

Overview of the Factors Driving Growth of the Layer Chicken Industry in India

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Outline

In India, the poultry sector is one of the fastest-growing segments, significantly contributed to nutritional security, employment opportunities and rural livelihoods. Within the poultry sector, the layer industry, which focuses on egg production, plays a vital role in meeting the demand for reasonably priced animal protein, essential amino acids, vitamins, and minerals. Over the past few decades, India has witnessed significant growth in egg production, second in the world, next to China, due to improvements in breeding technologies, feed formulation, feed conversion efficiency, better disease control measures, and the implementation scientific health management practices. The Indian egg production system consists of commercial poultry farming and backyard poultry farming. The commercialization of poultry farming accounts for most of the egg production in the country with implementation of integrated poultry operations, which has transformed the sector from a traditional backyard activity into a modern, technology-driven industry.

Growth and Production Trends

According to the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS) 2024, the country produced 142.77 billion eggs during 2023–24, representing a growth of about 3.17% over 2022–23. In 2024–25, egg production further increased to 149.11 billion eggs, registering a growth of 4.44% compared to 2023–24. The adoption of high-yielding hybrid layer strains capable of producing more than 300 eggs per bird per year has significantly enhanced productivity. The per capita availability of eggs has increased substantially from 62 eggs per person per year in 2014–15 to 106 eggs per person per year in 2024–25. Mid-day meal schemes and other welfare food programs are also expected to increase egg consumption across the country.

During 2024–25, commercial layer birds accounted for 86.35% of the total egg production, Desi fowl, which are mainly reared under backyard production systems, contributed about 12.59%, playing a significant role in supporting rural livelihoods and household nutrition. In Duck farming, desi ducks contributing 0.85% and improved ducks contributing 0.22%. Duck egg production is largely concentrated in the eastern and north-eastern states such as West Bengal, Assam, and Kerala, where duck rearing is traditionally practiced.

In 2024–25, commercial poultry contributed approximately 125.98 billion eggs, representing 84.49% of total egg production and backyard poultry contributed 23.13 billion eggs, accounting for 15.51% of total production. Many commercial poultry farms operate under vertically integrated models, where companies manage hatcheries, feed mills, processing units, and marketing networks. In 2024–25, Government initiatives promoting improved backyard poultry varieties have helped increase egg production and rural income.

State-wise Distribution of Egg Production

According to recent statistics, the top five egg-producing states in India are: Andhra Pradesh – 18.37%, Tamil Nadu – 15.63%, Telangana – 12.98%, West Bengal – 10.72% and Karnataka – 6.67%. These five states together contribute about 64.37% of the total egg production in the country. Southern India, particularly Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, has emerged as a major hub for commercial poultry farming due to the availability of feed resources, favourable climatic conditions, infrastructure, and well-established marketing networks. In addition to these states, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh are also gradually expanding their poultry production capacities.

Poultry Processing and Export Potential

Several socio-economic and technological factors like Rising Income and Urbanization, growing middle-class population, high-performing layer strains, improved vaccines, biosecurity measures, Automation in feeding, egg collection, climate control systems, Vertical Integration, Government Support and Policy Measures have contributed to the rapid expansion of the layer industry in India. The poultry processing plants across the country produce dressed chicken, egg powder, frozen egg yolk, and other processed poultry products for both domestic consumption and export markets. According to the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), India exported 1,034,644.88 metric tonnes of poultry products in 2024–25, valued at approximately USD 168.77 million. Major export destinations include Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Maldives, Indonesia, and Vietnam. Even though relatively small share of total production, the sector has significant potential for expansion through better cold-chain infrastructure, and compliance with international sanitary regulations.

Market Growth and Future Outlook

Indian poultry market was valued at approximately INR 2,304 billion (2024) and is projected to reach INR 8,430 billion (2033), growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 12.6% during 2025-2033. At the same time, the industry must address the unpredictable feed prices, disease outbreaks, environmental concerns, and the need for sustainable production systems. Adoption of biosecurity

measures, efficient feed utilization, waste management practices, and environmentally sustainable technologies will be essential for the long-term growth of the sector. The layer industry plays an important role in the country's agricultural economy and nutritional security. The investments in infrastructure, processing, and export capabilities, helped to strengthen the Indian layer industry in both domestic and global poultry markets.
