

The economic system of Bangladesh is mostly dependent on agriculture and agricultural related production. Poultry products like meat and eggs are the main source of animal protein for Bangladeshi people. Chickens are the common and mostly raised poultry birds of Bangladesh. Along with chickens, raising some other poultry birds like quails, turkeys, ducks, pigeons, peacocks etc. are also gaining popularity day by day.

### **Benefits of Poultry Farming in Bangladesh**

Poultry farming is a lucrative business and there are some advantages of starting this business. The main benefits of starting poultry farming in Bangladesh are listed below.

- Poultry farming in Bangladesh is a very profitable business for both individuals and Entrepreneurs.
- Huge demand of poultry products inside the country.
- There are no religious taboos for consuming any poultry birds meat and eggs in Bangladesh.
- Poultry farming in Bangladesh is such a great business that can never dry up.
- Commercial poultry farming can create an employment opportunities for the job seeking unemployed educated people. Even, the women can also start raising some poultry birds in small scale farming system. This will ensure the availability of necessary nutrition for the family and help them by making some extra income.
- Nowadays, there are numerous highly productive poultry breeds are available that are very suitable for commercial production.
- Commercial poultry farming business has a great ROI (returns of investment) ratio. That means you will get good returns of your total investment.
- Poultry farming need some capital or initial investment for starting commercial poultry farming in Bangladesh. If you don't have the capital then you can apply for bank loan. There are many banks available in Bangladesh which will give you bank loan happily with a very little interest. You can also get some loan from various non-govt NGO's.

In a word, poultry farming in Bangladesh is absolutely a great business. Especially very suitable for educated job seekers. Because, employment opportunities are decreasing day by day due to rapid population growth. So, commercial poultry farming is a great income and employment source along with being self dependent.

### **Select Suitable Farming System**

Following three systems are suitable for commercial poultry farming in Bangladesh. According to the climate of Bangladesh the most effective farming systems are

- Extensive system,
- Semi-intensive system and
- Intensive poultry farming system.

## Select Highly Productive Poultry Breeds

There are numerous highly productive poultry breeds available throughout the globe. Some of those are very suitable for commercial purpose according to the weather and climate of Bangladesh. You can start raising poultry for meat and egg production. Choose proper breed for desired production. Mostly raised and common poultry breeds in Bangladesh are listed below.

**Broilers:** [Broilers](#) are highly meat productive commercial poultry breeds. They are raised mainly for their meat production. They grow faster by consuming a certain amount of food. They convert the food into meat and converting ratio is also very good.

**Layers:** Layers are used for commercial egg production. There are some [layer](#) poultry breeds available which can lay more than 280-320 eggs annually. After finishing profitable egg production stage, you can sell them for slaughtering purpose.

## Prospects and Challenge of layer production

### Prospects

- ± Rising sector
- ± Employment
- ± Fertilizer
- ± Fulfill the demand of animal protein
- ± Enhance other agro-based industry
- ± Foreign currency
- ± Fancy things/sport materials

### Challenges

The major challenges to poultry sector are limited access to credit, competition from foreign firms and outbreak of diseases like Avian Influenza. The foreign firms have been investing in poultry sector in Bangladesh. They are borrowing money from their banks at a cheaper rate of interest i.e. 4%. But the local entrepreneurs borrow funds with the rate of 15-18%. So the local firms are unable to compete with the foreign firms.

In addition following points need quick attention:

- a) Most of the poultry farmers are young who have started farming without having any prior training and management orientation.
- b) Slaughtering of poultry birds in open space in market place is the common practice which may help in outbreak of diseases.
- c) Lack of reliable data in poultry sector and its unplanned growth in the country is a great concern for development of poultry industry in the country.
- d) There is national poultry development policy 2008 in Bangladesh. But the policy has not been implemented in field.
- e) Unorganized poultry farmers at rural area throughout the country.

### **Lists of Challenges in layer production**

- ± High risk
- ± Long term process (0-72 weeks)
- ± Investment
- ± Disease susceptibility
- ± Less veterinary services
- ± More feed cost
- ± More labour cost
- ± Difficult management
- ± Less knowledge about layer production
- ± Having no more indigenous strain
- ± No marketing policy

### **How to face the challenges**

The problem of limited access to credit can be solved through government policy, change in attitudes of the bankers and the poultry entrepreneurs.

- ± Training on poultry rearing and management should be mandatory for the poultry farmers. All farms should be registered with government office at DLS
- ± Selling of live birds in the market may be phase out step by step.
- ± Lack of data on poultry sector is one of the obstacles for proper planning and implementation of any developmental programmes. So establishment of a reliable and comprehensive data bank is prerequisite for the development of the poultry industry.
- ± Poultry development policy should be implemented for the development of poultry sector.
- ± Poultry farmers at rural areas throughout the country are operating the poultry farms independently and highly unorganized. If they are organized, then the picture of poultry industry will be different. All the stakeholders will be benefited from the action of the farmers' organization.