised of Mr. MSR.Prasad, KPFBA member & NECC Chairman, Hospet; Mr. Satish Babu, Zonal Chairman, NECC Mysore; Mr. Giridhar Murthi, NECC Hospet; Mr. Seshanarayana, Hospet; and Mr. Inayath Ulla Khan, Executive Secretary, KPFBA.



What to Do about the Fly Menace in Poultry Farms



Prof.Dr. R.N.Sreenivas Gowda

Fly menace is common problem in any poultry operation, Because of this nuisance several complaints were lodged in municipalities and sometimes notices were also served to close the farms. Fly control can only be achieved by an integrated pest management approach. This essentially means doing a range of things rather than sticking to just one control method, which is seldom effective on its own.

Some level of fly infestation is inevitable on poultry farms but fly numbers in pest proportions usually indicate a failure in one or several key areas of farm management.

The most common reasons are:

- Inadequate manure management
- Flies like warm, semi-moist conditions for breeding, so poultry litter is ideal, especially under drinkers or where there has been a water leak,
- Excessive moisture levels in and around sheds
- Failure to clean up spilled or spoiled feed or soiled litter
- Poor management of compost piles
- Diarrhoea complex and wet litter problem
- Ineffective use of pesticides – using the wrong insecticide at the wrong time of year against the wrong fly species, or overusing chemical pesticides leading to resistance
- Lack of understanding of fly breeding habits
- Poor maintenance of buildings or services such as watering systems.

Integrated Pest Management

1. It is impossible to eradicate flies, so control practices are directed at reducing fly populations to tolerable levels.
2. Integrated pest management combines prevention and non-chemical control methods with the wise use of the least harmful pesticides possible - It involves monitoring and environmental control
3. To be successful in controlling flies, it is important that producers implement a control program that best fits their particular operation.
4. Reliance on a single practice or pesticide product is not the best approach to achieving effective and economical pest control.
5. A good standard of farm management is essential to reduce fly populations. Good management includes general farm hygiene, maintaining healthy birds, trimming grass around sheds, cleaning up spilt feed around storage areas and poultry sheds, reducing moisture in and around buildings by controlling water run-off, guttering, drains and maintaining leak-free stock watering systems.
6. A better approach is to combine routine sanitation with a variety of pesticide strategies, such as baits, residual sprays, space sprays, and larvicides.
7. Do not wait for heavy fly populations to build up. It is much easier and less expensive to prevent fly populations from increasing at the beginning of the season than to attempt to control them after they have reached unacceptable density levels. As fly populations begin to increase, take time and treat as needed.

Checklist for fly control programme

The following checklist is a tool for you to use in monitoring fly populations and in routine maintenance of key fly breeding habitats on your operation. use as a weekly cleanup and maintenance checklist to ensure the effective control of fly populations on your operation.

Checklist to ensure the effective control of fly populations on your operation.

Identify the Potential fly breeding areas

- Plan a weekly cleanup and maintenance
- Identify sites where flies are breeding on your operation,
- locate the potential source of a nuisance fly outbreak,
- find out the wet spots which are the fly breeding places
- Dead birds are a particular source of flies.

Potential fly breeding areas: Manure

- accumulated manure under caged laying hens
- accumulated manure under slats in breeder laying-hen houses
- residues of manure left by scrapers and flushing systems
- wet manure under waterers in caged layer and breeder houses
- Wet litter in Broiler houses

Potential fly breeding areas: Feed

- Feed and moist spilled feed
- wet litter under waterers in cage and broiler houses

Potential fly breeding areas: Others

- dead birds
- broken eggs
- wet areas due to surface runoff into sheds and pits
- cleanup tall grass and other vegetation immediately surrounding barns that can become moist areas with degrading plant material

Recommended Control Methods:

- Keep the farm clean and tidy to reduce potential food sources and breeding sites.
- Proper ventilation and airflow to dry manure and litter.
- Fix the leaky waterers / nipples
- Remove manure frequently in scraper or using the flush systems
- In systems with accumulated manure, remove only once or twice per year during the cool season and leave a base of dry, absorptive old manure
- Providing drainage around sheds and facilities.
- Remove the vegetation around sheds
- Prevent feed spillage
- Incinerate or compost dead birds immediately
- Remove broken eggs
- Properly maintain manure storage area and promote drying of manure

Additional Control Options:

- Keep indoor and outdoor fly bait stations
- Place indoor fly sticky traps at strategic places.
- Use fly paper or tape in egg room, with pheromone traps outside the house
- Spray insecticide around adjacent vegetation and buildings
- Misting for adult fly control as needed
- Treatment with larvicides
- It is important to follow all label directions for product use to ensure personal safety, the safety of others and the safety of birds.

CONCLUSION

Flies are the last thing you want on your poultry farm. Seeing as they spread disease and irritate poultry, they cause nothing but trouble. Once you implement proper fly control program, you'll find that they were well worth the effort. Your chickens will be happier, healthier, and perform better.



RECIPE

KERALA CHICKEN CURRY

Marinate chicken with garam masala, salt, turmeric, red chili powder and pepper. Set aside for half hour.
 Dry roast the spices, cool and add water to make paste
 Heat coconut oil in a pan, add onions sauté till brown, add ginger garlic paste and sauté till raw smell goes
 Add the marinated chicken and sauté for 4-5 minutes
 Add garam masala paste
 Cook covered on a medium / low flame till the chicken is cooked completely
 Pour coconut milk
 Simmer for 5 to 6 minutes
 Check salt
 For seasoning – add coconut oil, curry leaves, onions and red chillies
 Pour the seasoning on the chicken gravy
 Ready to serve



CHICKEN TRIVIA



In South Korea, there are more fried chicken restaurants than there are McDonald's restaurants worldwide.



If chickens listen to classical music, they can lay bigger and heavier eggs.



When chickens feel stressed, they start to lose their feathers.

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