

ECONOMICS OF BROILER FARMING IN LAKHIMPUR AND SONITPUR DISTRICTS OF ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

A study on management practices and economics of broiler farming was conducted in two districts of Assam, viz. Lakhimpur and Sonitpur. The data were collected from 100 numbers of respondents by a pre-tested interview schedule. The result showed that majority of the respondents in both districts reared broilers on *semi-pucca* (low cost poultry house constructed with locally available materials having cemented floor) house on deep litter system did not maintain proper farm records. Feed was the major operating cost in both the district. The cost of production and income per batch of broiler was significantly ($P < 0.01$) higher in Sonitpur as compared to Lakhimpur district, which might be due to the higher flock size of broilers in Sonitpur as compared to Lakhimpur. However, the income per broiler was non-significant ($P > 0.05$). It could be concluded that broiler farming in Sonitpur district is better in terms of farm infrastructure and flock size leading to higher returns in comparison to Lakhimpur district.

Key words: Broilers, Managemental practices, Income

Due to certain advantages like operational convenience, low investment, early return, easy availability of farm inputs and high market demand, now-a-days people are adopting broiler farming as a source of income in India and more specifically in Assam. Broiler farming ensures a regular flow of

income through the marketing of poultry products particularly meat. From the trade sources (no documentation), it is known that about 50000 farmers have been adopting broiler farming with different flock size in almost all districts of Assam. This study was conducted to know the management practices and

economics of broiler farming in Lakhimpur and Sonitpur districts of Assam.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A study was conducted in two districts of Assam namely Sonitpur and Lakhimpur, for a period of 6 month *viz.*, October 2011 to March 2012 for study of the economics of broiler farming. Randomly 50 numbers of respondents from each district, totaling 100 numbers of respondents were selected for this purpose. Two blocks from each district and five villages from each block were considered for this study. The data on the method of rearing, farm structures – *kutch*a (low cost poultry house constructed with locally available materials), *semi-kutch*a (shed in which is constructed using both locally available inputs and concrete materials) and *pucca* (concrete structures), cost of production per batch of broiler reared, and income from broiler operation per batch and per broiler bird were collected through a pre-tested interview schedule by personnel interview. The duration of data collection was for a period of 6 month *viz.*, October 2011 to March 2012. The data were tabulated and subjected to appropriate statistical analysis to draw the conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the study it was observed that 100 percent of the respondents under the study adopted the intensive system for rearing of broilers. It was found that majority of the respondents reared in *kutch*a type of house (Lakhimpur 86% and Sonitpur district 80%), followed by *pucca* (10% in Lakhimpur and 18% in Sonitpur district) and *semi-kutch*a type (4% in Lakhimpur and 2% Sonitpur), respectively.

Hundred percent respondents used paddy husk as bedding material in both the districts, irrespective of the type of houses used for rearing. The result got supported by various researchers^{2,4}.

The study also revealed that proper farm record was not maintained by 95 percent

respondents in Lakhimpur district and 80 percent in Sonitpur, which might be due to lack of knowledge on the importance of farm record keeping. Similar observations were reported by other workers¹.

Data on the expenditure incurred for rearing broilers per batch irrespective of the flock size has been presented in Table 1. The average flock size of broiler was higher in Sonitpur as comparison to Lakhimpur district. It was found that the feed was the major operating cost and this was followed by cost of chick, medicine, electricity, litter material, miscellaneous items and the labour in both the districts of Assam. Similar findings were also reported by other workers^{3,5}. The mean cost of production of broiler rearing was significantly ($P < 0.01$) higher in Lakhimpur district when compared to Sonitpur district, which might be due to the fact that the average flock size per batch was higher among the respondents of Sonitpur district than Lakhimpur district.

Contribution to the income in broiler operation was made primarily by sale of broiler birds and gunny bags in both the districts. There was highly significant difference ($P < 0.01$) in income per batch of broiler reared between the two districts (Rs. 53536.10 in Lakhimpur and Rs. 97919.00 in Sonitpur (Table 2) whereas income per broiler was non-significant (Rs.149.54 and 148.14 respectively). This might be due to the higher flock size and better farm infrastructures in Sonitpur district in comparison to Lakhimpur district. The findings of the present study are in good agreement with other workers².

From the present study it could be concluded that broiler farming in Sonitpur district is better in terms of farm infrastructure and flock size leading to higher returns in comparison to Lakhimpur district.

Table 1. Cost of production (Rs) per batch of broiler in Lakhimpur and Sonitpur districts of Assam

Operating cost	Districts	Mean ± S.E.	Range	t-value
Chick	Lakhimpur	10048±911.6	2800-29000	11.06**
	Sonitpur	20134±2382.07	3000-90000	
Feed	Lakhimpur	27256.1±2712.03	6600-80000	8.3**
	Sonitpur	49777.1±6131.44	8050-240000	
Electricity	Lakhimpur	419.7±25.01	200-900	24.48**
	Sonitpur	1032±160.7	250-8000	
Medicine/Vaccine	Lakhimpur	1324±188.99	300-7000	8.62**
	Sonitpur	2953±509.3	500-20000	
Litter material	Lakhimpur	362±29.9	500-1000	20.36**
	Sonitpur	970.6±192.91	130-10000	
Labour	Lakhimpur	54±54	0-2700	9.19**
	Sonitpur	550±206.14	0-8000	
Miscellaneous	Lakhimpur	297±59.8	0-1500	15.37**
	Sonitpur	1216±305.61	0-15000	
Total	Lakhimpur	38281±3635.88	10000-115600	11**
	Sonitpur	78265.6±9642.63	12100-379000	

** Indicate significant difference between the two districts at P≤0.01

Table 2. Income (Rs) per batch of broiler in Lakhimpur and Sonitpur districts of Assam

Different saleable product	Districts	Mean ± S.E.	Range	t-value
Sale of broiler	Lakhimpur	53258.7±5022.86	14700-161500	8.76**
	Sonitpur	97266±9642.63	16000-456000	
Gunny bags	Lakhimpur	277.4±25.7	0-950	14.61**
	Sonitpur	653±79.78	100-3000	
Total	Lakhimpur	53536.1±20280.31	14840-162000	1.49
	Sonitpur	97919±12383.05	16100-459000	

** Indicate significant difference between the two districts at P≤0.01

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