

ADOPTION TO BACKYARD POULTRY BY THE FARMERS IN MAHAWELI SYSTEM “H”

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At present a program has been launched by the Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka to develop backyard poultry with the intention to increase the income and food security at the household level. However, the program had been launched without assessing the factors that influence on successful adoption of backyard poultry by the target recipients. This can greatly influence on the sustainability of the program. Therefore assessing the factors affecting the adoption to backyard poultry by farmers in system of Mahaweli is important for proper targeting of beneficiaries. Having the mentioned objective this study was conducted within Talawa Divisional Secretariat, Anuradhapura district using a random sample of 120 households. Data were collected by using a pre tested questionnaire and were analyzed with Binary Logistic Regression model. Incidence of diseases, predator attacks, lack of knowledge about scientific poultry management practices, time availability, damage to vegetable crop by backyard poultry, neighbor complaints, hygienic condition, level of education of the owner and age of the owner are the major factors examined during the research. Low level of awareness on poultry rearing, insufficient institutional support, unsatisfactory input delivery, general functionalism and inadequate veterinary services were the major constraints encountered by backyard poultry owners. The results of regression analysis estimate showed that, the time availability (X_2), incidence of predator attack (X_{37}), years of schooling of the owner (X_1), age of the owner (X_8) and awareness (X_{99}) are significant in the model where X_1 is appeared in positive and X_2, X_3, X_{78} and X_{99} are negative. Therefore, the transfer of technology and looking in to the appropriateness of rearing environments such as having safe poultry sheds/lack of predator attacks that protect birds and reduce damages to crops of neighbors as well as the owners before delivering the birds is important aspects that should receive due to attention for this successful implementation.

Key words : Adoption, Backyard poultry , Households, Institutional support