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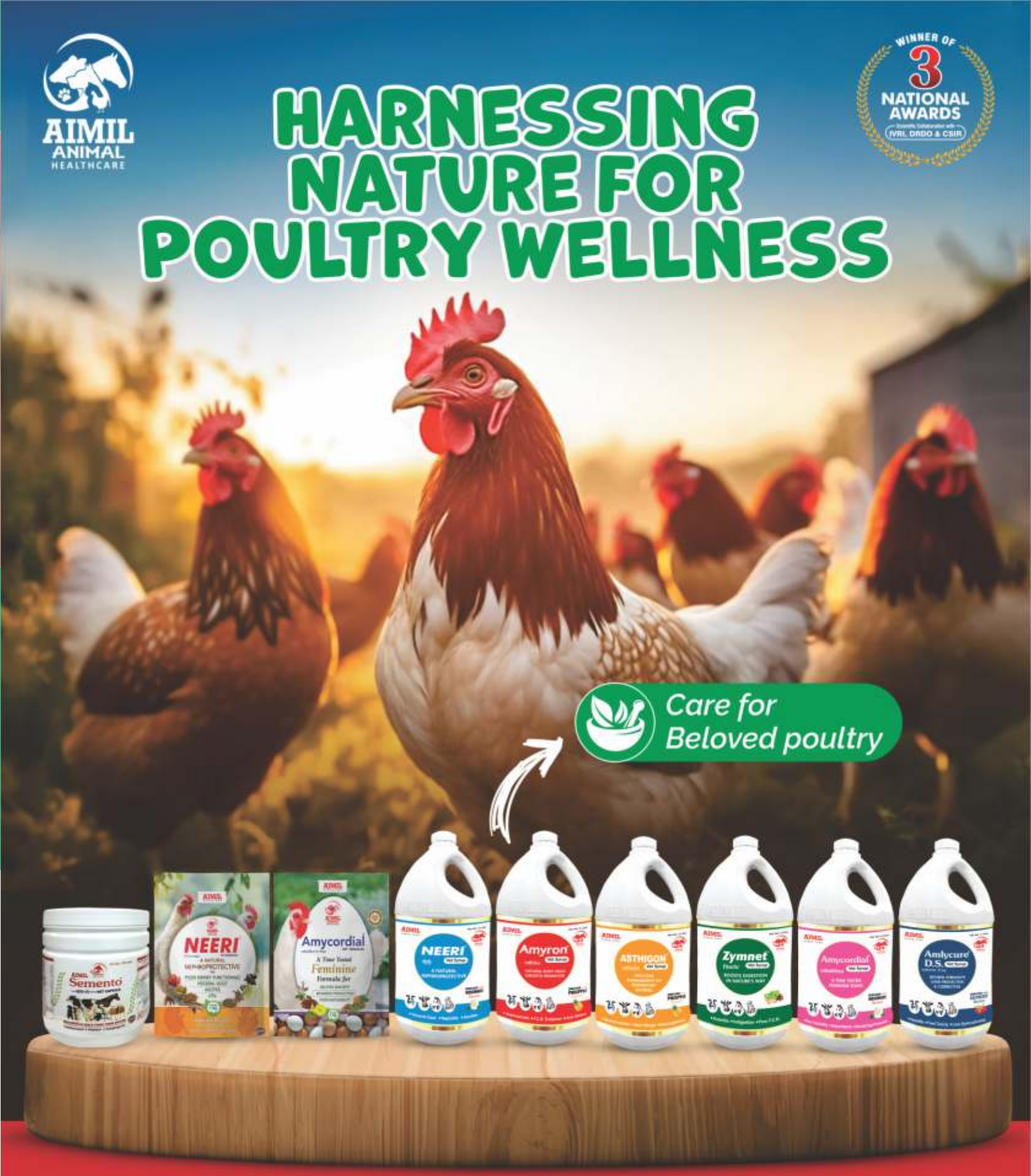

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From the Editor's Desk

The Future of Poultry Disease Prevention - Biosecurity 2.0

In an era of intensified poultry production, globalization, and evolving disease threats, traditional biosecurity measures are no longer enough. The poultry industry must embrace Biosecurity 2.0—a cutting-edge approach integrating technology, predictive analytics, and enhanced management strategies to protect flocks from devastating diseases.

The poultry sector faces mounting challenges, from highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) to bacterial threats like salmonella and E. coli. Climate change, antimicrobial resistance, and global trade further complicate disease control efforts. Biosecurity 2.0 is not just a response—it is a proactive and predictive strategy aimed at minimizing risks before outbreaks occur.

Key elements of this next-generation approach include advanced surveillance systems, such as AI-powered disease prediction models, real-time PCR diagnostics, and biosensors that monitor bird health. Farm zoning and digital management tools improve physical biosecurity, restricting disease spread through controlled movement and automated tracking systems. Meanwhile, next-generation vaccines, including recombinant and mRNA-based solutions, offer targeted disease protection, reducing reliance on antibiotics and mitigating antimicrobial resistance.

Sanitation protocols are also evolving, with UV-C disinfection, electrostatic spraying, and competitive exclusion techniques gaining traction. Moreover, blockchain and geofencing technologies ensure traceability, allowing poultry farms to maintain strict oversight of supply chains and movement control.

However, adopting Biosecurity 2.0 requires collective action. Farmers must invest in education and training, while governments and industry stakeholders should support research and regulatory frameworks to facilitate widespread implementation. Public-private partnerships can drive innovation, ensuring accessible and cost-effective biosecurity solutions for both small and large-scale poultry producers.

The future of poultry farming depends on our ability to stay ahead of emerging threats. Biosecurity 2.0 is not just a technological upgrade—it is an essential transformation that safeguards poultry health, food security, and the economic viability of the industry. The time to act is now—because prevention is always better than cure.

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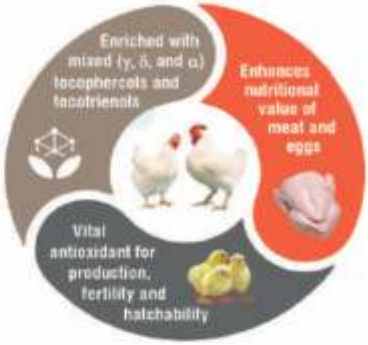

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AI and Big Data in Poultry Disease Prediction: Transforming Poultry Health Management

Parth Rai Gupta
Co-Editor

Introduction

The global poultry industry faces constant challenges from disease outbreaks, which can lead to severe economic losses and food supply disruptions. Traditional disease monitoring methods, such as manual health checks and periodic laboratory tests, often detect infections only after symptoms appear, leading to delays in response and increased mortality rates. However, the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and big data analytics is revolutionizing disease prediction and prevention in poultry farming. These cutting-edge technologies enable early detection of potential outbreaks, allowing farmers and veterinarians to take proactive measures, improve flock health, and enhance productivity.

The Role of AI in Poultry Disease Prediction

Artificial intelligence, through machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) algorithms, can process vast amounts of data and identify patterns that may indicate the onset of disease before clinical symptoms become visible. AI-powered disease prediction models analyze historical and real-time

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data from various sources, such as environmental sensors, flock behavior, and veterinary records, to detect anomalies that could signify a health threat.

1. AI-Driven Behavioral Analysis

One of the most promising applications of AI in poultry disease prediction is behavioral analysis. AI-powered cameras and sensors can monitor the movement, feeding patterns, and social interactions of birds. Any deviations from normal behavior, such as reduced activity, increased isolation, or decreased feed consumption, can be flagged as potential early indicators of disease.

For example, AI-driven systems have been developed to analyze the gait of chickens to detect lameness, which can be a sign of bacterial infections or nutritional deficiencies. By identifying such issues early, farmers can intervene before the disease spreads.

2. Environmental Monitoring and AI Analytics

Poultry diseases are often linked to environmental factors, such as temperature fluctuations, humidity levels, and air quality. AI-powered sensors continuously collect and analyze data on these variables, detecting any adverse changes that could contribute to disease outbreaks.

For instance, high ammonia levels in poultry houses can lead to respiratory infections. AI algorithms can analyze real-time sensor data and issue alerts when ammonia levels exceed safe thresholds, prompting immediate corrective actions such as adjusting ventilation or cleaning litter more frequently.

3. Predictive Analytics for Disease Outbreaks

AI models trained on historical disease outbreak data can predict future outbreaks based on current farm conditions. By incorporating data on past disease occurrences, weather patterns, and biosecurity practices, these models provide farmers with risk assessments and recommend preventive measures.

For example, AI systems can analyze weather data to predict the likelihood of an avian influenza outbreak, as certain environmental conditions favor the virus's spread. Armed with this information, farmers can implement stricter biosecurity protocols to minimize risks.

Big Data and Its Impact on Poultry Health Management

Big data refers to the vast volumes of structured and unstructured data generated in poultry farming, including:

- Flock health records
- Feed intake and nutritional data
- Environmental conditions
- Veterinary diagnostics
- Disease outbreak reports

By integrating and analyzing this data, big data analytics helps improve disease prediction, enhance decision-making, and optimize poultry management strategies.

1. Real-Time Data Collection and Analysis

Traditional disease monitoring relies on manual record-keeping and sporadic testing, which can lead to delays in detecting outbreaks. With big data analytics, real-time data is collected from multiple sources, processed instantly, and used to generate actionable insights.

For example, cloud-based platforms can aggregate data from multiple poultry farms, allowing veterinarians to identify regional disease trends and recommend preventive measures based on broader patterns rather than isolated cases.

2. Disease Mapping and Geographic Analysis

Big data analytics can help visualize disease outbreaks geographically, providing a clearer understanding

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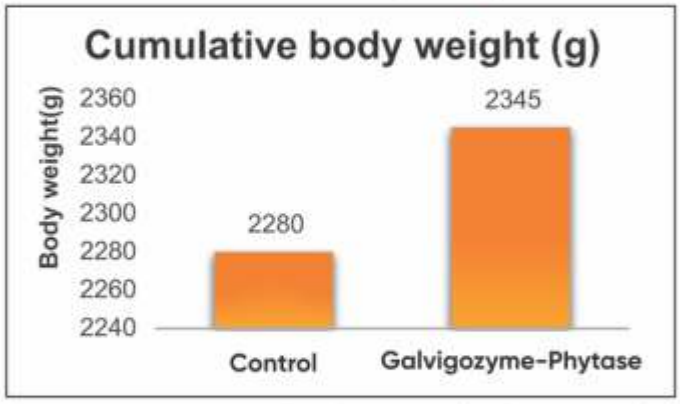

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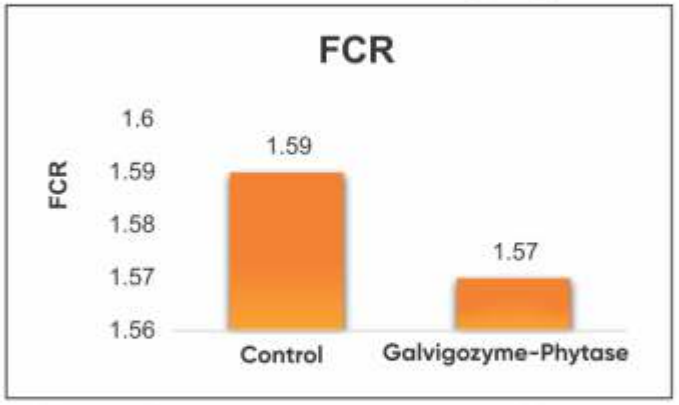

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of how infections spread. Geographic information systems (GIS) integrated with AI can map disease patterns across different regions, helping authorities and farmers implement targeted interventions.

For instance, if an outbreak of Newcastle disease is detected in a specific area, AI-powered disease mapping can help identify farms at risk and guide vaccination campaigns accordingly.

3. Automated Decision Support Systems

Big data analytics can also power decision support systems that provide recommendations based on predictive models. These systems assist farmers in making informed decisions regarding disease management, vaccination schedules, and treatment protocols.

For example, if AI predicts an increased risk of coccidiosis in a particular season, the decision support system may recommend adjusting feed formulations or administering preventive medications to reduce the likelihood of infection.

AI-Powered Early Warning Systems

Early warning systems powered by AI and big data analytics play a crucial role in disease prevention. These systems use predictive modeling, anomaly detection, and real-time alerts to warn farmers about potential health threats before they escalate.

1. AI-Based Chatbots and Virtual Assistants

AI-driven chatbots and virtual assistants provide farmers with instant access to disease management advice. By analyzing symptoms reported by farmers, these AI tools can suggest possible diagnoses and recommend appropriate actions, reducing the time required for veterinary consultations.

2. Blockchain Technology for Disease Tracking

Integrating AI with blockchain technology enables transparent and tamper-proof disease tracking. Blockchain-based poultry health records allow seamless data sharing between farmers, veterinarians, and regulatory authorities, facilitating rapid response to outbreaks and ensuring food safety compliance.

Challenges and Future Prospects

Despite the numerous advantages of AI and big data in poultry disease prediction, several challenges need to be addressed:

- **Data Quality and Integration:** Inconsistent data collection methods and lack of standardized formats can hinder accurate analysis.
- **High Implementation Costs:** The initial investment in AI-powered systems may be expensive for small-scale farmers.
- **Technological Adaptation:** Many poultry farmers may require training to effectively use AI and data analytics tools.

However, with continuous advancements in AI technology and increasing affordability of smart farming solutions, the adoption of AI-driven disease prediction systems is expected to grow. Future developments may include:

- **AI-powered wearable health monitors for poultry** that track vital signs and detect health anomalies in real-time.
- **Improved AI-driven diagnostic tools** that provide instant disease detection using image analysis and deep learning.
- **Integration of AI with Internet of Things (IoT) devices,** enabling more precise monitoring of poultry health conditions.

Conclusion

AI and big data analytics are transforming poultry disease prediction by enabling early detection, improving biosecurity, and optimizing farm management practices. By harnessing these advanced technologies, poultry farmers can reduce disease-related losses, enhance animal welfare, and ensure a sustainable and profitable poultry industry. As AI and big data continue to evolve, their role in disease prevention will become even more integral, paving the way for smarter, healthier, and more efficient poultry farming.

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Biosecurity 2.0: Strengthening Defenses against Poultry Diseases

Siddhi Gupta
Co-Editor

The poultry industry is a vital component of global food security, providing a major source of protein through meat and eggs. However, disease outbreaks remain a persistent threat, causing substantial economic losses and endangering food safety. Traditional biosecurity measures have long been the industry's first line of defense, but as pathogens evolve and new challenges emerge, it has become crucial to adopt more advanced strategies. Biosecurity 2.0 integrates cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI)-powered surveillance, disinfection automation, and strategic farm zoning techniques to create a more robust disease prevention system.

The Need for Enhanced Biosecurity in Poultry Farming

Poultry diseases like Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease, Infectious Bursal Disease, and Mycoplasma infections continue to pose a severe threat to

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poultry health. Disease outbreaks not only lead to direct mortality but also cause indirect losses such as reduced egg production, increased medication costs, and export restrictions. With the increasing globalization of the poultry industry and intensification of farming practices, the risk of pathogen transmission has never been higher.

To combat these challenges, traditional biosecurity methods—such as farm disinfection, controlled farm access, and vaccination—must be supplemented with next-generation technological solutions that offer real-time monitoring, automated disease detection, and precision intervention strategies.

AI-Powered Surveillance: Predicting and Preventing Outbreaks

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning are revolutionizing disease detection and prevention in poultry farming. AI-powered surveillance systems analyze vast amounts of data, including flock behavior, temperature fluctuations, feeding patterns, and mortality rates to identify potential disease outbreaks before they become widespread.

How AI Helps in Disease Prevention:

1. **Early Detection:** AI-driven cameras and sensors installed in poultry farms monitor real-time bird activity. Sudden drops in movement, changes in feeding habits, or abnormal behavior patterns trigger instant alerts for farmers.
2. **Automated Health Analysis:** AI processes clinical signs of disease by analyzing vocal sounds, posture, and movement patterns, reducing the need for manual inspections.
3. **Predictive Analytics:** AI algorithms can predict disease outbreaks by correlating environmental factors like humidity, temperature, and air quality with past disease occurrences.
4. **Remote Monitoring:** AI-integrated software enables farmers to track poultry health from mobile apps or centralized dashboards, reducing the need for frequent physical inspections.

These innovations allow for early intervention, minimizing disease spread and reducing economic losses.

Disinfection Automation: Eliminating Pathogens Efficiently

Traditional disinfection methods, such as manual spraying and footbaths, often leave room for human error. Disinfection automation improves efficiency by using robotics, UV-C light technology, and electrostatic sprayers to eliminate pathogens more effectively.

Advanced Disinfection Strategies:

- **Robotic Disinfection Systems:** Autonomous robots equipped with disinfectant sprayers systematically sanitize poultry houses, feeders, and water lines, ensuring complete coverage.
- **UV-C Light Disinfection:** Ultraviolet light technology neutralizes bacteria and viruses in airborne particles, water sources, and surface areas, reducing the risk of disease transmission.
- **Electrostatic Spraying Systems:** These sprayers create charged disinfectant particles that cling to surfaces more effectively, ensuring even hard-to-reach areas are sanitized.
- **Fogging and Mist Systems:** Automated fogging technology disperses disinfectants evenly, covering large areas without human intervention.

By reducing human involvement in disinfection, these technologies minimize pathogen exposure, enhance efficiency, and improve overall biosecurity.

Farm Zoning Techniques: Restricting Disease Spread

Proper farm zoning is one of the most effective ways to contain diseases and prevent cross-contamination. This approach involves dividing a poultry farm into distinct zones based on biosecurity risks and implementing strict access controls.

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Key Zoning Strategies:

1. **Controlled Entry Points:** Farms should have designated entry and exit points with mandatory disinfection stations, including footbaths, hand sanitizers, and vehicle spray systems.
2. **Separation of Age Groups:** Keeping different age groups in separate zones reduces disease transmission from older, potentially infected birds to younger, more vulnerable ones.
3. **Red, Yellow, and Green Zoning:**

- **Red Zone:** High-risk areas such as poultry houses and waste disposal zones with the most stringent access restrictions.
- **Yellow Zone:** Medium-risk areas like feed storage and egg collection units, requiring limited access.
- **Green Zone:** Low-risk areas such as administrative offices, where personnel follow strict hygiene protocols before entering other zones.

4. **Dedicated Equipment and Clothing:** Workers should use separate boots, gloves, and tools for each zone to prevent pathogen transfer.
5. **Dead Bird and Waste Disposal Management:** Safe and isolated disposal areas help prevent disease spread from deceased birds and contaminated waste.

Implementing farm zoning ensures that pathogens remain contained within a specific area, reducing farm-wide outbreaks.

Integrating Biosecurity 2.0 in Poultry Farms

Adopting Biosecurity 2.0 requires a multi-layered approach that combines AI-driven monitoring, automation, and zoning strategies with traditional biosecurity practices.

Steps for Successful Implementation:

- **Step 1: Conduct a Risk Assessment –** Identify high-risk areas and vulnerabilities in current biosecurity practices.
- **Step 2: Install AI-Powered Surveillance –** Implement real-time monitoring tools and data-driven analytics for early disease detection.
- **Step 3: Automate Disinfection Processes –** Integrate robotic or automated disinfection systems to eliminate manual errors.
- **Step 4: Redesign Farm Zoning –** Create biosecure zones and enforce movement restrictions.
- **Step 5: Train Farm Personnel –** Educate workers on the importance of advanced biosecurity and proper protocol adherence.
- **Step 6: Continuously Monitor and Improve –** Regularly update biosecurity measures based on emerging disease trends and technological advancements.

The Future of Poultry Disease Prevention

The poultry industry must continuously adapt and evolve to tackle emerging disease threats. With the integration of AI-powered surveillance, automated disinfection, and strategic zoning, Biosecurity 2.0 presents a comprehensive solution for preventing devastating outbreaks.

Governments, poultry associations, and industry stakeholders must collaborate to promote these innovations, offering financial incentives and training programs to help farmers adopt modern biosecurity strategies. As technology advances, poultry farms implementing Biosecurity 2.0 will enhance productivity, reduce disease risks, and ensure a safer, more sustainable poultry sector.

Next-Generation Vaccines: The Future of Poultry Disease Prevention

Poultry farming is one of the fastest-growing sectors in global agriculture, supplying essential protein to billions of people. However, the industry faces persistent threats from infectious diseases such as avian influenza, Newcastle disease, infectious bronchitis, and infectious bursal disease. Traditional vaccination methods have played a crucial role in controlling these diseases, but new scientific advancements are set to revolutionize poultry disease prevention. With the rise of next-generation vaccines, including mRNA and recombinant vaccines, poultry farmers and veterinarians now have access to innovative solutions that offer improved efficacy, safety, and adaptability.

The Evolution of Poultry Vaccines

Historically, poultry vaccines have included live attenuated, inactivated (killed), and vector-based vaccines. While these traditional methods have successfully controlled outbreaks, they come with limitations, such as the need for multiple booster doses, cold chain dependence, and varying effectiveness against evolving viral strains. The emergence of next-generation

vaccine technologies promises to overcome these challenges by offering precision, adaptability, and enhanced immune responses.

mRNA Vaccines: A Breakthrough in Poultry Health

The success of mRNA vaccines in combating COVID-19 has sparked interest in their application for poultry disease prevention. Unlike conventional vaccines, which use live or killed pathogens, mRNA vaccines work by instructing cells to produce viral proteins that trigger an immune response. These vaccines are highly adaptable and can be developed rapidly to combat emerging poultry diseases.

Benefits of mRNA Vaccines for Poultry:

1. **Faster Development and Production:** mRNA vaccines can be designed and manufactured in a fraction of the time required for traditional vaccines. This rapid response capability is critical for managing sudden disease outbreaks like avian influenza.
2. **Highly Targeted Immune Response:** mRNA technology allows precise targeting of viral antigens, enhancing immune protection while minimizing risks of adverse reactions.
3. **No Risk of Reversion to Virulence:** since mRNA vaccines do not contain live viruses, there is any risk of the virus mutating back to a more virulent form, a concern associated with live attenuated vaccines.
4. **Customizability for Emerging Strains:** New strains of poultry pathogens can be addressed quickly by modifying the mRNA sequence, making this technology particularly useful for rapidly mutating viruses like avian influenza.
5. **Enhanced Safety Profile:** Without the need for live viral components, mRNA vaccines reduce the risk of contamination and cross-species transmission.

Recombinant Vaccines: Precision and Versatility

Recombinant vaccines represent another frontier in poultry disease prevention. These vaccines are engineered using genetic technologies to express specific antigens from poultry pathogens in a safe and controlled manner. Instead of using whole viruses or bacteria, recombinant vaccines introduce only the necessary antigens to trigger immunity.

Types of Recombinant Vaccines Used in Poultry:

1. **Vector-Based Recombinant Vaccines:** These use harmless viruses (such as fowlpox or herpesvirus) as carriers to deliver genetic material coding for poultry pathogen antigens.
2. **Protein Subunit Vaccines:** These contain only specific protein antigens from a pathogen, eliminating the risk of infection while ensuring an immune response.
3. **DNA-Based Recombinant Vaccines:** These introduce DNA sequences encoding viral proteins directly into cells, which then produce the proteins to stimulate immunity.

Advantages of Recombinant Vaccines:

- **Longer Immunity Duration:** Many recombinant vaccines provide longer-lasting protection compared to traditional vaccines, reducing the need for frequent booster doses.

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- **Improved Safety and Stability:** Since these vaccines do not contain live pathogens, they are inherently safer and have minimal risk of causing disease.
- **Broader Protection:** Some recombinant vaccines can be designed to protect against multiple pathogens in a single dose, improving disease management efficiency.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Although initial research and development costs are high, recombinant vaccines can be mass-produced efficiently, reducing long-term costs for poultry producers.

Applications of Next-Generation Vaccines in Poultry Disease Prevention

1. **Avian Influenza (H5N1, H7N9, etc.)**

   Avian influenza continues to pose a severe threat to global poultry production and public health. Traditional vaccines have limitations due to rapid viral mutations. mRNA and recombinant vector vaccines are now being developed to provide broader and more adaptable protection. These vaccines can be updated quickly to match circulating strains, ensuring effective immunity.

2. **Newcastle Disease**

   Newcastle disease remains a major cause of economic loss in the poultry industry. Recombinant vector vaccines using herpesvirus or poxvirus vectors have shown promising results in providing long-lasting immunity with a single dose. These vaccines also eliminate the shedding of live virus, reducing transmission risks.

3. **Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD)**

   Recombinant vaccines for IBD have demonstrated superior efficacy compared to traditional live and killed vaccines. These vaccines provide strong immunity without causing immunosuppression, which is a concern with some live attenuated vaccines.

4. **Salmonella and Campylobacter Control**

   Bacterial infections like Salmonella and Campylobacter can lead to foodborne illnesses in humans and economic losses for poultry farmers. Recombinant vaccines targeting these bacteria can significantly reduce colonization in birds, improving food safety and reducing antibiotic reliance.

Challenges and Considerations in Implementing Next-Generation Poultry Vaccines

While next-generation vaccines offer significant advantages, several challenges must be addressed before their widespread adoption:

- **Regulatory Approvals:** Novel vaccine technologies must undergo rigorous testing to meet safety and efficacy standards set by regulatory authorities.
- **Cost and Accessibility:** Advanced vaccines may have higher initial costs, requiring financial support for widespread implementation.
- **Cold Chain and Storage Requirements:** While mRNA vaccines require ultra-cold storage, efforts are being made to develop thermostable formulations for easier distribution.
- **Public and Industry Acceptance:** Educating poultry farmers and veterinarians about the benefits and safety of new vaccine technologies is essential for successful adoption.

The Future of Poultry Disease Prevention

The introduction of next-generation vaccines represents a paradigm shift in poultry health management. As research and technology continue to evolve, poultry producers will benefit from more effective, safer, and adaptable vaccination strategies. Governments, industry leaders, and researchers must collaborate to ensure these innovations are accessible and affordable for poultry farmers worldwide.

By leveraging mRNA and recombinant vaccine technologies, the poultry industry can significantly reduce disease outbreaks, improve bird health, and enhance food security. The future of poultry disease prevention lies in innovation, and these advanced vaccines are set to play a pivotal role in shaping a more resilient poultry sector.

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Infectious Bursal Disease: A Threat to Poultry Farming and Its Control

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Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD), commonly referred to as Gumboro disease, poses a significant challenge to poultry production worldwide. This highly contagious viral disease primarily affects young chickens, targeting their immune system and making them susceptible to secondary infections. Since its identification in the 1960s, IBD has continued to threaten the poultry industry, leading to substantial economic losses. Effective management of the disease requires a thorough understanding of its causes, transmission, clinical effects, and control strategies.

Causes and Transmission

IBD is caused by the Infectious Bursal Disease Virus (IBDV), a double-stranded RNA virus that primarily attacks the bursa of Fabricius, a crucial organ in the immune system of birds. The virus is classified into two serotypes: Serotype 1, which is pathogenic to chickens, and Serotype 2, which is non-pathogenic and found in other avian species. Among the Serotype 1 strains, the very virulent IBDV (vvIBDV) is the most severe, leading to high mortality rates and severe immunosuppression in poultry flocks.

Transmission of IBDV occurs mainly through the fecal-oral route, with contaminated feed, water, and litter serving as primary sources of infection. The virus is highly resistant to environmental conditions, making eradication from infected farms particularly challenging. Although chickens are the primary hosts, several wild bird species have been found to carry antibodies against IBDV, indicating a broader range of potential reservoirs.

Symptoms and Effects on Poultry

The disease manifests in two forms: subclinical and clinical. The subclinical form occurs in young chicks with maternal antibodies, causing immunosuppression without visible symptoms. The clinical form, seen in chicks aged 3 to 6 weeks, presents with severe symptoms such as depression, ruffled feathers, watery diarrhoea, reluctance to move, and an enlarged haemorrhagic bursa. In severe cases, mortality rates can reach up to 100% in highly susceptible birds.

Post-mortem examinations reveal distinct pathological changes, including hypertrophic and haemorrhagic bursas, swollen kidneys with urate deposits, and petechial haemorrhages in the muscles. The liver often appears pale, and the spleen may exhibit greyish foci. These findings confirm the widespread impact of the virus on multiple organs in the infected birds.

Diagnosis and Prevention

Diagnosing IBD involves a combination of clinical signs, post-mortem findings, and laboratory

tests. Histopathological examination of the bursa of Fabricius reveals lymphoid depletion and haemorrhages, while serological tests such as ELISA help detect antibodies against the virus. Advanced molecular techniques, including RT-PCR, are used to identify different viral strains and assess their virulence.

Preventing IBD requires a combination of biosecurity measures, vaccination programs, and proper farm management. Strict sanitation, disinfection of poultry houses, and limiting farm visitors help reduce the risk of contamination. Vaccination plays a crucial role in disease control, with live-attenuated and inactivated vaccines being commonly used. Live-attenuated vaccines, administered through drinking water, provide broad immunity but carry the risk of reverting to virulence. Inactivated vaccines, given to breeder flocks, enhance maternal immunity in chicks, reducing their vulnerability to early infections. Research into recombinant vector vaccines is ongoing, offering potential future solutions.

Economic Impact on Poultry Industry

IBD significantly affects poultry farming due to direct and indirect economic losses. High mortality rates, reduced weight gain, and increased susceptibility to secondary infections result in financial burdens for farmers. The disease-induced immunosuppression diminishes the effectiveness of other poultry vaccines, further escalating production costs. Additionally, the condemnation of infected carcasses due to haemorrhagic lesions lowers market value and profitability.

Conclusion

Infectious Bursal Disease remains a formidable challenge in poultry farming, necessitating continuous research and effective disease management strategies. While vaccination and biosecurity measures help control outbreaks, future advancements in genetic resistance and molecular diagnostics may provide more effective solutions. Ensuring strict biosecurity and adopting improved vaccination protocols are essential for safeguarding poultry health and sustaining the global poultry industry.

Prevention and Control of Avian Salmonellosis

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India's poultry sector is fast growing. However, the poultry industry has been threatened by many pathogenic infections of viral, bacterial, parasitic and fungal origin. Salmonellosis is a severe disease problem facing the poultry industry worldwide which is caused by Salmonella organisms. There are many types of Salmonella species infecting avian species. Poultry can carry some Salmonella serovars without any outwards signs or symptoms of disease. Salmonella can be introduced to a flock via multiple environmental sources such as feed, water, rodents or contact with other poultry. Salmonella Pullorum and Salmonella Gallinarum were found to be avian specific species. However, infections with other low avian-specific serovars have been also reported. Salmonella infection is transmitted vertically and horizontally in poultry, and its incidence is high in one day old chicks. The severity of Salmonella infection is varied according to many factors, including hostage, host immunity, presence of co-infections, environmental, stress, management factors and infective dose, with older birds less susceptible to salmonellosis.

Prevention and control of salmonellosis can be achieved by adopting Good Agricultural Practices and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point principles. Efforts must focus on preventing the entrance of Salmonella into a flock. Effective prevention and treatment against Salmonella must start by obtaining eggs or birds from certified Salmonella-free flocks. Day old birds used to stock a poultry house should be obtained from breeder flocks and hatcheries that have been monitored in accordance with standard guidelines and in which no evidence of S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium has been detected. Layer and breeder flocks should be also stocked from flocks that have been free from S. Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium. If eggs will be incubated, the equipment and the eggs should be thoroughly disinfected. Before the arrival of new birds, the poultry house and equipment must be disinfected, and pests such as rodents and insects must be under control. Bait stations and traps must be operational for as long as poultry has been available at the farm. Bait should be changed periodically as per the manufacturer recommendations. Restrict the movement of equipment, personnel and poultry between flocks.

Feed contamination with Salmonella is known to be a source of infection for poultry. Therefore, it is recommended to monitor the Salmonella status of poultry feed also. Heat treated feed with or without the addition of other bactericidal or bacteriostatic treatments, e.g. organic acids, are recommended. Feed should be stored in clean closed containers to prevent access by wild birds and rodents. Spilled feed should be cleaned up immediately to remove attractants for wild birds and rodents. Treated feed should be handled and stored in such a way

as to avoid recontamination. Water must be from a Salmonella-free source and treated with chlorine.

Additional prevention and control measures include vaccination, competitive exclusion, use of organic acids, culling and product diversion to processing. Vaccines against salmonellosis have been used in layers to reduce the susceptibility of the flock to salmonellosis. This approach, coupled with stringent biosecurity standards, has reduced the incidence of Salmonella infection. Water and feed acidifiers, probiotics, prebiotics and yeast extract have been used as tools to decrease the ability of Salmonella to colonize the intestinal tract of poultry, with limited success. In general, these strategies have shown some efficacy reducing the intestinal colonization and organ invasion after a challenge.

Prevention strategies using antibiotics have good clinical results. However, it has potential problems and hazards like 1. Antibiotic resistance: Abuse of antibiotics will accelerate the mutation and evolution of Salmonella, forming new drug-resistant flora and exacerbating the difficulty of Salmonella treatment and prevention. 2. Antibiotic pollution: Antibiotics and their metabolites will remain in poultry feces and then excreted, contaminating soil and water, affecting the growth of plants and livestock and poultry, and ultimately enriched in the human body, causing abnormal reactions. 3. Potential drug safety issues. The abuse of antibiotics has associated drug safety concerns. It may disrupt the balance of gut microbiota and inhibit immune cell function, leading to inflammation, allergies, and even irreversible hepatic and renal injury.

Salmonella cannot be eradicated from a flock with the use of antibiotics. Antimicrobial agents should not be used to control infection with Salmonella in poultry because the effectiveness of the treatment is limited, may mask the infection at sampling, has the potential to produce residues in meat and eggs and can contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobial agents may also reduce normal flora in the gut and increase the likelihood of colonisation with Salmonella. In special circumstances antimicrobial agents may be used to salvage birds with high genetic value.

Unlike antibiotics, the active ingredients in natural medicines, such as unsaturated fatty acids, proteins, polysaccharides, and alkaloids, can be utilized or metabolized by host animals and gut microbiota. This not only significantly alleviates the metabolic burden on the liver and kidneys but also prevents environmental pollution caused by residual drug components. During the clearance of Salmonella, natural medicines enhance the richness of gut beneficial microbes. Their relatively mild bactericidal effect is conducive to the recovery of infected animals after the acute phase.

Competitive exclusion may be used in day-old birds to reduce colonisation by Salmonella. Competitive exclusion products should be administered in accordance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer and in accordance with the standards and recommendations of the Veterinary Services.

Vaccines are used against Salmonella infections caused by different serotypes in various poultry species, including single or combined vaccines. If live vaccines are used, it is important that field and vaccine strains be easily differentiated in the laboratory. Vaccination can be used as part of an overall Salmonella control programme. It is recommended that vaccination not be used as the sole control measure. When the status of the breeder flock or the hatchery from which the flock originates is not known, vaccination of flocks starting with day old birds, against the Salmonella serotypes should be considered. When used, vaccines should be administered in accordance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer and in accordance with the standards and recommendations of the Veterinary Services.

Depending on animal health, risk assessment and public health policies, culling is an option to manage infected breeder and layer flocks. Infected flocks should be destroyed or slaughtered and processed to minimise human exposure to Salmonella. If culling is not applied, eggs for human consumption should be diverted for processing for inactivation of Salmonella.

No single measure used alone will achieve effective Salmonella control. Stringent biosecurity practices, covering all aspects of the operation, are needed to keep flocks Salmonella-negative. The combination of these points provides a series of hurdles to minimize the risk of Salmonella infection. The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes that control of Salmonella infection from poultry can be obtained by following methods viz., education of the public, improvements in slaughter hygiene and technology and control of infection in the poultry.

The Rise of Antibiotic-Free Poultry Farming

Introduction

The global poultry industry is undergoing a significant transformation with the shift toward antibiotic-free (ABF) farming. With growing consumer demand for healthier and more sustainable food, along with concerns over antibiotic resistance, governments, farmers, and researchers are exploring alternative strategies to maintain poultry health and productivity without relying on antibiotics. This article delves into the reasons behind the rise of antibiotic-free poultry farming, the challenges faced, and the innovative solutions shaping the future of poultry production.

Why Reduce Antibiotic Use in Poultry Farming?

Antibiotics have long been used in poultry farming for disease prevention, growth promotion, and treatment of infections. However, excessive and indiscriminate use of antibiotics has raised serious concerns worldwide, particularly regarding:

1. **Antibiotic Resistance:** Overuse of antibiotics in poultry farms contributes to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. These bacteria can transfer to humans through direct contact, consumption of poultry products, or environmental exposure, posing a serious public health threat.
2. **Consumer Preferences:** Modern consumers are increasingly aware of food safety and demand poultry products free from antibiotic residues. Many are willing to pay a premium for antibiotic-free and organic poultry.
3. **Regulatory Restrictions:** Governments and regulatory

bodies worldwide have imposed strict regulations on antibiotic use in animal agriculture. The European Union (EU) banned antibiotic growth promoters in 2006, and the United States has also implemented measures to restrict the use of medically important antibiotics in food-producing animals.

4. **Sustainable Farming Practices:** Antibiotic-free poultry farming aligns with the principles of sustainability, focusing on natural disease resistance, improved animal welfare, and reduced environmental impact.

Challenges in Antibiotic-Free Poultry Farming

Transitioning to antibiotic-free poultry farming presents several challenges for farmers, including:

- **Disease Management:** Without antibiotics, poultry farms must find alternative ways to prevent and manage bacterial infections such as colibacillosis and necrotic enteritis.
- **Feed Efficiency and Growth Rates:** Antibiotics have traditionally been used to promote faster growth in poultry. Farmers need alternative strategies to maintain productivity without compromising bird health.
- **Higher Production Costs:** Implementing antibiotic-free farming practices often involves increased costs for biosecurity, alternative feed additives, and enhanced management techniques.
- **Maintaining Flock Health:** Ensuring bird welfare without antibiotics requires rigorous biosecurity measures, better nutrition, and the use of alternative health-boosting solutions.

Alternative Strategies for Antibiotic-Free Poultry Farming

To successfully transition to antibiotic-free poultry farming, farmers are adopting a range of innovative solutions:

1. **Probiotics and Prebiotics**

   Probiotics are beneficial bacteria that help maintain gut health, improve digestion, and enhance immunity in poultry. Prebiotics, on the other hand, are non-digestible fibers that serve as food for beneficial gut bacteria, promoting a healthy microbiome.

- **Common probiotics used in poultry farming:** Lactobacillus, Bacillus, and Enterococcus species.
- **Prebiotic sources:** Mannan-oligosaccharides (MOS), fructo-oligosaccharides (FOS), and inulin.

2. **Phytogenics and Herbal Supplements**

Phytogenic feed additives derived from herbs, spices, and plant extracts offer natural antimicrobial and growth-promoting properties. Some commonly used phytogenics include:

- **Garlic and Oregano:** Possess strong antibacterial and antiviral properties.
- **Cinnamon and Ginger:** Aid digestion and have immune-boosting effects.
- **Turmeric:** Contains curcumin, which has anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties.

3. **Vaccination and Immunomodulators**

   Enhancing bird immunity through effective vaccination programs is crucial in antibiotic-free poultry farming. Vaccines help prevent major poultry diseases such as Newcastle disease, infectious bronchitis, and avian influenza.

   Additionally, immunomodulators, such as beta-glucans and essential oils, stimulate the immune system, making birds more resistant to infections.

4. **Enzymes and Organic Acids**

   Enzyme supplements improve nutrient digestion, reducing gut stress and the likelihood of bacterial infections. Organic acids, such as lactic acid and formic acid, lower gut pH, inhibiting harmful bacterial growth.

5. **Enhanced Biosecurity Measures**

   Strict biosecurity measures are essential in antibiotic-free poultry farming to prevent disease outbreaks. Key biosecurity practices include:

- **Strict farm entry protocols:** Limiting access to authorized personnel only.
- **Regular cleaning and disinfection:** Ensuring hygienic conditions in poultry houses.
- **Proper ventilation and litter management:** Reducing moisture and ammonia levels to minimize disease risks.

6. **Optimized Nutrition and Feed Formulation**

   A well-balanced diet is fundamental for poultry health and performance. Farmers are using high-quality feed ingredients, essential amino acids, and fatty acids to support gut health and immune function.

- **Essential nutrients for antibiotic-free poultry farming:**
  - **Vitamin E and Selenium:**

Support immune response.

- **Omega-3 fatty acids:** Reduce inflammation.
- **Zinc and Copper:** Promote gut health and disease resistance.

Case Studies: Success in Antibiotic-Free Poultry Farming

Several poultry farms worldwide have successfully transitioned to antibiotic-free production while maintaining profitability and animal welfare.

- **Case Study 1: U.S. Poultry Industry**
  - A leading poultry producer in the U.S. reduced antibiotic use by incorporating probiotics, essential oils, and strict biosecurity measures.
  - Result: Improved bird health, better feed conversion rates, and increased consumer demand for ABF products.
- **Case Study 2: European Poultry Industry**
  - In the Netherlands, poultry farmers shifted to herbal supplements and organic acids to control bacterial infections.
  - Result: Reduced mortality rates and enhanced bird performance without antibiotics.

Future of Antibiotic-Free Poultry Farming

The future of antibiotic-free poultry farming looks promising, with continuous research and technological advancements driving the industry forward. Key trends include:

- **Precision Farming Technologies:** AI-driven health monitoring systems to detect early disease signs and optimize farm management.
- **Next-Generation Vaccines:** Development of mRNA and recombinant vaccines to provide better disease protection.
- **Gene Editing and Selective Breeding:** Enhancing genetic resistance to diseases in poultry breeds.

Conclusion

Antibiotic-free poultry farming is no longer just an option—it is becoming a necessity for sustainable and responsible poultry production. While challenges remain, innovative solutions such as probiotics, phytogenics, enhanced biosecurity, and precision nutrition are paving the way for a healthier, antibiotic-free future. By adopting these strategies, poultry farmers can meet consumer expectations, comply with regulatory requirements, and ensure long-term industry sustainability.

As the world continues to move toward safer and more natural poultry farming practices, industry stakeholders must collaborate to advance research, develop new technologies, and promote responsible farming practices. The rise of antibiotic-free poultry farming is not just a trend—it is a vital step toward a healthier future for both poultry and consumers.

Vaccination in Poultry: A Key to Disease Prevention and Economic Stability in India

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Poultry farming plays a significant role in India's agricultural sector, contributing substantially to the nation's economy, food security, and rural livelihoods. As one of the largest producers of poultry products globally, India's poultry industry continues to grow at a rapid pace. However, it faces several challenges, especially with regard to disease outbreaks, which can have devastating effects on poultry production and public health. Vaccination in poultry is one of the most effective preventive measures to combat diseases, ensuring both the health of the birds and the sustainability of the industry.

Preventing Poultry Diseases

Poultry diseases are a constant threat to the industry, and their rapid spread can cause severe economic losses. Common diseases such as Newcastle Disease (ND), Avian Influenza (AI), Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD), Marek's Disease, and Fowl Pox are prevalent in India, with some even resulting in high mortality rates among poultry flocks. These diseases can spread rapidly within a farm and across neighbouring farms, creating major outbreaks. In a densely populated country like India, where poultry farming is highly integrated and commercialized, the risk of these diseases affecting large numbers of birds is significant.

Vaccination serves as the primary preventive tool against these diseases, offering protection before an outbreak occurs. By vaccinating poultry flocks at appropriate times, farmers can minimize the incidence of infections, thereby reducing the likelihood of major disease

outbreaks. For instance, vaccines for Newcastle Disease, one of the most common and deadly diseases in poultry, can effectively reduce morbidity and mortality rates, ensuring healthier flocks and preventing the spread of the disease to other farms.

The vaccination schedule typically includes vaccines for both viral and bacterial diseases, with specific attention paid to diseases that are known to cause high economic losses or those that can lead to public health concerns. Vaccination protocols are developed based on the disease risks in different regions of India, taking into account the local poultry farming practices and the susceptibility of various poultry breeds.

Economic Benefits of Vaccination

The economic implications of poultry diseases in India are profound. The outbreak of diseases can lead to massive losses in terms of bird mortality, reduced productivity, and increased costs for veterinary care. The economic impact is not limited to the immediate loss of livestock but also includes indirect costs such as the loss of consumer confidence, disruption of supply chains, and the imposition of quarantine measures by government authorities. The situation is exacerbated in commercial poultry farms where large-scale production means that the economic stakes are much higher.

Vaccination plays a crucial role in mitigating these risks. By preventing diseases, vaccines reduce mortality rates, which in turn improves overall productivity. Healthy birds are more likely to reach market weight, produce more eggs, and grow at a faster rate, leading to higher returns for farmers. For example, vaccines for Marek's Disease help prevent the development of tumours and paralysis, which can significantly reduce the productivity of the flock.

Furthermore, vaccination enables farmers to save on veterinary treatment and the purchase of replacement birds in case of disease outbreaks. By preventing diseases, vaccines reduce the need for costly medical interventions and help ensure the stability and profitability of poultry farming operations.

On a broader scale, vaccination also supports the overall growth of the poultry industry in India. As the industry continues to modernize and expand, the implementation of a robust vaccination program helps ensure the sustainability of production systems. It also helps India meet international poultry trade standards by preventing the spread of diseases that could result in the country being banned from exporting poultry products.

Public Health Protection

In addition to its economic advantages, vaccination in poultry is essential for protecting public health. Certain poultry diseases, such as Avian Influenza (AI), have zoonotic potential, meaning they can be transmitted from birds to humans. While the risk of human infection remains relatively low, the consequences of a potential outbreak could be catastrophic, both in terms of human health and the economic impact on the poultry industry.

India, like many other countries, has faced several outbreaks of Avian Influenza in the past, which have led

to culling of affected poultry flocks, restrictions on poultry movement, and trade bans. In response, vaccination of poultry against AI has become an essential public health measure. By vaccinating poultry against AI, the risk of transmission to humans is minimized, thus preventing the possible spread of deadly strains of the virus.

Additionally, other diseases like Salmonella and Campylobacter, which can affect poultry, have foodborne transmission routes. The control of such diseases through vaccination can prevent contamination of eggs and meat, ensuring that poultry products are safe for human consumption.

Government and public health agencies emphasize the importance of vaccinating poultry to ensure the safety and quality of food, which directly contributes to the health of consumers. This is especially important in a densely populated country like India, where poultry products are a major source of protein in the diet of millions of people.

Conclusion

Vaccination is a cornerstone of poultry health management in India. As the poultry industry continues to expand and evolve, the importance of vaccination in ensuring the health and productivity of flocks cannot be overstated. By preventing diseases, vaccination reduces economic losses, enhances the productivity of poultry farms, and plays a critical role in protecting public health. To ensure a robust and sustainable poultry industry, the adoption of comprehensive vaccination programs across all sectors of poultry farming—commercial, backyard, and free-range—is essential.

The continued education of poultry farmers on the importance of vaccination, the development of new and improved vaccines, and the support of government policies that promote vaccination are crucial for the ongoing success of the poultry sector in India. With the right combination of preventive measures, including vaccination, India's poultry industry will be better positioned to face future challenges while ensuring the safety and well-being of both poultry and people.

Suggested Vaccination Programme for Layers

Age	Disease and Vaccine	Administration
Day old	Marek's disease HVT-strain	Subcutaneous (S/C) at hatchery
5-7 days	Ranikhet disease F/LASOTA/VH strain	Nasal drop or Oral drop
14-15 days	Infectious Bursal disease (IBD)	Drinking water
4-5 weeks	Fowl pox 'BM' strain	Oral Drop or Drinking water
6-8 weeks	Ranikhet disease R2B strain	Intramuscular (I/M)
8 weeks	Gumboro disease (Live) (Only in area of outbreak prone)	Intramuscular (I/M)
13-15 weeks	Infectious bronchitis	Oral Drop or Drinking water
14-15 weeks	Fowl pox 'BM' strain	Oral Drop or Drinking water
15-18 weeks	Egg drop Syndrome (Killed) Adjuvant	I/M
16-18 weeks	Ranikhet disease R2B strain	I/M

Vaccination Programme for Broilers

Age	Disease and Vaccine	Administration
Day old	Marek's disease HVT- strain	Subcutaneous (S/C) at Hachery
5-7 days	Ranikhet disease, Lasota F/VH Strain	Intraocular or drinking water
2-14 days	Infectious Bursal disease (IBD), 'MB' intermediate strain	Eye Drop or drinking water

CLFMA OF INDIA
ASSOCIATION OF LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

Chairman's Monthly Round-Up

The livestock sector remains a vital contributor to India's economic development, and CLFMA continues to champion sustainable growth across dairy, poultry, fisheries, and the broader livestock industry.

We are pleased to share a summary of our key activities and engagements in February 2025:

CLFMA OF INDIA at Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Dairy Sector of NCR:

Dr. Anup Kalra, CLFMA Member represented CLFMA OF INDIA at the Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the Functional Plan for the Dairy Sector of NCR, held on 18th February, 2025 in New Delhi. Organized by NDDB and NCR Planning Board, the workshop brought together key stakeholders, including NDDB, Mother Dairy, Private Dairy Players, and State Animal Husbandry Departments from Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

Key Focus Areas:

- Formulating a functional plan for the dairy sector in NCR
- Identifying the investment requirements
- Learning from successful national practices
- Providing support to stakeholders for the plan's implementation

Dr. Anup Kalra, CLFMA Member emphasized critical concerns for dairy's future by 2041, questioning farmers' viability, land constraints, feed shortages, and sustainability measures. The workshop fostered valuable discussions among 75-100 participants, shaping the roadmap for a resilient dairy sector in NCR.

CLFMA OF INDIA Chairman Mr. Divya Kumar Gulati meeting with Mr. Jeroen Van Hooff, CEO of VNU Group Organizer of VIV Exhibition Worldwide, along with Mr. Sanyal Desai, CEO of Radeecal Communications, and Mr. Patrick, Sales Manager at VNU Group on 18th February, 2025:

On 18th February, 2025, Mr. Jeroen Van Hooff, CEO of VNU Group, the organizer of VIV Exhibition Worldwide, along with Mr. Sanyal Desai, CEO of Radeecal Communications, and Mr.Patrick, Sales Manager at VNU Group met with Mr. Divya Kumar Gulati, Chairman of CLFMA OF INDIA. The discussion focused on potential support for VNU Group's upcoming exhibition in India and exploring possible collaborations between VNU Group and CLFMA OF INDIA.

CLFMA OF INDIA Poultry Seminar at Hotel Taj Vivanta, Coimbatore on the theme Seeking Solutions and Opportunities: The Future of India's Poultry Sector on 21st February, 2025:

CLFMA OF INDIA, in association with U.S. Grains Council and BCC, organized the Poultry Seminar on February 21, 2025, at Hotel Taj Vivanta, Coimbatore. Bringing together 99 industry stakeholders, the event focused on feed innovations, sustainability, biosecurity, and policy reforms shaping India's poultry sector.

Key Highlights:

- Sorghum Trials Presentation – Mr. Reece H. Cannady (U.S. Grains Council) showcased sorghum as a cost-effective alternative feed ingredient.
- Panel Discussion on Poultry's Future – Experts, led by Moderator Mr. Divya Kumar Gulati (Chairman, CLFMA OF INDIA), discussed feed

security, regulations, disease control, sustainability, and market growth.

- Networking & Collaboration – The seminar concluded with insightful discussions and networking over dinner.

Key Takeaways:

- Feed diversification (sorghum) can reduce costs.
- Stronger biosecurity measures are essential.
- Policy support & advocacy needed for industry growth.
- Technology & market expansion can boost sector resilience.

The event reinforced CLFMA's commitment to innovation and sustainability, ensuring a brighter future for India's poultry industry.

CLFMA OF INDIA's Poultry Seminar on the theme Seeking Solutions and Opportunities: Future of India's Poultry Sector at Namakkal on 25th February, 2025:

CLFMA OF INDIA and the U.S. Grains Council successfully hosted the Poultry Seminar on February 25, 2025, at Nala Hotel, Namakkal, with 109 participants, including industry leaders, nutritionists, and poultry entrepreneurs.

Key Highlights:

- Sorghum Trials Presentation – Mr. Reece H. Cannady (U.S. Grains Council) showcased sorghum as a cost-effective feed alternative.
- Brand Value Enhancement – Dr. Sivaraj Kaliannan (SKM Eggs) shared insights on branding and market differentiation.
- Panel Discussion on Egg Production – Experts discussed global trends, sustainability, technology, and policy reforms, moderated by Mr. Saravanan Chinnasamy (CLFMA South Zone President).
- Networking & Collaboration – The event concluded with a networking dinner, fostering industry partnerships.

Key Takeaways:

- Feed diversification (sorghum) for cost efficiency.
- Stronger biosecurity & disease control for sustainability.
- Policy support & advocacy for long-term growth.
- Technology adoption & market expansion for sector competitiveness.

The Seminar reinforced CLFMA's commitment to innovation and sustainability, driving India's poultry industry forward.

CLFMA OF INDIA has scheduled its 3rd Zone-wise **Poultry Seminar** in Pune on March 5, 2025, followed by the 4th Poultry Seminar in Kolkata on March 6, 2025, and the 5th Poultry Seminar in Patna on April 23, 2025. Additionally, a **Dairy Seminar** is planned in Kolhapur on April 25, 2025.

CLFMA OF INDIA is dedicated to fostering innovation and growth across the livestock value chain. Your steadfast support fuels our mission to create a resilient and sustainable future for the industry.

We deeply value your ongoing partnership and cooperation.

Warm regards,

For **CLFMA OF INDIA**

Divya Kumar Gulati
Chairman

CLFMA OF INDIA Poultry Seminar at Hotel Taj Vivanta, Coimbatore on the theme Seeking Solutions and Opportunities: The Future of India's Poultry Sector.

The Poultry Seminar, organized by CLFMA OF INDIA, in association with U.S. Grains Council and BCC, was held on February 21, 2025, at Hotel Taj Vivanta, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. This high-profile industry event brought together key stakeholders, policymakers, and experts from across India's poultry sector to discuss the current challenges, emerging trends, and future opportunities for sustainable growth.

Event Overview & Objectives:

The Seminar aimed to facilitate knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and strategic discussions to address critical issues in the poultry industry, such as feed innovations, sustainable farming practices, and policy frameworks. With India's poultry industry playing a crucial role in food security and rural livelihoods, the event focused on exploring new solutions, enhancing productivity, and ensuring long-term viability for poultry farmers and businesses.

Key Sessions & Highlights:

1. Welcome Address (6:00 PM)

- Mr. Abhay Shah, Deputy Chairman, CLFMA OF INDIA, set the tone for the evening with an insightful address, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in strengthening India's poultry sector.

2. Presentation on Sorghum Trials and Results – India's Story (6:05 PM)

- Mr. Reece H. Cannady, Director, U.S. Grains Council, presented findings from sorghum trials conducted in India, highlighting its potential as an alternative feed ingredient to reduce dependency on traditional grains and lower feed costs.
- The session explored global best practices, nutritional benefits, and economic feasibility of integrating sorghum into poultry diets.

3. Panel Discussion: Future of India's Poultry Sector (6:35 PM)

- This dynamic panel discussion featured a distinguished lineup of industry experts who shared their perspectives on market trends, policy changes, technological advancements, and investment opportunities in the poultry sector:

Panelists:

- Dr. Harsha Kumar Shetty, Venkateswara Hatcheries Pvt. Ltd.
- Mr. Lakshmanan R., Chairman, Broiler Co-ordination Committee.
- Mr. Ramkutty R., Treasurer, CLFMA OF INDIA.
- Mr. Naveen Pasuparthy, Director, Nandus Foods.
- Dr. Rukmangadhan, Managing Director, Surabhi Hatcheries.
- Mr. Sumit Sureka, Managing Director, Shivshakti Agro (India) Pvt. Ltd.

The panel was moderated by Mr. Divya Kumar Gulati, Chairman, CLFMA OF INDIA, who steered discussions around:

- Feed security & ingredient alternatives to combat price volatility.
- Biosecurity measures & disease management for improving farm efficiency.
- Government regulations & policy reforms affecting the poultry industry.
- Sustainable practices & environmental concerns in poultry farming.
- Consumer trends & market expansion strategies for domestic and export markets.

The panelists engaged in a lively exchange of ideas, addressing audience queries and proposing actionable strategies to drive sectoral growth.

4. Vote of Thanks (7:15 PM)

- Mr. Saravanan Chinnasamy, President (South Zone), CLFMA OF INDIA, delivered the vote of thanks, appreciating the contributions of speakers, sponsors, and attendees for making the seminar a success.
- He reiterated CLFMA OF INDIA's commitment to supporting the industry through continued advocacy, research, and policy engagement.
- He also urged the producers to be more committed towards sustainable farming practices to save themselves and the environment and the future.

5. Networking Dinner & Reception (7:20 PM – 10:00 PM)

The Poultry Seminar concluded with an informal

networking session, providing attendees an opportunity to connect, exchange insights, and explore potential collaborations over cocktails and dinner.

Conclusion & Impact:

The Poultry Seminar 2025 was a valuable platform for knowledge-sharing, collaboration, and strategic discussions, bringing together industry leaders, researchers, and policymakers to address the future of India's poultry industry.

Key Takeaways:

- Diversification in feed ingredients, such as sorghum, can offer cost-effective solutions.
- Stronger biosecurity measures & disease control are crucial for sustainability.
- Policy reforms & industry advocacy are needed to support long-term growth.
- Adoption of new technologies & market expansion can enhance sector competitiveness.

By fostering meaningful discussions and partnerships, this event reinforced the industry's commitment to innovation, efficiency, and sustainability, paving the way for a more resilient poultry sector in India.

The seminar was well received by all, with approximately 99 participants attending the Poultry Seminar.

IPPE 2025 Expo, The Global Poultry Industry Show in Atlanta, USA, was a Landmark Success

Ricky Thaper *(www.rickythaper.com)*

The International Production & Processing Expo (IPPE) 2025 collaboration of three trade shows, International Feed Expo International Poultry Expo and International Meat Expo, organised at Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, USA from January 28-30, 2025 was an another remarkable edition, drawing attendees from more than 130 countries. IPPE 2025 expo reaffirmed its position as world's largest annual poultry & egg, meat & animal food industry event. IPPE 2025 hosted more than 1,300 exhibitors across 5,98,000 square feet of exhibit space, showcasing the latest technological advancements, services, and products focused on poultry. International participation was significant, with strong representation from Latin America, Canada, Europe and South East Asia and South Asia. Attendees explored cutting-edge poultry processing equipment, automated systems, health and nutrition products and advanced feed solutions, positioning the event as the premier destination for poultry innovations.

IPPE-2025 Expo fostered vital business collaborations, contract signing and strategic alliances, contributing to long-term industry growth. Attendees benefited from more than 80 learning sessions, covering key topics such as poultry health, sustainability, artificial intelligence, plant operations and industry innovations.

USSEC Showcased U.S. Soy's Role in Global Feed and Food Solutions. The U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) played an important role at IPPE 2025, underscoring its extensive global reach and commitment to advancing animal nutrition through U.S. soy.

Operating in over 80 countries across key regions, including Northeast Asia, Europe, South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and North America, USSEC showcased its leadership in promoting sustainable soy-based solutions for the poultry, dairy and aquaculture sectors. At its dedicated booth, USSEC Board Members and USSEC Staff had been engaged actively with the trade visitors, offering insights into the latest industry trends and demonstrating how U.S. Soy contributes to improving global livestock feed systems. The team emphasized the vital role of soy as a major component of livestock feed, supplying essential protein and nutrients that enhance animal health and productivity.

Through strategic dialogues and collaborative sessions, USSEC highlighted its initiatives aimed at fostering international trade, strengthening value chains, and supporting food security. The organization's experts shared real-world success stories from various regions, illustrating how partnerships with industry players drive advancements in feed technology, animal nutrition and sustainability. The Soy Excellence Center (SEC), an initiative by USSEC, which offers basic certificate courses in Poultry, Feed Milling, Aquaculture, and Soy Food & Beverage to enhance industry expertise and sustainability was also highlighted at USSEC booth. Interactions at the USSEC booth provided attendees with valuable information on U.S. soy's applications in modern feed formulations. By connecting global stakeholders, USSEC reaffirmed its commitment to creating a resilient and sustainable global food supply chain powered by U.S. Soy. Jim Sutter, CEO, USSEC, reinforced the industry's dedication to innovation and sustainability, emphasizing the role of U.S. Soy in meeting global food and feed demands.

Indian Equipment Manufacturing Companies Shine at IPPE 2025

Indian poultry equipment manufacturers have demonstrated remarkable potential in the global market, driven by their commitment to quality and cost-effectiveness – A few Leading Indian Equipment manufacturers, Gartech Equipments Pvt. Ltd and Dhumal Industries participated in IPPE 2025 Expo showcased their cutting-edge innovations tailored for modern poultry operations. The Indian Poultry Equipment

Manufacturers robust engineering solutions and competitive pricing have positioned them as trusted partners for international poultry producers. The growing presence of Indian equipment manufacturers at prominent global exhibitions like IPPE Expo, USA and in other European and South American Countries, underscores their capability to deliver world-class products, strengthening India's reputation in the global poultry industry.

2025 Indian pharmaceutical companies specializing in herbal and enzyme-based solutions are making significant strides in the international market – Some of major Indian Companies; Nurture Technology Pvt. Ltd., Lumis Biotech, Natural Remedies Private Limited, PVS Group of Companies, SK Biobiz Pvt. Ltd, Amorevet, Camlin Fine Sciences (CFS), Vinayak Ingredients Pvt. Ltd. participated at IPPE-2025. Through their booth, these Indian

Indian Herbal and Pharmaceutical Companies Make an Impact at IPPE

companies actively highlighted their advancements in natural feed additives, Herbal and poultry health products to delegates visiting IPPE Expo from around the Globe.

By addressing the rising demand for sustainable and safe animal nutrition, these companies are successfully tapping into global opportunities. Their efforts to combine traditional herbal knowledge with modern scientific innovations have bolstered India's

role as a key exporter in the animal health and feed supplement sector in International markets.

Technical presentations explored innovative solutions such as machine learning applications in chicken performance data and technology-driven customer support. IPPE 2025 provided an excellent platform for fostering industry collaboration and sustainable poultry breeding solutions. Highlighted educational programs included: International Poultry Scientific Forum,

presentations on leading research on avian health, processing and nutrition, providing actionable insights for advancing poultry production.

Looking ahead with overwhelming positive feedback from participants and exhibitors, IPPE continues to be a vital platform for business growth, industry collaboration, and innovation. Organized by the U.S. Poultry & Egg Association, the American Feed Industry Association and the North American Meat Institute, IPPE sets new benchmarks in industry advancement. As the poultry and animal food sectors evolve, IPPE remains at the forefront of shaping the future, driving technological progress, and strengthening global partnerships. The industry looks forward to another successful edition in Atlanta at the Georgia World Congress Center for the IPPE-2026, January 27 – 29, 2026.

CLFMA OF INDIA's Poultry Seminar on the theme Seeking Solutions and Opportunities: The Future of India's Poultry Sector at Namakkal on 25th February, 2025:

The Poultry Seminar, jointly organized by CLFMA OF INDIA and the U.S. Grains Council, successfully concluded at Nala Hotel, Namakkal on 25th February, 2025, bringing together key stakeholders from the poultry industry to discuss opportunities and solutions for the sector's future. The event witnessed the participation of industry leaders, nutritionists, feed manufacturers, and poultry entrepreneurs, making it a significant platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration.

The Seminar began with welcome remarks by Mr. Sastikumar Singaraj of Ponni Feeds, who emphasized the importance of innovation and adaptability in the evolving poultry industry.

Key Sessions & Discussions:

- **Sorghum Trials and Results – India's Story**

Mr. Reece H. Cannady from the U.S. Grains Council presented insightful findings on sorghum trials conducted in India, highlighting its potential as an alternative feed ingredient. He discussed the nutritional benefits and cost-effectiveness of incorporating sorghum into poultry feed, offering solutions for mitigating rising feed

costs.

- **Elevating Your Brand – Extracting Extra Value From What You Already Have**

  Dr. Sivaraj Kaliannan of SKM Eggs shared strategies on brand positioning and value addition in the egg industry. He emphasized the need for differentiation in the market through superior product quality, branding, and consumer awareness initiatives.

- **Panel Discussion: Future Opportunities in Egg Production**

  A key highlight of the event was a panel discussion on future opportunities in egg production, featuring Dr D Chandrasekar, Mr. Sastikumar Singaraj, Mr. Reece H. Cannady, and Dr. Sivaraj Kaliannan. The session, moderated by Mr. Saravanan Chinnasamy, South Zone President of CLFMA OF INDIA, explored topics such as global market trends, sustainability, technological advancements, and policy frameworks that can boost the Indian poultry sector. Panelists stressed the importance of adopting modern farming techniques, increasing exports, and addressing consumer concerns about poultry products.

Conclusion & Networking:

The Seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Saravanan Chinnasamy, who reiterated the role of collaboration between industry players, policymakers, and researchers in ensuring the sustained growth of the poultry sector. The event wrapped

up with a networking dinner reception, allowing attendees to connect and discuss potential business collaborations.

The CLFMA's Poultry Seminar 2025 successfully provided valuable insights and practical strategies for poultry entrepreneurs, reinforcing India's position as a global leader in egg and poultry production. The discussions held at this event will serve as a catalyst for future growth and innovation in the industry.

Key Takeaways:

- Diversification in feed ingredients, such as sorghum, can offer cost-effective solutions.
- Stronger biosecurity measures & disease control are crucial for sustainability.
- Policy reforms & industry advocacy are needed to support long-term growth.
- Adoption of new technologies & market expansion can enhance sector competitiveness.

By fostering meaningful discussions and partnerships, this event reinforced the industry's commitment to innovation, efficiency, and sustainability, paving the way for a more resilient poultry sector in India.

The seminar was well appreciated by all and almost 109 participants attended the Poultry Seminar.


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HUVEPHARMA®

Huvepharma Dairy Showcases Innovative Solutions at PDFA International Dairy & Agriculture Expo 2025, Ludhiana

Huvepharma Dairy proudly participated in the PDFA International Dairy & Agriculture Expo 2025, held at Jagraon, Ludhiana from 8 to 10 February 2025. The event served as a premier platform for showcasing the latest innovations in dairy nutrition, health, and farm management solutions.

As a global leader in animal health and nutrition, Huvepharma Dairy presented its cutting-edge range of feed additives, probiotics, and health solutions designed to enhance feed efficiency, productivity & profitability for dairy farmers.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our esteemed customers, visitors, and industry partners who took the time to visit our stall. Your enthusiasm, trust, and valuable interactions made this event a grand success. We look forward to continuing our journey together, driving excellence in dairy nutrition.

HUVEPHARMA®

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Performance Enhancing Concept for Commercial Poultry – Technical session organized by Venky's India Limited

Venky's India Limited organized technical seminars in second week of January at Hotel Noor Mahal, Karnal (6th Jan), Hotel Days, Panipat (7th Jan), Hotel Babylon Capital Raipur (8th Jan), and Hotel Radisson Blu, Bangalore (9th Jan). Mr Koastas Syriopoulos, an expert on animal nutrition and feed technologists from Switzerland was the guest speaker. The theme of the seminars was "Performance Enhancing Concept for Commercial Poultry"

Mr Koastas began the presentation with a product introduction. He discussed the composition and the significance of each ingredient. He described how aromatic essential oils and pungent chemicals in NATEXT aid nutrient digestion and absorption. Saponins in NATEXT assist in minimizing ammonia release and emissions. Additionally, it boosts immunity. NATEXT also possesses antioxidant properties.

Mr Koastas then demonstrated several efficacy trials on various layer and broiler birds undertaken in other countries and in India as well. NATEXT plays key role in improving digestion and assimilation of key nutrients including calcium and phosphorus. Every study demonstrated greater performance and lower ammonia reduction with improved FCR. Return on investment was also provided in an Indian trial, demonstrating the benefits of NATEXT use.

Later on, Dr. Raetus, who has a PhD in biochemistry, detailed the

product manufacturing process. He explained the iso-fusion technology and its importance in making effective delivery of phytogenic compounds.

Following his presentation, Dr. Vishwas Sagajkar (Deputy General Manager sales and marketing) and Dr. N. Baburaj (Deputy General Manager sales and marketing) translated and explained the concepts in their respective states' native languages, Hindi and Kannada.

All the seminars were attended by field veterinarians, broiler breeders, broiler integrators, and layer farmers. An introductory speech about the concept and speaker was given by Dr. Vishwas Sagajkar at Raipur while in Bangalore Dr. N. Baburaj gave given introduction. Mr. H.S. Padda (Deputy General manager Marketing North zone) has given opening remarks for Karnal and Panipat seminars. Arrangements were by the following people Mr Shashi Bhushan Kumar (Assistant General Manager, North zone); Mr Sandeep Saini (Senior Regional Sales Manager); Mr Yash Munjal; Mr Banwala (at Karnal), Mr Shashi Bhushan Kumar; Mr Kailash; Mr Manoj Kadyan (Panipat), Abhishek Gupte (Zonal Manager Sales Central Zone) and Ashutosh Singh (Raipur) while Mr Babu (Regional Sales manager); Mr R.D. Lokesh (Zonal Manager) and Mr Rajesh Pai (Regional Sales Manager) at Bangalore.

In the end, Dr Vishwas Sagajkar thanked everyone for attending the seminar and concluded with a positive note. The seminars were guided by Dr. Deepak Khosla, General Manager Sales and Marketing, Venky's India Limited.

The seminar received a massive response from poultry farmers, veterinarians, and consultants. In all the seminars queries from the participants were discussed in detail.

Farmers and veterinarians were happy with the new concept and approach of phytogenic in improving performance of poultry.

HUVEPHARMA®

Glimpses of the Kolkata International Poultry Fair 2025

A huge thank you to everyone who visited our booth at the Kolkata Exhibition!

We at Huvepharma are grateful to our valued customers, stakeholders, and industry friends for taking the time to meet and engage with us.

Your support and interest mean the world to us! We look forward to continuing our journey together and creating lasting partnerships.



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WVPA India Conference 2025

The **WVPA India Conference 2025** was conducted on February 27-28, 2025 at Puducherry. The conference was organized by World Veterinary Poultry Association (India), in association with Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Veterinary Education and Research (RIVER), Puducherry, India. The event focused on the theme "Wings of Innovations: Flock Forward for Future Poultry Production." The conference served as a crucial platform for discussing emerging issues in poultry health, welfare, disease management, husbandry, and food safety, benefiting veterinarians, students, Poultry industry professionals across the country.

WVPA India remains dedicated to fostering research, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing in avian health. The conference successfully met its objectives by organizing discussions on poultry diseases and health conditions, promoting research in the field, facilitating the exchange of

information among professionals and organizations, and strengthening collaborations with related bodies.

The organizing committee was headed by Dr. Sharat Chauhan, I.A.S., as the Chief Patron, Shri A. Nedunchezhiyan, I.A.S., as the Patron. Dr. Jeetendra Verma, the President of WVPA India, with Dr. V. Sejian, the Dean of RIVER, as the Convenor. Dr. S. Venugopal acted as the Organizing Secretary, supported by Dr. P. Ponnuvel, Dr. B. Barman, Dr. A. Varun, and Dr. Raghy Radhakrishnan as Co-Organizing Secretaries. Their collective expertise contributed to insightful discussions and meaningful collaborations.

The conference was conducted at the hotel Sunway manor, Puducherry. The inaugural program was conducted on 27.02.2025, at 9.30 and was inaugurated by **Shri A. Nedunchezhiyan, I.A.S.,** Secretary Dept. of AH&AW cum Chairman, PVCS, Puducherry.

Followed by the inauguration, all the industry professionals and eminent personalities were honored including the esteemed partners who have supported to host the conference.

The key note address was delivered by Dr. Tarun Shridhar, I.A.S., former secretary, DAHD, GOI. The conference was scheduled in two parallel sessions on both days comprising four technical sessions and five poster presentation sessions. About 200 delegates including students/scientists/faculty and industry experts have participated in the conference.

The WVPA India Conference 2025 featured a 16 lead paper presentations represented by stalwarts from the Research institutes, universities and poultry industry. There are four speakers from foreign countries, Two from University of Connecticut, USA, One from Malaysia, One from Spain and one from Pakistan (online presentation). The presentations were interesting and innovative information befitting to the theme of the conference.

There were 77 poster presentations across five sessions, including contributions from 32 faculty members and 45 students from different institutes across the country. The event served as a vital platform for advancing research, fostering collaboration, and driving innovation in poultry health and production. The poster presentations were judged by the Jury and awarded prizes for best poster presentations separately

for the faculty and students. There was a panel discussion session on 28.02.2025 afternoon which was coordinated by Dr. P.K. Shukla and was good discussion among the experts and audience.

Dr. K. N. Selvakumar, Vice chancellor, TANUVAS was the chief guest for the valedictory function and Dr. Nadeem Fairoz, Former, Professor &Head, was the guest of honour. Organizing secretary gave the welcome address and reported about the conference. The winners in the poster presentations were honoured by the chief guest during the valedictory program. The conference was well organized and was a grand success and appreciated by one and all. It was possible by the coordinated effort by the organizing team from both WVPA (India) and RIVER.

More Nutrients, No Extra Cost – NOVUS at VIV Asia 2025

As a global leader in intelligent nutrition, NOVUS is committed to helping poultry, pork, and dairy producers optimize animal performance through cutting-edge feed solutions. With a deep understanding of nutritional science and feed efficiency, NOVUS continues to pioneer advanced feed additive technologies that maximize nutrient utilization while controlling production costs.

At VIV Asia 2025, taking place March 12-14 in Bangkok, Thailand, the NOVUS team will showcase innovative solutions designed to help producers get more value from their biggest investment – feed.

Maximizing Feed Efficiency: A Focus at VIV Asia

One of the key highlights of NOVUS's presence at the event is a thought-provoking presentation titled "More Nutrients Don't Have to Cost More", delivered by David Torres, Senior Technical Services Regional Manager at NOVUS. The session will be held on March 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (GMT+7) in Room Jupiter 5, G Floor of the IMPACT Exhibition Center.

In his presentation, Torres will discuss how strategic use of feed additives can improve broiler nutrition, enhance digestibility, and help producers overcome common feed challenges without increasing costs.

"We all recognize that feed represents the highest operational expense for poultry producers. Maximizing the availability of nutrients in feed is essential to ensuring a strong return on investment," says Torres. "This presentation will highlight the latest research on nutrient utilization and its role in reducing feed costs. I'll also examine how variations in soybean quality—a common issue—impact broiler performance and feed conversion efficiency."

Additionally, Torres will address how the age of birds affects nutrient digestion and explain how feed producers, nutritionists, and farm operators can unlock additional nutrients from feed ingredients through advanced nutrition strategies.

"Today's broiler industry is constantly evolving, facing dynamic feed formulation challenges and genetic shifts. Producers need to stay informed about scientifically backed solutions that drive cost-effective production while supporting long-term sustainability," he adds.

Meet NOVUS at VIV Asia

Producers, nutritionists, and feed industry professionals attending VIV Asia 2025 are encouraged to join this insightful session to learn how to optimize their feed investment for improved animal performance. The session is free for all event attendees, but prior registration is required. Interested participants can register at novusint.co/vivasia2025.

For those unable to attend the session, NOVUS representatives will be available throughout the event at Booth #2-2980 to discuss tailored feed strategies that help maximize animal performance, efficiency, and profitability. Attendees can stop by the booth at any time during the expo to explore NOVUS's latest innovations and gain expert insights on cost-effective feed solutions.

For more details on NOVUS's participation at VIV Asia 2025, visit novusint.com/novus-at-viv-asia-2025.

About VIV Asia

VIV Asia is the largest feed-to-food event in Asia, dedicated to the livestock, poultry, aquaculture, and animal husbandry industries. The event attracts thousands of global professionals, industry leaders, and solution providers, offering a unique platform for networking, business development, and knowledge sharing.

To learn more about VIV Asia 2025, visit vivasia.nl.

Celebrating One Year of Transforming

India's Workforce with the Soy Excellence Center (SEC)

This January marks a significant milestone—the one-year anniversary of the Soy Excellence Center (SEC) India, a groundbreaking initiative launched by the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC). Designed as a workforce development and capacity-building program, SEC India aims to bridge knowledge gaps and empower early to mid-career professionals working across the protein value chain.

By establishing SECs in emerging markets like India, the initiative creates a dynamic ecosystem for skills enhancement, innovation, and economic growth in agriculture and food production. SEC India is built on the strong foundation of its global counterparts and is generously supported by U.S. soybean farmers, with key backing from the Illinois Soybean Association (ISA) and the South Dakota Soybean Checkoff.

Why India? A Strategic Expansion for Global Food Security

As one of the world's fastest-growing economies and the most populous nation, with 1.4 billion people, India presents a huge opportunity for innovation in food production and sustainability. The decision to expand the SEC into India was a strategic move to address its growing protein demands, enhance productivity, and equip its workforce with cutting-edge expertise.

Mark Read, Vice Chair of the SEC Global Advisory Panel and an Illinois farmer, highlights the immense potential of India's agricultural landscape:

"India's robust economic growth and dynamic population offer incredible opportunities for productivity gains across the agricultural value chain. The Soy Excellence Centers are making a real impact by cultivating the next generation of agricultural leaders, fostering a more food-secure and resilient India."

Empowering India's Workforce to Meet Growing Protein Needs

With global food security challenges intensifying, India faces the responsibility of feeding its vast population sustainably. The SEC India initiative aligns seamlessly with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Skill India" program, which seeks to enhance workforce competencies across industries.

By equipping participants with scientific knowledge, technological insights, and industry-best practices, SEC India ensures that professionals across the poultry, aquaculture, feed milling, and soy food sectors can optimize production efficiency, minimize resource wastage, and drive long-term sustainability.

Highlighting the SEC's global outreach, Vijay Anand, SEC India Center Lead, describes the initiative as more than just a training program:

"The Soy Excellence Center in India is a transformative platform for knowledge exchange and professional growth. Our digital continuing education model allows participants to engage with content, peers, and global experts, creating a truly borderless learning experience."

Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders in Agriculture

Over the past year, SEC India has rapidly scaled its training programs, offering four specialized learning tracks in:

- Feed Milling
- Poultry Production
- Soy Foods & Beverages
- Aquaculture

The impact has been remarkable—SEC India has trained 999 participants and successfully graduated over 311 professionals in just its first year.

Kevin Roepke, Regional Director for South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, USSEC, underscores the critical role of investing in human capital development:

"Companies that prioritize workforce training consistently achieve higher efficiency, innovation, and employee retention. With India's youth-driven workforce, the SEC plays a vital role in empowering professionals and advancing agricultural growth."

Building Success Through Strategic Partnerships

A key driver of SEC India's success is its strong industry collaborations. The Kansas State University develops its core curriculum, while a Regional Advisory Council of 14 Indian industry experts ensures that the content remains relevant and tailored to local needs.

In August 2024, SEC India forged a significant partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Karnataka Poultry Farmers & Breeders Association (KPFBA). This collaboration aims to accelerate technological innovation and productivity improvements in India's poultry sector.

Looking Ahead: Expanding SEC India's Offerings in 2025

With tremendous success in its inaugural year, SEC India is now gearing up for its next phase of expansion in 2025. New initiatives include:

- Introduction of Dairy-Focused Courses – Addressing India's booming dairy sector.
- Additional Training Modules – Expanding industry-specific expertise to strengthen India's protein production capabilities.
- More Collaborations with Industry Leaders – Ensuring a comprehensive, impactful, and sustainable learning experience.

These advancements underscore SEC India's transformative potential, equipping professionals with the skills needed to drive the country's agricultural and food production industries forward.

Join SEC India's Training Programs

Are you interested in upskilling and becoming part of India's growing protein industry? SEC India offers world-class training programs designed for poultry, aquaculture, feed milling, and soy food professionals.

To enroll in SEC India's courses, reach out to:

Vijay Anand (SEC India Center Lead) at vanand@ct.ussec.org.

About the Soy Excellence Center (SEC)

The Soy Excellence Centers (SEC), an initiative by the USSEC, are dedicated to developing skilled professionals in the global protein industry. By offering comprehensive workforce training, SECs empower early-to-mid career professionals in fast-growing agricultural markets.

SEC's curriculum covers five key sectors:

- Aquaculture
- Feed Milling
- Soy-Based Food Processing
- Poultry Production
- Swine Farming

With four regional hubs across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the Americas, SECs are building a skilled workforce to meet the world's growing food security demands.

For more details, visit www.soyexcellence.org.

About the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC)

The U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) is dedicated to promoting U.S. soybeans and their value in international markets. With a presence in 80+ countries, USSEC focuses on:

- Market Access & Development
- Sustainability Advocacy
- Industry Collaboration

USSEC members include soy farmers, processors, shippers, merchandisers, agribusinesses, and agricultural organizations. The council is funded by the U.S. soybean checkoff, USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, and private industry partners.

Stay updated on U.S. soy and global trade insights at www.ussec.org.

Conclusion

The Soy Excellence Center (SEC) India has emerged as a catalyst for growth and innovation in India's protein industry. As the demand for sustainable and efficient food production continues to rise, SEC's commitment to knowledge sharing, skill-building, and industry collaboration is paving the way for a stronger, more resilient agricultural sector.

With ambitious expansion plans for 2025 and beyond, SEC India is set to empower thousands of professionals, creating a ripple effect that will strengthen India's food security and economic development.

Join the movement. Be part of the change. Empower your future with SEC India.

Bentoli India Agrinutrition Unveils Cutting-Edge Dairy Trial Unit in Trichy, Tamil Nadu

Bentoli India Agrinutrition, a pioneering force in animal nutrition and feed solutions, proudly

announces the launch of its state-of-the-art Dairy Trial Unit in Trichy, Tamil Nadu. This advanced research facility is a significant milestone in the company's mission to enhance livestock health, nutrition, and productivity through science-backed innovations. Designed to revolutionize dairy farming practices in India, the unit will serve as a center for extensive research, product development, and performance evaluation of feed additives and nutritional solutions tailored to local conditions.

Addressing India's Unique Dairy Farming Challenges

India, as the largest producer of milk in the world, faces distinct challenges in dairy farming, including climate variability, feed efficiency, animal health management, and sustainable productivity. The new Dairy Trial Unit is designed to mirror local environmental conditions, enabling researchers to test, optimize, and develop products that cater specifically to Indian dairy animals.

This research-driven initiative aims to bridge nutritional gaps, enhance milk production, and improve cattle well-being, ultimately benefiting farmers, veterinarians, and the dairy industry at large. Through rigorous feed trials, metabolic studies, and performance evaluations, Bentoli seeks to drive efficiency, sustainability, and economic viability in the Indian dairy sector.

A Commitment to Dairy Innovation

Speaking at the launch of the facility, Mr. Edward Robinson, President of Bentoli, emphasized the strategic importance of this expansion:

"India is a rapidly growing and dynamic market, and our investment in this Dairy Trial Unit underscores our commitment to advancing the industry. Through this facility, we aim to develop precise, research-driven solutions that empower dairy farmers to overcome challenges and maximize productivity."

Adding to this, Dr. Arul Victor Suresh, Managing Director and Global Technical Director, highlighted the transformative potential of the initiative:

"This milestone is not just a testament to Bentoli's growth but also to our dedication to India's dairy sector. Our goal is to generate scientific, data-backed insights that lead to better nutrition, higher yields, and overall improved animal welfare."

Focusing on Research, Performance, and Sustainability

With an emphasis on scientific excellence and industry collaboration, the Dairy Trial Unit will serve as a research hub, bringing together veterinarians, nutritionists, and dairy experts to develop sustainable and cost-effective feed solutions. The research conducted will focus on:

- Enhancing milk yield and quality through optimized nutrition
- Improving rumen function and digestion efficiency
- Developing advanced rumen bypass technologies for better nutrient absorption
- Strengthening reproductive nutrition to support herd fertility and growth
- Implementing immunomodulation strategies to improve animal resilience and disease resistance

Dr. Sushanta Saha, Regional Director – Sales and Marketing, stressed the importance of a research-backed, market-driven approach in meeting industry needs:

*"By expanding our global dairy product portfolio with region-specific innovations, we can deliver customized solutions that not only enhance dairy farm productivity but also ensure *cost efficiency,

sustainability, and long-term farmer profitability."

Collaborating for a Smarter Dairy Future

Collaboration is at the heart of Bentoli's research and development strategy. The Dairy Trial Unit will work closely with industry experts, dairy cooperatives, and academic institutions to ensure that innovations are scientifically validated and practically viable for Indian dairy farmers.

Dr. Jayanta Bhattacharya, Director – Technomarketing, reinforced this commitment:

"The insights generated from this unit will help farmers make informed decisions, implement best practices, and adopt proven nutritional strategies for long-term success."

A Step Forward in Sustainable Dairy Farming

This initiative marks a transformative leap in India's dairy sector by combining cutting-edge research, farmer-centric innovation, and industry expertise. Bentoli remains dedicated to developing solutions that align with India's evolving dairy needs, ensuring higher productivity, improved animal health, and greater economic returns for farmers.

About Bentoli

Bentoli® is a global leader in animal nutrition and feed solutions, providing innovative products that enhance livestock health, growth, and productivity. The company specializes in preservatives, feed additives, and nutritional solutions designed to improve feed efficiency, sustainability, and profitability for farmers and feed manufacturers.

With state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities in North America and Asia, Bentoli serves a global network of farmers, distributors, and industry partners, offering research-backed solutions tailored to local needs.

Bentoli Inaugurates Advanced Applicator Innovation Center in Hyderabad, Marking a Major Milestone in Animal Nutrition Technology

Bentoli Inc., a global leader in animal nutrition and feed enhancement solutions, proudly announces the inauguration of its state-of-the-art Applicator Innovation Center in Hyderabad, Telangana, India. This cutting-edge facility represents a significant step forward in Bentoli's mission to revolutionize feed processing and applicator technology in the Indian and global animal nutrition industry.

The official launch event, held on November 29, 2024, was graced by Dr. Arul Victor Suresh, Managing Director of Bentoli, along with a distinguished gathering of industry leaders, business partners, and Bentoli employees. The occasion underscored Bentoli's long-standing commitment to research-driven innovation, product excellence, and customer-focused solutions in the animal feed industry.

Strategic Expansion in Hyderabad's Innovation Hub

Located in Hyderabad's Kushaiguda business district, the new Applicator Innovation Center is a dedicated facility equipped with world-class infrastructure to support:

- Applicator research and development for advanced feed processing
- Customization and engineering of precision applicator systems
- Quality control and testing to ensure product excellence
- Integration of smart technologies, including IoT-enabled monitoring and automation

With its strategic location and advanced technological capabilities, this innovation center will play a pivotal role in Bentoli's efforts to

transform feed application processes, catering to the evolving demands of farmers, feed manufacturers, and industry stakeholders across India and beyond.

Pioneering Customized Applicator Solutions

The Applicator Innovation Center is designed to support Bentoli's Moisture Integration Program and specializes in the development and optimization of applicator systems for:

- Liquid antioxidants application – ensuring enhanced feed preservation and shelf life
- Mold inhibitor solutions – preventing fungal contamination and maintaining feed integrity
- Fish meal hygiene programs – promoting feed safety and nutritional stability
- Advanced moisture management – optimizing feed texture and processing efficiency

By focusing on customized solutions for the Indian and global feed industry, Bentoli is set to drive greater efficiency, consistency, and nutritional excellence in animal feed production.

Leadership and Vision

The new facility will be led by Mr. Deepak Ramulla, Lead Engineer, who brings extensive hands-on experience in applicator development and engineering innovation. Under his guidance, the center will focus on delivering high-performance applicator solutions tailored to regional and industry-specific needs.

During the launch, Dr. Sushanta Saha, Regional Director – Sales and Marketing, emphasized the significance of this initiative:

"The launch of the Applicator Innovation Center in Hyderabad reinforces our commitment to localized, customer-driven solutions for the Indian animal feed industry. India is a high-growth market, and this expansion allows us to offer customized applicator systems that meet the unique challenges and requirements of the region. This is a crucial step in our journey to support farmers, enhance feed quality, and elevate industry standards."

Harnessing IoT and Smart Technologies for Next-Gen Feed Processing

One of the key highlights of the Applicator Innovation Center is its seamless integration of IoT (Internet of Things) technology into Bentoli's liquid applicator solutions. This groundbreaking feature enables:

- Real-time monitoring and data-driven insights to optimize feed safety and processing
- Automated moisture control for precision feed formulation
- Enhanced machinery efficiency with predictive maintenance capabilities
- Remote calibration and troubleshooting, reducing downtime and ensuring continuous operation

By integrating IoT-enabled automation, Bentoli ensures that its applicator solutions deliver unmatched accuracy, reliability, and efficiency, setting new industry benchmarks in feed processing technology.

A Centralized Hub for Innovation and Industry Collaboration

The Hyderabad Applicator Innovation Center will serve as Bentoli's central hub for applicator manufacturing, research, and technical support in India. With a strong focus on collaboration, the center will bring together:

- R&D specialists developing next-gen applicator solutions
- Quality control experts ensuring compliance with global standards
- Customer support teams dedicated to client-specific innovations
- Industry partners working towards sustainable, high-performance feed solutions

Through this integrated approach, Bentoli aims to enhance services, streamline manufacturing, and accelerate technological advancements in the animal nutrition sector.

Strengthening India's Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Sectors

Bentoli's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and customer success is evident in this expansion. The Applicator Innovation Center is expected to make a lasting impact on India's livestock and feed industries, by providing:

- Innovative, high-quality feed processing solutions
- Enhanced efficiency and profitability for farmers and feed manufacturers
- Stronger food safety and nutrition management practices

With this initiative, Bentoli continues its mission to empower the agricultural and animal husbandry sectors, driving growth, sustainability, and excellence in animal nutrition.

About Bentoli

Bentoli® is a globally recognized leader in animal nutrition and feed solutions, committed to delivering high-quality products, research-driven innovations, and consultative solutions that enhance livestock

health, growth, and productivity.

The company specializes in:

- Preservatives and nutritional additives for animal and aqua feed
- Processing solutions for feed manufacturers
- Customized applicator systems for moisture and nutrient integration
- Collaborative research and development to address industry challenges

With manufacturing facilities in North America and Asia, Bentoli serves a global network of clients, distributors, and industry partners, leveraging a consultative approach to problem-solving, solution development, and performance monitoring.

The company's cutting-edge R&D, coupled with its dedicated labs and animal rearing facilities, ensures that its solutions consistently exceed industry standards.

Allana Group's India Poultry Alliance Acquires Kwality Animal Feeds for ₹300 Crore, Plans Additional ₹200 Crore Investment for Expansion

Strengthening Market Leadership and Driving Growth in India's Poultry Industry

In a strategic move to consolidate its presence in the Indian poultry sector, Indian Poultry Alliance (IPA), a subsidiary of the Allana Group, has successfully acquired Kwality Animal Feeds Pvt. Ltd., a leading Belgaum-based poultry and animal nutrition company, for ₹300 crore. This acquisition marks a significant milestone in IPA's expansion strategy, enabling the company to strengthen its supply chain, broaden its market reach, and enhance operational efficiency.

As part of its aggressive growth plans, IPA has committed an additional ₹200 crore investment in Kwality Animal Feeds to scale up production, expand infrastructure, and drive innovation in poultry nutrition and farming technologies.

Kwality Animal Feeds: A Legacy of Excellence in Poultry Nutrition

Established in 1983, Kwality Animal Feeds has built a strong market presence across West and South India as a fully integrated poultry enterprise. The company operates a diverse business portfolio, including:

- Feed mills producing high-quality poultry and livestock nutrition
- Soya processing plants for protein-rich animal feed
- Breeding farms and hatcheries ensuring high-yield poultry farming
- Broiler integration for streamlined farm-to-market efficiency
- Value-added poultry products catering to consumer demand for processed and packaged meat

Over the years, Kwality has established long-term partnerships with leading food service providers, quick-service restaurants (QSRs), and retail chains, making it an attractive acquisition for IPA.

Strategic Benefits of the Acquisition

By bringing Kwality Animal Feeds under its umbrella, IPA aims to:

- Expand production capacity to meet the growing demand for high-quality poultry feed and protein products
- Strengthen supply chain efficiency and enhance market penetration in key metropolitan regions
- Leverage cutting-edge technology and automation to boost productivity while minimizing environmental impact
- Enhance cold chain logistics and distribution networks for fresher, more efficient delivery
- Accelerate innovation in poultry nutrition solutions to meet evolving consumer preferences

This acquisition aligns with IPA's broader mission to set new benchmarks in efficiency, sustainability, and ethical sourcing within India's poultry industry.

Leadership Insights: Driving the Future of Poultry Industry

Speaking on the acquisition, Moiz Chunawalla, Managing Director of Indian Poultry Alliance (Allana Group), highlighted the transformative impact of this move:

"This acquisition further strengthens our poultry value chain by enhancing operational efficiency, expanding market reach, and ensuring a sustainable future for the industry. With our deep expertise and world-class infrastructure, we are investing in advanced technologies, automation, and precision breeding to drive productivity while minimizing environmental impact. Our commitment to responsible waste management and ethical sourcing will set new industry standards, creating lasting value for our partners and consumers."

IPA's Ambitious Expansion Plans: ₹2000 Crore Investment Over the Next Three Years

In addition to Kwality's expansion, IPA has outlined an ambitious ₹2000 crore investment plan over the next three years to:

- Scale up to seven manufacturing units for increased production capacity
- Integrate advanced technology and automation in poultry farming and feed production
- Strengthen cold chain logistics and distribution networks to optimize supply chain operations
- Expand into key metropolitan markets to meet growing urban demand
- Boost export strategies, tapping into global poultry markets
- Execute three more acquisitions in the coming year, reinforcing its leadership in the industry

With this aggressive investment and expansion roadmap, IPA is positioning itself as a dominant force in India's poultry industry, catering to both domestic and international markets.

Kwality's Founders on Joining Forces with IPA

The founders of Kwality Animal Feeds expressed enthusiasm about the new chapter under IPA's leadership.

Sanjeev Deshpande and Ajit Lokur, Director and Managing Director & Co-Founder of Kwality Animal Feeds Pvt. Ltd., shared their thoughts:

"When we founded Kwality Animal Feeds 42 years ago, our vision was to provide top-tier poultry nutrition and solutions to farmers and businesses across India. Joining forces with IPA ensures that this vision continues to grow with enhanced resources, expertise, and technological advancements. We are excited about the new opportunities this collaboration will bring, and we look forward to a future of innovation and industry leadership."

Cementing Leadership in India's Booming Poultry Market

With rising consumer demand for high-protein diets and value-added poultry products, the Indian poultry industry is witnessing rapid growth. This acquisition not only strengthens IPA's position as a market leader but also enables scalable, sustainable growth across the poultry ecosystem.

The integration process between IPA and Kwality Animal Feeds will commence immediately, ensuring a seamless transition for employees, customers, and business partners. The collaboration is set to redefine industry standards, boost technological advancements, and support India's growing poultry

sector.

About India Poultry Alliance (IPA) – A Subsidiary of the Allana Group

Indian Poultry Alliance (IPA) is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Allana Group, a global leader in food processing and agribusiness. IPA is committed to driving innovation, efficiency, and sustainability in the Indian poultry sector, offering premium-quality poultry nutrition, feed solutions, and value-added products.

With a focus on cutting-edge technology, automation, and market-driven solutions, IPA is at the forefront of transforming poultry farming and production, ensuring better yield, efficiency, and profitability for farmers and businesses.

About Kwality Animal Feeds Pvt. Ltd.

Founded in 1983, Kwality Animal Feeds has built a reputation as a trusted name in poultry nutrition and animal feed production. With a strong regional presence in West and South India, the company operates feed mills, breeding farms, hatcheries, broiler integration units, and value-added poultry product facilities. Over four decades, Kwality has been a preferred supplier for leading QSR chains, food service providers, and retail brands.

With its integration into IPA, Kwality Animal Feeds is set to scale new heights, expand operations, and drive innovation in India's poultry sector.

Avian Influenza Outbreak Declines in February, But Challenges Remain

The number of commercial poultry farms affected by avian influenza saw a notable decline in February, marking a positive shift from the previous months' severe outbreaks. While infections among backyard flocks remained steady, commercial losses were significantly lower compared to December and January.

According to the latest reports, 59 commercial farms were affected last month, resulting in the loss of approximately 12.7 million birds. This represents a substantial improvement compared to December, when 70 farms were impacted and 18 million birds were lost, and January, which recorded 85 affected farms and a staggering 23 million bird losses.

New Cases in March and Regional Trends

As of early March, only two new infections have been reported, both detected in live bird markets in New York City. Additionally, recent outbreaks in Indiana and Ohio—confirmed in late February—mark the most recent farm infections.

Beyond these states, cases have also been identified in live bird markets in Philadelphia and northern New Jersey, highlighting the continued presence of the virus in localized areas.

Backyard Flocks Remain at Risk

While commercial farm infections have declined, backyard poultry flocks continue to be vulnerable. Last month saw 52 confirmed infections in these smaller, non-commercial operations, a figure that has remained consistent since December and January.

Impact on Egg Prices and Agricultural Policy

The latest avian influenza outbreaks in large layer farms have contributed to record-breaking egg prices, with costs surging to 40-year highs. This economic strain has added urgency to newly proposed government strategies, particularly Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins' action plan to combat avian influenza.

Dairy Herd Infections Also Rising

Beyond poultry, avian influenza has been detected in dairy herds, further raising concerns within the agricultural sector. In the 30 days leading up to March, 18 dairy herds tested positive, with California experiencing the highest number of cases, followed by Arizona, Idaho, and Nevada.

Looking Ahead: Continued Vigilance Needed

While February's decline in commercial farm infections is an encouraging trend, the steady presence of avian influenza in backyard flocks and live bird

markets suggests that the virus remains a significant threat. Ongoing monitoring, biosecurity measures, and rapid-response strategies will be crucial in preventing future outbreaks and minimizing economic losses.

With the onset of spring migration, experts caution that additional outbreaks remain a possibility, reinforcing the need for continued surveillance and preventive measures in both commercial and backyard poultry operations.

Pathogenicity of Emerging Avian Pathogenic Escherichia coli (APEC) Serogroups

Colibacillosis, a devastating bacterial disease in poultry, is caused by Avian Pathogenic Escherichia coli (APEC) and leads to significant economic losses due to high morbidity and mortality rates. APEC is known for its diverse serogroups, with 188 O groups associated with bacterial antigenicity and pathogenicity. While O1, O2, and O78 have been commonly linked to disease outbreaks, recent investigations in Georgia have identified several novel APEC serogroups that may pose an emerging threat to poultry health.

Study on Pathogenicity of Emerging APEC Strains

A study led by Klao Runcharoon and colleagues from the University of Georgia was presented at the 2025 International Poultry Scientific Forum, focusing on the pathogenicity of 10 APEC strains representing nine different serogroups. The researchers conducted three key assays to assess the virulence of these strains:

1. Embryo Lethality Assay (ELA)
2. Chick Assay Challenge
3. 3-Week-Old Chicken Challenge Assay

Key Findings from the Study

1. **Embryo Lethality Assay (ELA): High Virulence in Certain Serogroups**

   In the ELA, 10–12-day-old specific pathogen-free (SPF) eggs were inoculated with 300-500 CFU/0.1 ml of each APEC strain via the allantoic fluid. Negative and positive controls were included, with the APEC WT O18 serving as a known virulent reference strain.

- Eggs were candled daily for 6 days, and mortality was recorded.
- All tested APEC strains exhibited virulence, though mortality rates varied.
- The highest embryo mortality (100%) was observed in serogroups O152 and O145, suggesting exceptional virulence.
- The lowest mortality (50%) was recorded for O88, indicating comparatively reduced pathogenicity.

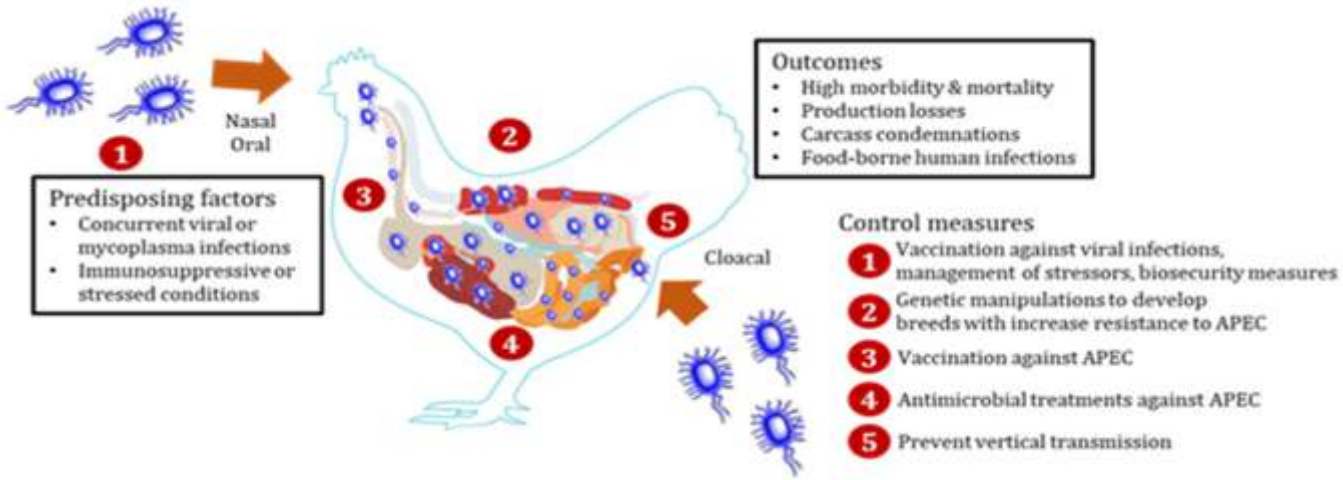
2. **Chick Assay Challenge: Differing Levels of Pathogenicity**

   For this test, one-day-old SPF chicks were subcutaneously inoculated with 100 µL (10^8 CFU) of the APEC strains. Mortality rates and clinical scores were analyzed to categorize virulence levels:

- Highly virulent strains: Those that killed more than 50% of chicks
- Moderately virulent strains: Those that resulted in 10%-50% mortality
- Avirulent strains: Those causing less than 10% mortality

A one-way ANOVA analysis comparing the pathogenicity of different APEC serogroups revealed:

- O15, O91, and O88 exhibited significantly lower ($p < 0.05$) pathogenicity scores compared to the positive control (APEC O18), indicating reduced virulence.



- Conversely, O25, O152, O115, and O45 demonstrated numerically higher pathogenicity scores, suggesting enhanced virulence potential.

3. **3-Week-Old Chicken Challenge: High Mortality Rates in Certain Strains**

   In this phase, 3-week-old SPF chickens were inoculated intratracheally with 10^8 CFU/ml of APEC strains. Mortality rates, clinical symptoms, lesion development, and bacterial loads were assessed over five days.

- The most virulent strain in this age group was APEC O91, which caused 80% mortality within just one day post-inoculation.
- O115 and O86 were classified as moderately virulent, displaying significant, yet lower mortality rates.

Implications for Poultry Health

The study highlights emerging APEC serogroups with varying degrees of pathogenicity, indicating that certain novel strains may pose serious risks to poultry production. The research also underscores that virulence levels differ based on the infection model, emphasizing that:

- The route of infection (allantoic, subcutaneous, or intratracheal) influences disease progression.
- Age and immune status of the birds significantly impact disease susceptibility and severity.

Given that APEC infections can cause substantial losses in poultry farming, these findings warrant further investigation and the development of new disease control strategies. Future research should focus on:

- Advanced biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of virulent APEC strains.
- Vaccination strategies targeting emerging serogroups.
- Antibiotic resistance profiling to optimize treatment approaches.

Conclusion

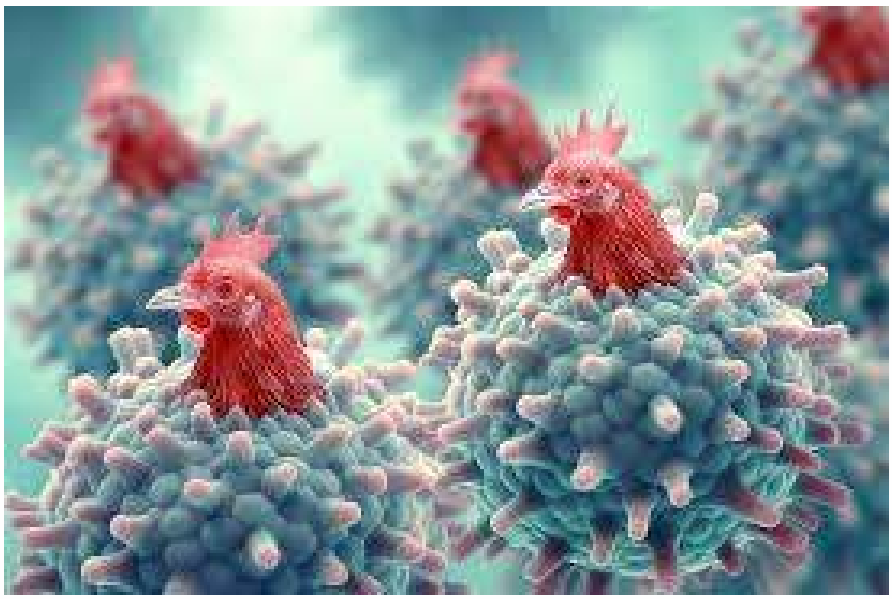
The discovery of highly virulent APEC serogroups such as O152, O145, and O91 raises concerns for poultry producers worldwide. Their ability to cause rapid mortality in embryos, chicks, and chickens reinforces the need for continuous monitoring, improved diagnostic techniques, and proactive disease management protocols. Understanding the evolving pathogenicity of APEC serogroups is crucial to safeguarding poultry health and ensuring the sustainability of the global poultry industry.

Avian Influenza is Mutating, but Antivirals Remain Effective

Researchers at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute (Texas Biomed) have identified nine mutations in a strain of the H5N1 avian influenza virus isolated from a human patient in Texas. This discovery, published in Emerging Microbes & Infections, sheds light on how the virus is evolving when it infects humans. While these mutations have made the virus more capable of replicating in human cells and causing severe disease—particularly in the brain—the good news is that existing FDA-approved antiviral treatments remain effective against it.

The Rapid Evolution of H5N1

H5N1 avian influenza is typically found in wild birds and is highly lethal to poultry, particularly chickens. However, in 2024, the virus began infecting dairy cattle in the United States for the first time, leading to an unprecedented outbreak. By early 2025, the virus had spread through multiple cattle herds across the country and infected dozens of people, primarily farm workers who were exposed to infected animals. While human cases have mostly resulted in mild symptoms such as eye inflammation, health experts remain concerned about the virus's potential to mutate further and become more transmissible between humans.



The first U.S. fatality from H5N1 was recorded in January 2025, following exposure to infected poultry. This underscores the urgent need for continued surveillance and proactive measures to prevent further spread.

Key Findings: Comparing Human and Bovine Strains

A team led by Texas Biomed Professor Luis Martinez-Sobrido, Ph.D., compared two H5N1 strains—one isolated from a human patient and another from infected dairy cattle in Texas. Their analysis revealed nine genetic mutations in the human strain that were absent in the bovine strain, suggesting that these mutations developed after the virus infected a human host.

In laboratory experiments using mouse models, the human strain displayed higher virulence, causing more severe disease and accumulating in higher concentrations in brain tissue than the bovine strain. This finding suggests that the virus may be adapting to replicate more efficiently in human cells, raising concerns about its potential to evolve into a form capable of human-to-human transmission.

"The clock is ticking for the virus to evolve to more easily infect and potentially transmit from human to human, which would be a concern," Dr. Martinez-Sobrido warned.

Antivirals: A Crucial Line of Defense

Despite the concerning mutations, Texas Biomed researchers tested several FDA-approved antiviral drugs against both the human and bovine strains and found that they remain effective.

"Fortunately, the mutations did not affect the susceptibility to FDA-approved antivirals," said Staff Scientist Ahmed Mostafa Elsayed, Ph.D., the study's first author.

This is reassuring, as antiviral treatments will play a crucial role in managing infections, especially if H5N1 gains the ability to spread more easily between people. Because seasonal flu vaccines offer little to no protection against H5N1 and humans have no natural immunity to this virus, antivirals could be the primary defense mechanism should an outbreak occur before a targeted vaccine is widely available.

Next Steps: Understanding the Virus's Adaptations

Texas Biomed researchers are now working to analyze each of the nine mutations found in the human strain to determine which ones contribute to increased pathogenicity and virulence. The goal is to better understand:

- Why H5N1 can infect such a wide range of mammalian species
- Why the virus causes mild disease in cows but is lethal in other animals, such as cats
- Why human infections from dairy cattle appear to be less severe than infections from poultry

In a separate study published in mBio, Dr. Elsayed and colleagues reviewed the history of H5N1 in dairy cattle and emphasized the urgent need for a "One Health" approach—a collaborative effort between veterinarians, epidemiologists, and public health officials to prevent the virus from spreading further in both animals and humans.

Preventing Further Spread: Key Recommendations

To mitigate the risks associated with avian influenza in dairy cattle, researchers have recommended several immediate actions:

- Strict Decontamination of Milking Equipment – Proper cleaning protocols can help prevent the virus from lingering in dairy facilities.
- Enhanced Quarantine and Biosecurity Measures – Limiting the movement of infected or exposed animals can slow the spread.
- Surveillance and Early Detection – Routine testing of both livestock and farm workers will be crucial in detecting new cases early.
- Accelerated Vaccine Development – Given the virus's ability to rapidly mutate, developing a vaccine tailored to H5N1 should be a top priority.
- Public Awareness and Education – Farmers, veterinarians, and healthcare providers must be informed about the risks and symptoms of avian influenza to respond swiftly to new cases.

Conclusion

While the mutation of H5N1 in humans is a cause for concern, the continued effectiveness of existing antiviral treatments offers a critical safeguard against severe disease. However, researchers stress that proactive measures must be taken to prevent the virus from mutating further and gaining the ability to spread easily between humans. The battle against avian influenza is far from over, and continued vigilance, surveillance, and

research will be key in preventing a future pandemic.

Namakkal Poultry Farmers Call on Union Government to Expand Maize Cultivation

Poultry farmers and industry activists in Namakkal, Tamil Nadu, have urged the Union Government to take immediate steps to increase maize cultivation across the country. Their appeal comes in response to the government's decision to raise ethanol blending in petrol from 13% to 20%, a move that is expected to significantly increase maize demand and drive up its prices.

Namakkal: A Poultry Hub

Namakkal district is home to over 1,600 poultry farms, collectively rearing more than seven crore (70 million) chickens and producing approximately six crore (60 million) eggs per day. The district plays a crucial role in meeting the egg and poultry requirements of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, and Puducherry.

Since maize constitutes about 60% of poultry feed in India, any price fluctuations directly impact poultry production costs. With the government's ethanol policy increasing competition for maize, poultry farmers fear a shortage and price surge that could hurt the industry, especially smaller farms struggling with tight margins.

The Rising Demand for Maize

Dr. M. Balaji, Tamil Nadu Veterinary Graduates Federation coordinator and a poultry nutritionist from Namakkal, emphasized that maize and soy are the two primary ingredients in poultry feed. He highlighted the growing demand for maize due to its dual purpose:

- **Poultry Industry** – A critical component of chicken feed.
- **Ethanol Production** – Each tonne of maize produces 380-390 liters of ethanol, making it a preferred raw material for biofuel.

According to data from the Union Agriculture Ministry, India currently cultivates maize on 8.85 million hectares and produces 36 to 39 million tonnes of maize annually. However, with 13 million tonnes already being diverted for ethanol production, concerns about availability are rising.

A NITI Aayog report further predicts that domestic maize demand in India will reach 51.3 million tonnes by 2025-26, while production is estimated to be only 34.25 million tonnes. This significant shortfall of over 17 million tonnes would necessitate higher maize imports, further straining the poultry sector due to import duties and global price fluctuations.

The Need for Government Intervention

Dr. Balaji has called on the Union Government to take urgent steps to increase maize production in India. He pointed out that 70% of maize cultivation in the country is dependent on monsoon rains, making it highly vulnerable to climate change and unpredictable weather patterns.

To safeguard both the poultry industry and food security, Dr. Balaji urged the government to consider:

- Exempting Import Duty on Maize – Reducing or eliminating import taxes to stabilize maize prices.
- Expanding Maize Cultivation – Introducing incentives for farmers to grow more maize.
- Climate-Resilient Farming – Implementing strategies to reduce reliance on rainfall.
- Balancing Ethanol and Poultry Needs – Ensuring adequate maize supply for both sectors.

In Tamil Nadu, the State Government has already set a target of producing 39.09 lakh metric tonnes of maize across 9.95 lakh hectares. However, if maize production falls short or more maize is diverted to ethanol, poultry farmers will face huge financial losses, leading to sharp increases in egg and chicken prices.

"The government must act swiftly to prevent a crisis in the poultry sector," Dr. Balaji warned, emphasizing that immediate action is necessary to ensure stable feed prices and safeguard poultry farming livelihoods.

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Daily and Monthly
Prices of February 2025

Name Of Zone / Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Average
NECC SUGGESTED EGG PRICES																													
Ahmedabad	490	490	490	490	470	470	470	470	470	470	470	470	470	470	470	470	-	450	450	455	-	465	470	475	480	485	-	485	472.60
Ajmer	445	430	430	430	430	430	430	430	430	435	-	435	425	425	415	415	415	415	420	435	435	443	460	466	466	472	475	475	437.48
Barwala	442	442	420	415	415	415	415	415	420	430	430	430	430	430	430	415	415	415	418	432	434	442	457	464	464	472	475	475	434.18
Bengaluru (CC)	535	535	515	515	495	495	495	495	495	495	495	495	495	495	495	495	495	470	470	475	480	485	490	495	500	500	500	-	496.30
Brahmapur (OD)	485	480	480	470	465	455	455	455	460	467	467	452	452	425	425	435	435	435	420	435	447	460	470	480	490	490	490	495	459.82
Chennai (CC)	560	560	540	540	520	520	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	475	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	507.68
Chittoor	553	553	533	533	513	513	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	468	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	493	500.68
Delhi (CC)	480	470	460	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	450	440	440	450	450	460	472	477	477	490	490	495	458.96
E.Godavari	490	465	465	465	452	452	452	443	450	455	455	455	455	455	455	455	455	425	410	420	430	440	450	460	470	480	480	480	454.25
Hospet	485	485	465	465	445	445	445	445	445	445	445	445	445	445	445	445	445	420	420	425	430	435	440	445	450	450	450	-	446.30
Hyderabad	480	460	460	460	440	440	440	440	440	440	440	440	440	440	440	440	440	410	410	415	420	425	430	435	440	445	445	445	439.29
Jabalpur	495	-	485	475	475	460	450	450	450	455	455	455	440	440	440	440	440	440	440	440	440	440	440	455	455	460	460	460	453.15
Kolkata (WB)	530	530	530	520	520	510	510	510	515	515	490	490	490	490	490	490	490	480	480	490	500	510	520	530	540	545	545	550	511.07
Ludhiana	440	440	440	430	420	420	420	420	420	428	431	431	431	431	431	431	420	420	420	424	434	434	445	461	463	463	472	474	435.50
Mumbai (CC)	545	535	525	525	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	505	485	475	480	485	490	495	500	505	510	510	510	505.00
Mysuru	535	535	517	517	497	497	497	497	497	497	497	497	497	497	497	497	497	470	470	475	480	485	490	495	500	500	500	475	496.61
Namakkal	505	505	485	485	465	465	465	465	465	465	465	465	465	465	465	465	465	440	465	465	465	475	480	485	490	490	490	460	472.50
Pune	545	535	525	525	505	505	500	495	495	495	495	495	495	495	495	485	485	485	475	480	485	490	495	501	506	510	510	510	500.61
Raipur	505	495	480	480	460	450	450	450	450	450	455	455	445	440	440	435	435	435	435	435	437	-	440	450	460	465	465	465	454.15
Surat	510	500	500	500	490	490	490	490	480	480	480	480	480	480	470	470	-	470	470	470	-	475	475	480	485	490	-	490	483.80
Vijayawada	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	475	475	475	475	450	450	450	450	450	450	420	410	430	440	450	465	475	480	485	485	485	468.75
Vizag	505	505	490	490	470	470	470	455	460	465	465	465	465	465	465	465	465	435	435	437	440	445	450	460	470	480	482	482	466.11
W.Godavari	490	465	465	465	452	452	452	443	450	455	455	455	455	455	455	455	455	425	410	420	430	440	450	460	470	480	480	480	454.25
Warangal	482	462	462	462	442	442	442	442	442	442	442	442	442	442	442	442	442	412	412	417	422	427	432	437	442	447	447	447	441.29
Prevailing Prices																													
Allahabad (CC)	514	514	510	505	495	490	486	486	481	486	490	490	490	486	486	486	486	486	486	495	495	500	500	510	514	514	514	510	496.61
Bhopal	480	480	460	460	460	450	450	450	450	455	-	460	460	440	430	430	430	430	430	440	445	445	455	470	470	470	470	470	453.33
Indore (CC)	475	460	460	460	460	460	450	450	450	460	460	460	450	450	440	440	440	430	430	-	440	450	460	465	465	470	470	460	454.26
Kanpur (CC)	500	500	486	486	471	471	471	471	471	471	471	471	462	462	462	462	462	462	462	476	476	476	495	495	514	510	510	510	479.86
Luknow (CC)	516	516	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	483	483	483	483	483	483	483	483	483	483	500	500	500	517	533	533	533	533	533	501.57
Muzaffurpur (CC)	505	500	500	480	480	480	480	480	480	485	485	485	485	475	475	475	470	470	475	490	490	501	520	525	525	533	535	535	493.54
Nagpur	505	495	495	480	470	460	460	450	450	450	-	455	455	455	445	445	440	440	430	435	435	455	455	455	460	465	465	465	458.15
Patna	505	500	500	480	480	480	480	480	480	485	485	485	485	475	475	475	470	470	475	490	490	501	520	525	525	533	535	535	493.54
Ranchi (CC)	514	510	505	500	490	490	486	486	486	486	490	490	486	486	481	481	481	476	476	486	495	500	514	519	524	529	533	533	497.61
Varanasi (CC)	507	507	490	483	477	477	467	467	473	483	483	483	483	483	473	473	473	473	473	483	490	493	500	510	517	523	523	523	488.93

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