



# Inputs Quality Assessment among the Beneficiaries of Contract Broiler Farming System

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article history:

Received: 17 July 2015;

Received in revised form:

25 August 2015;

Accepted: 4 September 2015;

#### Keywords

Contract farming,  
Inputs,  
Integrator,  
Quality,  
Poultry farmer.

### ABSTRACT

Contract farming which was virtually unknown in the poultry sector half a century ago, has proliferated rapidly. The growth of poultry sector in India was also marked by an increase in the size of poultry farm. Likewise, the practice of integration or contract farming caught up the imagination of the people in the rural areas also. A study was conducted to know the reasons for preference towards contract broiler farming among 200 broiler farmers in Coimbatore and Erode districts. Conventional analysis like mean and percentages were used for the study. The results showed that, except for the chick quality the respondents were contented with all the inputs supplied.

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### Introduction

Contract farmers get several incentives from vertically integrated firm such as credit, production and price risk reduction, marketing assistance, technical know-how etc., and contract farmers were better off in their net income by getting the high net return from the poultry farmer (Begum, 2005). While contract farming promises significant benefits for growers in many cases, recent studies have highlighted circumstances in which members of the rural population have realized only limited gains or have been directly or indirectly harmed by contract farming (Glover and Kusterer, 1990 and Little and Watts, 1994). A study was performed to analyse the contract poultry production system in broiler production in Tamil Nadu by collecting information from the farmers under broiler contract and from the farmers who are doing the entire broiler production on their own i.e., independent farmers with regard to the system and type of contract, reasons for the preference towards contract farming, decision making behavior and the risks involved in contract poultry farming.

### Methodology

The quality and source of inputs is referred to the degree of quality of various inputs supplied by the integrator to the farmers as perceived by the respondent. The quality of inputs such as chicks, feed, medicine, vaccine and veterinary service provided by the integrator was classified as excellent, good, average, poor and varying based on the number of responses for each categories.

From among the list of broiler farmers under contract in Coimbatore and Erode districts a total of 85 farmers were randomly selected in each of these districts totally to 170 broiler farmers. Care was taken to include farmers from different integrators proportionate to the number of contract farms under various contracting firms / companies. Also 30 independent farmers were selected, 15 each from Coimbatore and Erode districts. Thus, a total of 200 respondents were selected for the study.

The contract broiler farmers were asked to respond on the quality of inputs such as chicks, feed, medicine, vaccine and veterinary services. Their responses were collected under six categories viz., "excellent", "good", "satisfactory", "average", "poor" and "varying". Conventional analysis like mean and percentages were used for the study.

### Results and Discussion

The responses collected were presented in the below table and interpreted. Figure in parenthesis indicate percentage

The results of the study showed that, nearly one-half of the contract broiler farmers (44.70 per cent) expressed that the quality of chicks supplied to them were of "varying" quality followed by "satisfactory" (28.82 per cent), "good" (12.94 per cent), "average" (7.64 per cent), "poor" (5.88 per cent) and none expressed that chick quality was "excellent". Nearly one-third (34.11 per cent) of the farmers found that the quality of the feed supplied by the integrator as "satisfactory" followed by "good" (24.70 per cent), "varying" (19.41 per cent), average (11.18 per cent), "poor" (9.41 per cent) and "excellent" (1.17 per cent).

Nearly one-half (45.29 per cent) of the farmers felt that the quality of medicine supplied by the integrator was "good" whereas nearly one-third (36.47) of them found it to be "satisfactory" followed by "excellent" (8.23 per cent) and "average" (7.05 per cent). A meagre percentage (1.76) of the respondents perceived it to be "poor" and "varying" (1.17 per cent). Equal number (41.17 per cent) of the farmers felt that the quality of vaccine supplied to them was "good" and "satisfactory" followed by "excellent" (9.41 per cent), "average" (4.70 per cent), "poor" (1.76 per cent) and "varying" in quality (1.76 per cent) as perceived by them. Nearly one-half (45.88 per cent) of the farmers responded to the veterinary service as "satisfactory" followed by "good" (35.29 per cent), "excellent" (9.41 per cent), "varying" (5.88 per cent), "average" (2.34 per cent) and "poor" (1.17 per cent).

Quality of inputs supplied by the integrator (Broiler)

Input	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Average	Poor	Varying
Chicks	0 (1.17)	22 (12.94)	49 (28.82)	13 (7.64)	10 (5.88)	76 (44.70)
Feed	2 (1.17)	42 (24.70)	58 (34.11)	19 (11.18)	16 (9.41)	33 (19.41)
Medicine	14 (8.23)	77 (45.29)	62 (36.47)	12 (7.05)	3 (1.76)	2 (1.17)
Vaccine	16 (9.41)	70 (41.17)	70 (41.17)	8 (4.70)	3 (1.76)	3 (1.76)
Vety. Services	16 (9.41)	60 (35.29)	78 (45.88)	4 (2.34)	2 (1.17)	10 (5.88)

### Conclusion

Except for the chick quality the respondents were contented with all the inputs supplied. This was probably due to fact that there was no standards fixed for chicks and farmers perception was based on the weight gain and feed conversion ratio. Other aspects had regular flow to the farmers and the mortality was also low. Hence, the practice of integration or contract farming caught up the imagination of the people in the rural areas also.

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