

**FACTORS LEADING TO DROPPING OUT FROM BUY-BACK
POULTRY PRODUCTION SYSTEM. A CASE STUDY AT
MAHAWELI 'H' AREA, THABUTHEGAMA, ANURADHAPURA**

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Assessment of factors leading to dropping out from buy-back poultry production system is important to provide evidence-based information for decision making. Thus, a study was undertaken to assess the factors of dropping out from the buy-back poultry production system at the Mahaweli Livestock Farm, *Thambuththegama*. A structured questionnaire was given to randomly selected 70 farmers at the three divisional secretariat divisions of the Mahaweli H region. A descriptive analysis was carried out to evaluate the socio-economic status of the selected farmers and current status of broiler production. A Factor analysis was undertaken to evaluate the constraints faced by the farmers. Further, a thematic analysis was done to analyse the suggestions provided by the farmers for the prevailing constraints. Among all respondents, 85.7% were male farmers and 14.3% were female farmers. The average monthly income was LKR. 22,571.40 while the average income of one buy-back cycle was LKR. 28,000 for an average farm size of 606 birds. Moreover, the mortality rate was 15%, and the final selling weight per bird was 1.87 kg. Economic constraints, production constraints, weaknesses in agreement with National Livestock Development Board (NLDB), poor supportive services, farmer's issues and social constraints were the leading factors to drop out from buy-back contracts. Political influence and failure to provide continuous supply of feeds to the farmers have resulted cease of partnership between farmers and the contractor. Supply of quality day-old chicks, supply of feeds continuously, amend the live weight prices proportionate to the feed price fluctuations, and employ effective management strategies at the Mahaweli 'H' area were the primary suggestions given by the farmers to reinstate the buy-back system at the Mahaweli "H" region.

Keywords: Broiler buy-back system, Constraints, Mahaweli Livestock Farm, Partnership