

RESEARCH NOTE

## **Entrepreneurial Behaviour of Farmers**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Entrepreneurs play pivotal role in catalysing economic growth, as they are, by nature, job-creators. Entrepreneurship is a creative and innovative response to the environment. This, as a cosmopolite variable means that the person possessing entrepreneurial behaviour has some specialised characteristics. All round development of agriculture is possible with the effective utilisation of human and material resources. So it is very crucial to study to what extent our farmers are progressive, innovative and forward looking.

The present study was designed in this direction and restricted to analyses the entrepreneurial behaviour of poultry farmers.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To determine the entrepreneurial behaviour of poultry farmers.
2. To identify the factors which influence their entrepreneurship.
3. To findout the extent of utilisation of available resources.
4. To identify the problems/constraints encountered by the farmers.

### **KEY CONCEPTS AND THEIR OPERATIONAL DEFINITION**

#### **ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Is the degree to which a farmer strives to maximise his profits by making a creative and innovative response to the environment through diversification of enterprises.

#### **ENTREPRENEUR**

Is conceived as a farm operator who maintains one or more enterprises.

#### **INNOVATIVE PRONENESS**

Is the degree of an individuals interest and desire to seek changes in farming technique and to introduce such change into his own operations as and when found practicable and feasible.

#### **ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION**

Is a social value that emphasises a desire for excellence in order for an individual to attain a sense of personal accomplishment.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

Namakkal taluka of Salem district in Tamil Nadu was purposively selected as the study area as it is fifth largest poultry centre

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in the world. It is also called as the poultry belt of Tamil Nadu and Egg city. Among five blocks of this popular taluka, Puduchathiram block was selected as it had maximum number of poultry birds. Again by using the same parameter seven villages of this block were selected (Thathayankarpatti, Pappinaickenpatti, Thalambady, Karadipatti, Navani, Uduppam and Thanathampatti villages).

A farmer who runs poultry enterprise as a commercial venture in these villages had the probability of having been included as a respondent for the research. Employing proportionate random sampling technique, 120 respondents were included.

### MEASUREMENT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL BEHAVIOUR

Nandapurkar (1982) had measured entrepreneurial behaviour of small farms by developing a scale with ten components of entrepreneurial behaviour. Raghavacharyalu (1983) developed a scale using seven components of entrepreneurial behaviour. The same scale was administered by Porchezian and Vijayaraghavan (1991) with some modification. This scale was used in this research.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

More than 80 per cent of the respondents had expressed economic gain and prior income as major factors influencing

entrepreneurship. Among the technological factors, guidance from private agencies was expressed by cent per cent of the farmers. In personal factors, majority of them had expressed achievement motivation. Among the sociological factors 'previous occupations' and "societal influence" were found to be key factors. Availability of inputs and good market potential were the major factors under physical and market factors respectively.

Regarding water and poultry manure, cent per cent made full utilisation of these resources. Land was utilized Partially by majority.

Regarding credit, 61.50 per cent of the respondents did not use credit facilities.

The problems encountered by the respondents as expressed by them were; non remunerative egg prices (100 per cent), high cost of feed (90 per cent), presence of IBD diseases (79.17 per cent), high capital investment (75 per cent), high expense for construction of cages (72 per cent), marketing (71.67 per cent), maintenance of health of birds (68.33 per cent), involvement of risk and uncertainty (60 per cent).

### IMPLICATION

Entrepreneurial training programmes should be tailored to the needy farmers to inculcate and promote entrepreneurial behaviour in them.