

CHALLENGES IN CONTROL OF CHICKEN DISEASES UNDER INDIAN CONDITIONS

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ABSTRACT

The poultry industry in India plays a crucial role in meeting the demand for livestock products, yet it grapples with significant challenges in controlling chicken diseases. This document addresses these challenges, emphasizing key strategies for mitigation. These strategies encompass enhanced biosecurity, improved hygiene, increased veterinary accessibility, and the judicious use of vaccines. The document underscores the necessity of prioritizing these strategies for effective resolution. Key challenges discussed include a lack of awareness and education among poultry farmers, limited veterinary services in rural areas, inadequate biosecurity measures, poor sanitation practices, a lack of disease surveillance systems, and the high cost of vaccination. The importance of addressing these challenges is highlighted for the overall health and sustainability of the poultry industry in India.



INTRODUCTION:

The poultry industry in India stands as a cornerstone in meeting the escalating demand for essential farm products, including eggs and meat. However, this critical sector grapples with multifaceted challenges in the effective management of chicken diseases. This document serves the purpose of illuminating these challenges and delving into strategic insights aimed at their mitigation. Strategies encompass heightened biosecurity protocols, improved hygiene and sanitation practices, enhanced accessibility to veterinary services, and the judicious application of pertinent vaccines. Recognizing that the successful execution of these strategies hinges on comprehensive market information and efficient communication of research findings, the need for prioritizing their implementation emerges as a central tenet in confronting the prevailing challenges.

The ensuing sections scrutinize specific challenges, such as the lack of awareness and education among poultry farmers, the scarcity of veterinary services in rural landscapes, inadequacies in biosecurity measures, lapses in sanitation practices, the absence of robust disease surveillance systems, and the financial impediment posed by the high cost of vaccination. By systematically addressing these challenges, we can pave the way for a more resilient and thriving poultry industry in India. The different challenges are:

1. Lack of Awareness and Education

One of the major challenges in controlling chicken diseases in India is the lack of awareness and education among poultry farmers. Many small-scale farmers lack the necessary knowledge and training to identify and manage diseases effectively. This leads to delays in detection and treatment, resulting in the rapid spread of diseases within flocks.

2. Limited Veterinary Services

Another significant challenge is the limited availability of veterinary services in rural areas. Many poultry farmers in India reside in remote locations where access to veterinary professionals is scarce. This limits their ability to seek timely advice and assistance in controlling diseases. The lack of regular veterinary check-ups also hampers disease prevention efforts.



(Photo courtesy: https://unsplash.com/photos/tp9Y4_w9DIA?utm_content=creditShareLink&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=unsplash)

3. Inadequate Biosecurity Measures

Biosecurity measures are essential in preventing the entry and spread of diseases within poultry farms. However, many small-scale farmers in India lack the resources and knowledge to implement effective biosecurity practices. This includes maintaining proper hygiene, limiting access to unauthorized personnel, and controlling the movement of animals and equipment. The absence of robust biosecurity measures increases the risk of disease transmission.

4. Poor Sanitation Practices

Poor sanitation practices contribute to the spread of diseases in poultry farms. In India, some farmers neglect proper waste management, leading to the accumulation of feces and other organic materials. This creates an ideal environment for disease-causing pathogens to thrive. Improving sanitation practices and promoting regular cleaning and disinfection can help reduce disease incidence.

5. Lack of Disease Surveillance Systems

The absence of comprehensive disease surveillance systems poses a significant challenge in controlling chicken diseases. Without proper monitoring and reporting mechanisms, outbreaks may go unnoticed, allowing diseases to spread undetected. Establishing a robust disease surveillance system would enable early detection and prompt action to prevent further contamination.

6. High Cost of Vaccination

Vaccination is a crucial tool in preventing and controlling poultry diseases. However, the high cost of vaccines poses a challenge for many small-scale farmers in India. Limited financial resources make it difficult for farmers to afford regular vaccination programs, leaving their flocks susceptible to diseases. Efforts should be made to make vaccines more affordable and accessible to all poultry farmers.

CONCLUSION

Controlling chicken diseases under Indian conditions is a complex task due to various challenges. Addressing the lack of awareness and education, improving veterinary services, implementing effective biosecurity measures, promoting proper sanitation practices, establishing disease surveillance systems, and reducing the cost of vaccines are crucial steps towards mitigating these challenges. By addressing these issues, the poultry industry in India can enhance disease control measures and ensure the health and productivity of chicken flocks.
