LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Effects of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on the Psychological Health of Indian Poultry Farmers

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1. INTRODUCTION

This analysis presents the summary of the perceived stress and stress evaluations of the Indian poultry farmers during Coronavirus (COVID-19) lockdown. Due to the rapid growth in the number of cases of infection and the increasing number of deaths, the majority of the global population has become impoverished and endangered [1]. The decision on national shutdown was made to prevent the widespread transmission of the pandemic virus, which will definitely save lives. Yet, the lockdown causes uncertainty and immense difficulties for the people too [2]. The outbreak of COVID-19 has threatened global farming in the last three to four months and is spreading rapidly across many countries. More than 20,08,045 people have been infected and more than 1,27,145 deaths worldwide have occurred by Apr 15, 2020. Coronavirus transmits through droplets from sneezes and/or toxins from person to person through the mouth or nose. It may also shortly be transmitted by direct contact on the surface of various objects. The COVID-19 outbreak brought a lot of psychological stress to the public, medical practitioners, industries, and farming. In various parts of the world, the poultry industry has been severely hit by the rumours, which has led to a significant drop in price and consumption of chicken. There have been more than two crore employees in the poultry industry in India. People have been avoiding meat, fish, chicken, and egg consumption, and so on due to myths that the virus may be transmitted to them through the affected chicken or animal.

The decline in demand led to a fall of 70% in the wholesale price of chicken. In comparison to Rs. 180-200 earlier, chicken had been available in retail at Rs. 100-150 per kg. A poultry feed company of India officially claimed that they have stopped buying corn, soybeans and other food items to prepare the chicken feed. Coronavirus is transmitted through human contact, and there is no evidence that the virus passes from animals to human or human to animals, according to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) [3]. CLFMA of India [4] is an apex body recognised both in the national and international sectors by livestock farmers, central and state governments, government agencies, agricultural colleges, and national research institutes. The association has more than 230 members and comprises various parts in the animal protein value chain including feed, poultry, milk and aquaculture sector, animal feed and health services, veterinary services, machinery and equipment, meat processing, and distribution. The Indian poultry sector has over 1 million farmers, contributing directly to GDP in Indian poultry by USD 16.18 billion (INR 1.2 lakh crore). More than 10 million farmers in maize and soya farmers benefit directly from this industry, and the demand for soy and maize farmers in India is funded. The sector engages 50 million people in the production, trade, feed, agriculture, logistics and poultry industry. The low poultry demand has led to a steep fall in food prices, with soya prices and maize prices falling almost 25% in the previous two weeks. All About Feed spoke with the poultry dealer based in Mumbai saying that prices for broiler fell from US$ 1.88 (INR140 per kg) to US$ 0.67 (INR50 per kg). In comparison with U.S.$0.08 and US$ 0.09 per egg reported prior to India, the prices of eggs have also fallen to between US$ 0.04 and US$ 0.05 (INR 3 and 4).

CONCLUSION

Different forms of psychological problems may be induced in poultry farmers due to this. For the mentally stressed farmers, the effects of this pandemic may be exacerbated. On the other hand, this pandemic may also teach the poultry farmers about agriculture.

CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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REFERENCES


