

Minister inaugurates state-of-the-art Poultry Training Center & Diagnostic Lab in Bengaluru

The Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Breeders Association (KPFBA) and the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU) jointly have set up one of its kind state-of-the-art Poultry Training Center & Diagnostic Laboratory in Bengaluru. The Lab housed in KVAFSU campus will do pioneering research to do with promotion of poultry health.

Inaugurating the Center, the Minister for Animal Husbandry & Fisheries, Mr. Prabhu Bamala Chavan assured the poultry sector that he would help remove any hurdles in the growth of the sector. Commending the Center for investment in modern technologies, he said the contribution of animal husbandry and fisheries to the GDP was growing.

Free courses for farmers and students: The Vice Chancellor of KVAFSU, Dr. K.C.Veeranna said that students

of KVAFSU would be using the lab for research as this has specialized and most modern equipment. Also two batches of 30 farmers each will be undergoing training in poultry farm management and healthcare at the Center. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between KVAFSU and KPFBA on this wherein the latter will run the courses, free of charge for farmers and students.

The KPFBA President, Dr. B.Sushanth Rai said the laboratory equipped with ultra modern sophisticated equipment will help the poultry community in the state and elsewhere in monitoring disease outbreak as well work on managing the same. One of the features of the Lab is going to be its easy accessibility the poultry farmers who can get tests done here to confirm of any disease that may or may not have affected the farm. This, he added, would lead to better and efficient farm management practices and help in reducing chicken mortality rate.

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L-R: **Dr. K. C. Veeranna**, Vice-Chancellor, KVAFSU, Bidar | **Shri. Prabhu Bamala Chauhan**, Hon'ble Minister For Animal Husbandry & Fisheries, Govt of Karnataka | **Sri.Govindaraju**, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Council, Govt of Karnataka | **Dr. Sushanth Rai B**, President, KPFBA

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Dr. Sushanth Rai said the Lab and the Training Center to be headed by a Scientist has the best of equipment. The Lab will have three sections – Microbiology, Pathology and Nutrition. The Lab and the Training Center is another fine example of academia and industry coming together to take the poultry sector to the next level.

The objectives of the new initiative are:

- To establish, administer and manage the Center and Lab, offering the facility for scientific research, clinical trials, examination and disease management.
- To collaborate and associate with other organizations having similar objectives.
- To facilitate graduates and post graduates of KVAFSU to conduct studies, experiments etc for their studies at no cost.
- Arranging technical seminars, meetings, refresher courses to breeders and veterinarians.
- Train farm supervisors and managers to address the need for skilled manpower

Glimpses of inauguration of ‘KVAFSU - KPFBA Poultry Training Center & Diagnostic Laboratory’ held on Thursday 25th August 2022



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IVPI's annual meeting pushes for technology adoption

The Institution of Veterinarians of Poultry Industry (IVPI) annual meeting with the theme 'Driving Forward: Indian Poultry' was held in Bengaluru successfully where experts dwelled on various topics on how to expand the growth of the sector. On the occasion, the Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred on Prof. (Dr) R.N.Sreenivas Gowda, former and first Vice Chancellor of the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU), who said the award truly belonged to farmers from whom he learnt a lot.



Setting the tone for the meeting, the IVPI President, Prof. Devegowda said malnutrition is common in India and there was urgent need to provide eggs to improve nutritional standards, calling for education and awareness programmes. He said consumption of eggs and chicken in metros such as Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad etc is fairly ok, while in the rural areas there needs a marketing push. Tier II and III markets had enormous potential to grow.

Underlying the importance of a shift from wet shops to processed chicken outlets, he said it was happening in the cities gradually, but in non-urban areas it is most wet shops. He called upon the farmers not to wait till the chickens were 3 kg in weight as it lost tenderness, buckling under the pressure of traders who ask for bigger birds. Value addition and branding is important in the poultry sector.

Naveen Pasupathy, Co-founder, Nandu's Chicken who spoke on 'solar energy in poultry production' said solar energy was first introduced in the Nanda group 11 years back, not looking at financial feasibility, but from environmental concerns. Looking back, he said, it had paid dividends as it had brought down the monthly electricity bill. However, he cautioned saying that the return on investment (ROI) is six year and for off-grid it is 8 to 9 years, hoping that the ROI timeframe would get reduced with introduction of newer technologies.

Underscoring the importance of implementing alternative sources of energy, he said that all electricity companies are bankrupt and they would increasing power tariff every year. "There is going to be continuous cost hike as most poultry units are getting automated." To offset this cost hike, he added that alternative sources had to be

looked at and solar energy improved life of equipment, reduced operational cost and above all was clean energy.

Dr. C.R.Behl talked about the need for environment control (EC) housing as almost all breeds of poultry are now high yielding and fast growing. EC housing helped in better utilization of feed and improved performance, resulting in increase in body weight of poultry, which in turn meant increase in profits, at least two times more from the present situation. Also there were other benefits such as less stress, low mortality and bio-security of the farms.

Dr. Sushil Silva, Scientist in Veterinary Research Institute, Sri Lanka gave a presentation on import of soybean seeds and meal in the region. Soyabean meal is the most widely used protein meal in the world as it is rich with all amino acids, containing high amount of energy and other nutrients. However, it needs to be processed properly, not to lose out on the nutrients. Soybean extrusion was one method wherein it will help preserve all nutrients while deactivating anti-nutritional ingredients. One of the advantage of that is the meal is rich in protein plus has energy. The oil embedded in the ingredient facilitates easy mixing.

The owner of Ponni feeds, K.Singaraj said there was urgency to aggressively market in rural areas, both egg and poultry meat, as 60 per cent of India's population was in Tier II, III and villages. India ranks 3rd in egg and 8th in meat production, he said and added that almost all states now were producing poultry products. In 2010, India produced 60.3 billion eggs and the number had doubled in 2021 at 122 billion eggs, however, the per capita consumption was low, particularly in rural areas which was at 5 to 15 eggs, against 200 eggs in Tier I cities. That gap has to be bridged. Both domestic and export markets can be developed, he said and urged for a special price for egg exports with a cap of 10 per cent of production. This would also help egg price stabilize in the domestic market.

Dr. Sanjay Gavkare of Ventri Biologicals talked about the importance of hatchery vaccination to build defence mechanisms in chicks. Defence mechanisms are either inherited or acquired and vaccine, he said, is a good tool to combat diseases and build immune systems required for chick which are 6 to 7 days old. Birds have to be sensitized and conditioned to fight against diseases and hatchery vaccination plays an important role. He suggested that there was need to adopt vaccines depending upon local conditions than just blindly going for what worked in the West. Think globally, act locally should be the mantra.

Mr. Harsha Kumar Shetty, General Secretary, welcomed the gathering, while Dr. Aravind proposed a vote of thanks.



Hybrid geothermal and solar energy system for poultry housing

A new hybrid geothermal and solar energy system is set to dramatically reduce emissions and energy costs for many Australian poultry farms, according to a news release from the University of Melbourne.

The University of Melbourne has teamed up with geothermal companies Ground Source Systems and Fourth Element Energy to create a hybrid geothermal and solar heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system specifically for the poultry industry.

The project will demonstrate how the energy demands of sheds can be coordinated with on-site renewable energy production, showing both economic and environmental benefits to farmers to further support the uptake of the technology across the industry. The system includes a ground-source (geothermal) heat pump system and full-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) system with gas back-up, which can supply the HVAC needs of poultry farms.

University of Melbourne Professor Guillermo Narsilio said the collaborators have identified 827 poultry farms across Australia that meet the conditions needed to transition to hybrid geothermal and solar energy. "Australia is in an ideal position to lead the development of this technology and reap the benefits in several intensive farming sectors," said Narsilio.

"We have world-class engineering expertise, ideal solar conditions, and the space to install geothermal systems," he added. "If we can achieve 15-20% market uptake in the Australian poultry industry, it would reduce at least one tenth, or 160,000 tonnes of the industry's greenhouse gas emissions."

Director of Ground Source Systems Brad Donovan said the team will produce a public report on how the Yanderra system is operating that sets out a clear cost benefit analysis for poultry farmers. "We are also exploring ways that farmers can be assisted with the upfront costs of retrofitting hybrid systems," Donovan said.

The team estimates the new system could reduce the sector's total greenhouse gas emissions by around one million tonnes (CO₂-e) from 1.8 million tonnes to 0.8 million tonnes per annum, with 100% uptake.

The hybrid energy costs for farmers would be between 75-90% less than existing systems, subject to the farm operation method, with installation costs likely to be fully recovered within three to six years. Poultry broiler industry sheds require both heating and cooling – traditionally provided by a combination of LPG-powered heaters and evaporative coolers – at a combined annual energy cost of around \$80 to \$100 million for chicken farms across Australia.

Indian Poultry Market Research Report

IMARC Group's latest research report, titled 'Indian Poultry Market Research Report: Industry Trends, Share, Size, Growth, Opportunity, and Forecast 2022-2027,' offers a detailed analysis of the market drivers, segmentation, growth opportunities, trends, and competitive landscape to understand the current and future market scenarios.

The India poultry market reached a value of INR 1,708 Billion in 2021. Looking forward, IMARC Group expects the market to reach INR 3,170 Billion by 2027, exhibiting a CAGR of 10.50% during 2022-2027. The poultry industry involves breeding, hatching, rearing, and processing domestic birds. It includes chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys raised by humans that are domestically or commercially used for eggs, meats, and feathers. The poultry market has significantly gained prominence across India due to the increasing consumption of meat among individuals. Besides this, the introduction of online food delivery channels across the country that has improved the accessibility to food services, along with statistical advancements in the overall structure of the poultry industry, is also driving the market growth.

India Poultry Market Trends

The market in India is primarily driven by the increasing health consciousness among the masses. Coupled with the changing dietary patterns and the rising demand for protein-rich food products among individuals, this is positively influencing the market growth. Moreover, inflating disposable income levels of the masses, along with the increasing preferences for leading a healthy lifestyle, is providing a boost to the sales of poultry products. Additionally, numerous initiatives undertaken by the government to support poultry businesses, including encouraging poultry farming by introducing capital fund schemes, are providing an impetus to the market growth. Apart from this, the rising popularity of international cuisines due to the penetration of social media is considered to be a major growth-inducing factor. Furthermore, the proliferation of restaurants and fast-food joints across the country are also creating a positive outlook for the market. Other factors, including easy product availability via the online and offline organized retail channels and continuous improvements in the food and beverages sector, are further projected to drive the market growth across India.

Person of the Month:**K.S.Akhilesh Babu, *Man with a vision and mission***

The soft-spoken Mr. K.S.Akhilesh Babu, Managing Director of Komarla Group is a man whom the poultry sector respects for many reasons, one certainly being his quiet demeanor. Behind that façade is a thinking person, a man with a vision. In fact, during his KPFBA tenure as Treasurer and President, he has been in command, steering not just the KPFBA but the sector as a whole, getting the attention of the powers that be. He was the KPFBA Treasurer from 2015 to 2017 and President from 2017 to 2019.

As Managing Director of Komarla Group, a group which has carved a niche for itself in the poultry sector in this part of the world, Mr. Akhilesh Babu has driven the Group towards impressive growth.



Established in 1922, the group now is an integrated poultry company with operations in agricultural commodities trading, feed milling, breeding farms, hatcheries and commercial integrated farms. The Group owes it to its founder late Mr. Komarla Ganga Setty who started the Sri Balakrishna Flour Mills in 1922 and over the years transformed it into an integrated poultry company. The founder Sri .Komarla Ganga Setty's vision and efforts of his son Subbarama Setty & Grandson P S Nanda Kumar (Now Nanda Group) to expand business and be known for its quality offerings is being carried forward by Mr. Akhilesh Babu and team.

Outside of the poultry industry, the group has presence in residential, commercial and retail real estate. Headquartered in Bengaluru, the group has operations in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra (Sangli - Kolhapur) and Goa. The Group consists of Komarla Feeds (Karnataka & Tamilnadu); M/s. Sri Balakrishna Flour Mills; M/s. Srinivasa Roller Flour Mills (all in Bangalore); M/s. Komarla Feeds & Foods Pvt Ltd, Sangli & Kolhapur; and M/s. Mandovi Hatcheries, Ponda, Goa.

Mr. Akhilesh Babu is a B.Sc Graduate, followed by Diploma in Business Administration and did a course in Flour Milling Technology from the Central Food Training and Research Institute, Mysore. He has vast knowledge not only about the poultry sector, but allied and varied fields, having served it for over 4 decades.

He and his family owns **M/s. Sri Balakrishna Flour Mills; M/s. Mandovi Hatcheries, M/s. Sreenivasa Roller Flour Mills; and M/s. Komarla Agrovet**, bringing his rich experience, intuition and balanced approach to the management of the group. He has been the secretary and trustee of various social, cultural and charitable organizations and has traveled extensive across India and abroad. He has also been the **Chairman** of the **Compound Livestock and Feed Manufacturers Association of India (CLFMA)-Karnataka Branch**.

As MD of Komarla Group, Mr. Akhilesh Babu is leading it from the front. Starting as Sri Balakrishna Flour Mills in 1922, the group has over the years strategically transformed into an integrated poultry company. The credit goes to the management for its vision and mission. He has dedicated himself to the poultry sector and participates in many conferences to learn is passionate about poultry and he can be seen participating in conferences eagerly.

He is involved in educational Institutions as Trustee of **RV Educational Trust, Vasavi Educational Trust, Vasavi Vidya Nikethan Trust, Maruti Educational Trust** and Treasurer at **Acharya Patashala Educational Trust**.

RECIPE: KUNG PAO CHICKEN

Ingredients

3 tablespoons cornstarch,
dissolved in 3 tablespoons water
3 tablespoon of white wine
3 tablespoons soy sauce
3 tablespoons sesame oil
1 kg boneless chicken, cut into
medium pieces
1 spoon hot chilli paste
2 spoons brown sugar
1 spoon white vinegar
2 spoons chopped peanuts
4 chopped onions
2 chopped garlic cloves
Combine water and corn starch
and set it aside in a cup.

Marinate

Mix 1 tablespoon wine, 1 tablespoon soy sauce, 1 tablespoon sesame oil, and 1 tablespoon cornstarch/water mixture in a bowl. Add chicken pieces and mix well and refrigerate for minimum 30 minutes.

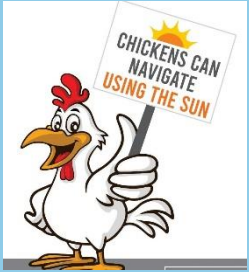
Mix remaining 1 tablespoon wine, 1 tablespoon soy sauce, 1 tablespoon sesame oil, and remaining cornstarch/water mixture in a medium bowl. Whisk in chilli paste, brown sugar, and vinegar. Add water chestnuts, peanuts, green onions, and garlic and toss to coat.

Transfer water chestnut mixture to a medium skillet. Heat slowly over medium heat until aromatic.

Add chicken to a skillet and cook over medium-high heat, stirring, until chicken is cooked. Combine water chestnut mixture and sautéed chicken together in one skillet. Adjust heat and simmer together until sauce thickens.



CHICKEN TRIVIA



Chickens can navigate using the sun.

This helps them locate food and water, as well as tell the time.



Hens talk to their eggs...

... and they talk back! Hens are shown to communicate with their offspring in eggs, with the chicks eventually developing enough to respond from inside their eggs.



Only 2 countries in the world don't have chickens.

The only continent with no live chickens is Antarctica. The only country without chickens is Vatican City — although they keep a chicken flock 26 miles from the city at Castel Gandolfo.

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