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Indian Poultry Sector needs High-tech Interventions for Future Sustainability

Hairline cracks in hatching eggs



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**10 September 2026
Hyderabad, India**

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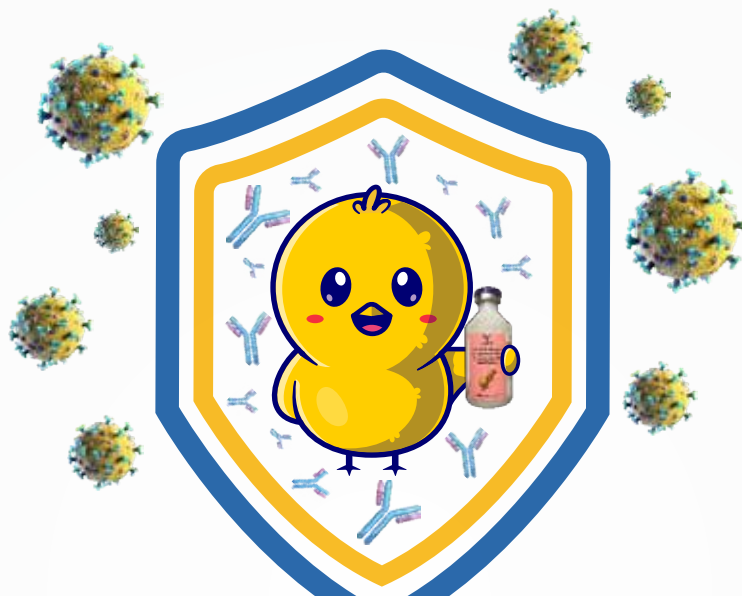
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Northern Region

COMPANY: Sampoorna Feeds FARMER NAME: Mr. Jashandeep Singh Sidhu	NOVEMBER-2025	Top #1
	Farm Type	Open House
	State	PUNJAB
	Chicks Placed	2509
	Mean Age	33.0
	Avg Body Wt	2460
	FCR	1.260
	cFCR	1.158
	Livability%	97.0
	Daily Gain	74.5
	EPEF	573.9


Eastern Region

COMPANY: IB Group FARMER NAME: Mr. Kamal Krishna Roy	NOVEMBER-2025	Top #1
	Farm Type	Open House
	State	BENGAL
	Chicks Placed	1354
	Mean Age	36.0
	Avg Body Wt	2777
	FCR	1.468
	cFCR	1.295
	Livability%	95.6
	Daily Gain	77.1
	EPEF	502.6


Central Region

COMPANY: Japfa FARMER NAME: Mr. Suhas Patil	NOVEMBER-2025	Top #1
	Farm Type	EC House
	State	MAHARASHTRA
	Chicks Placed	5972
	Mean Age	33.4
	Avg Body Wt	2463
	FCR	1.369
	cFCR	1.266
	Livability%	97.1
	Daily Gain	73.8
	EPEF	523.3


South Region

COMPANY: IB Group FARM NAME: K S Poultry Farms	NOVEMBER-2025	Top #1
	Farm Type	EC House
	State	KARNATAKA
	Chicks Placed	25945
	Mean Age	36.0
	Avg Body Wt	2731
	FCR	1.483
	cFCR	1.321
	Livability%	97.1
	Daily Gain	75.9
	EPEF	496.9


NOVEMBER-Top PERFORMANCE BY AREA

Area	Chicks Placed	Mean Age	BW	FCR	cFCR(2Kg)	Livability%	Daygain	EPEF
North EC House	12030	35.3	2631	1.370	1.230	97.2	74.5	528.3
North Open House	2509	33.0	2460	1.260	1.158	97.0	74.5	573.9
East EC House	6572	34.0	2357	1.427	1.348	97.2	69.3	472.2
East Open House	1354	36.0	2777	1.468	1.295	95.6	77.1	502.6
Central EC House	5972	33.4	2463	1.369	1.266	97.1	73.8	523.3
Central Open House	2793	32.3	2271	1.387	1.326	97.2	70.3	492.9
South EC House	25945	36.0	2731	1.483	1.321	97.1	75.9	496.9
South Open House	7616	36.0	2415	1.402	1.310	94.9	67.1	454.2

NOVEMBER-Top 10 FIELD PERFORMANCE

Flock	Farm Type	State	Chicks Placed	Mean Age	BW	FCR	cFCR	Livability%	Day Gain	EPEF
Flock 1	OPEN HOUSE	PUNJAB	2509	33.0	2460	1.260	1.158	97.0	74.5	573.9
Flock 2	OPEN HOUSE	PUNJAB	10390	33.0	2491	1.330	1.221	97.0	75.5	551.0
Flock 3	EC HOUSE	PUNJAB	12030	35.3	2631	1.370	1.230	97.2	74.5	528.3
Flock 4	OPEN HOUSE	PUNJAB	2505	32.1	2393	1.360	1.273	95.8	74.5	524.8
Flock 5	EC HOUSE	MAHARASHTRA	5972	33.4	2463	1.369	1.266	97.1	73.8	523.3
Flock 6	OPEN HOUSE	UTTAR PRADESH	9389	40.0	2960	1.347	1.134	95.1	74.0	522.3
Flock 7	OPEN HOUSE	PUNJAB	14630	32.0	2293	1.320	1.255	95.8	71.6	519.6
Flock 8	OPEN HOUSE	HARYANA	3775	29.0	1951	1.250	1.261	95.7	67.3	515.1
Flock 9	EC HOUSE	MAHARASHTRA	15489	32.6	2370	1.375	1.293	97.5	72.6	514.7
Flock 10	EC HOUSE	MAHARASHTRA	7875	35.0	2582	1.386	1.257	96.5	73.8	514.1



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35,000 shoppers supply Eggland's Best eggs in America and got rewards for the 12th consecutive year

Indian poultry industry to cut production by 25% amid soybean meal price surge.

Hairline cracks in the egg shell and possibly disrupt the underlying shell membranes. These hairline cracks may not be immediately visible to the naked eye and do not leave a trace of the exact moment of impact. Because of this, hairline cracks are often missed when doing quality checks during egg collection at the breeder farm. Consequences of Hairline Cracks Contamination Risk, a cracked egg leaves the door open for bacteria to penetrate and possibly cause contamination.



Dear Readers,

The July 2026 issue of Poultry Fortune is in your hands. In the news section you may find news about....

Indian poultry industry to cut production by 25% amid soybean meal price surge. Industry

leaders said the production cut is intended to offset rising input costs and prepare for the seasonal slowdown in poultry meat consumption typically seen during July, August, September and October. India's poultry industry has agreed to reduce production by 25% and has begun culling parent breeder stocks after soybean meal prices increased by more than 40% during the past month, significantly raising feed costs for producers. Leading poultry industry associations reached the decision following discussions on the growing feed-cost crisis facing the sector. Participants included representatives from All India Poultry Breeders Association (AIPBA); the Compound Livestock Feed Manufacturers Association of India (CLFMA); the Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Breeders Association (KPFBA); Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA); Telangana Poultry Breeders Association and the Broiler Coordination Committee, Tamil Nadu. According to industry representatives, soybean meal prices have risen by more than 40% in recent weeks. As soybean meal is the principal protein source used in poultry feed, the increase has sharply raised production costs across the broiler and layer sectors. Industry leaders said the production cut is intended to offset rising input costs and prepare for the seasonal slowdown in poultry meat consumption typically seen during July, August, September and October,

when festivals such as Srawan, Navratri and Durga Puja are observed in several parts of the country.

Discussion on Soybean Meal Crisis Impacting India's Poultry & Livestock Sector.

Representatives from major Poultry Associations of India had a meeting with Mrs Priya P. Nair, Economic Adviser (Joint Secretary level), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, to discuss the growing challenge of rising feed costs driven by the sharp increase in Soybean meal prices. During the meeting, the representatives highlighted several key concerns: Soybean Meal is a critical ingredient for livestock feed, including poultry, dairy, aquaculture, and shrimp farming owing to its high protein content. India's poultry and livestock sector continues to grow steadily at an estimated annual rate of 6% to 8%, reflecting its increasing contribution to food security and the rural economy. Estimated Soybean Meal requirement for FY 2026 to 2027 is 10.62 million metric tonnes (MMT). Expected domestic production is 8.32 MMT. Estimated supply gap: around 1.74 MMT, creating significant pressure on feed manufacturers and livestock producers.

4 Management tips to reduce fear-related losses in layers. Laying hens may register humans, equipment or sudden environmental changes as dangers, and the resulting stress can carry measurable costs to bird growth, egg production or mortality. Four ways to reduce fear, the review outlines four management strategies that guide producers on how to reduce fear-related welfare and production losses: Early-life environment: Introducing enrichment, perches and foraging opportunities from a young age, along with a predictable daily routine, to encourage conditioning to routine stimuli. Stockmanship: Maintaining calm, consistent handling; minimizing physical

Contd on next page



Poultry Fortune

Our Mission

Poultry Fortune will strive to be the reliable source of information to poultry industry in India.

PF will give its opinion and suggest the industry what is needed in the interest of the stakeholders of the industry.

PF will strive to be The Forum to the Stakeholders of the industry for development and self-regulation.

PF will recognize the efforts and contribution of individuals, institutions and organizations for the development of poultry industry in the country through annual Awards presentation.

PF will strive to maintain quality and standards at all times.

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restraint and using panels rather than chasing to move or separate birds. Housing design: Reducing loud noises and abrupt lighting changes, announcing entry before approaching birds and identifying structural collision risks, especially in multi-tier aviary systems. Strain selection: Working with breeder companies to select genetic lines suited to a farm's specific housing and management approach.

Eggland's Best named most trusted egg brand again. BrandSpark International recognized the company for the 12th consecutive year based on surveys from more than 35,000 shoppers. Eggland's Best has once again been named Most Trusted Egg in America by shoppers across the country, recognized for the 12th consecutive year by the 2026 BrandSpark Most Trusted Awards. The award was announced by BrandSpark International and its partner, News week. "Year after year, Eggland's Best receives high marks from shoppers, clearly perceived and acknowledged as an exceptional leader in its category," said Robert Levy, president of BrandSpark International. "Our research shows that consumers trust and rely on Eggland's Best for exceptional quality and nutrition, and that is something to celebrate." One of the most extensive brand trust studies in America, this year's BrandSpark Most Trusted Awards were based on survey insights from 35,215 qualified American shoppers, including 182,000 brand evaluations across 359 categories. "It is an honor to be recognized as America's No. 1 egg brand for the 12th straight year," said Kurt Misialek, president and CEO of Eggland's Best. "Our mission has always been to deliver the best-tasting and most nutritious egg possible. Further recognition from BrandSpark and feedback from valued customers and shoppers demonstrates that our commitment to that mission remains steady." Compared with ordinary eggs, Eggland's Best eggs contain six times more Vitamin D, 25% less saturated fat, more than double the Omega-3s, 10 times more Vitamin E and more than double the Vitamin B12. The superior nutrition in Eggland's Best eggs is due to its proprietary, all-vegetarian hen feed that contains healthy grains, canola oil and a wholesome supplement of rice bran, alfalfa, seakelp and Vitamin E. In addition, independent testing has revealed that Eggland's Best eggs have stronger eggshells than ordinary eggs, leading to less breakage and helping them stay fresher longer. Indian layer egg producers should target and put efforts to produce such quality eggs for the consumers and get rewards.

Chick quality control: Assessing the quality of day-old chicks at the hatchery. Chick quality control relies on assessing multiple parameters, each requiring careful consideration and correlation for a comprehensive analysis. Top-quality chicks are the cornerstone of the poultry industry. The quality of day-old chicks significantly impacts growth performance and, ultimately, the final product delivered to the end-customer. For any hatchery, the main goal is to maximize the percentage of first-quality chicks. Achieving this goal requires a thorough approach to assessing chick quality. This article aims to present a practical how-to approach for providing a reliable estimate of the quality of day-old chicks. Chick quality is influenced by preincubation, incubation and post-hatch factors. Factors such as breeder flock health, nutrition, storage environment and transport all affect chick quality. Incubation conditions – temperature, CO2 concentration, humidity level and the frequency and angle of turning during incubation – play vital roles in both embryo development and chick quality. Post-hatch factors like chick handling, processing, storage environment and transport also impact growth performance later in life.

In the Articles section, **Indian Poultry Sector needs High-**

tech Interventions for Future Sustainability authored by Prof. D.R.N. Sreenivas Gowda says that India's poultry sector is undergoing rapid modernization (Poultry 4.0), requiring high-tech interventions to manage disease, optimize feed costs, and meet rising demand. Key technologies include IoT sensors, AI analytics for health monitoring, automated feeding/climate control, and blockchain for traceability to improve efficiency and safety. Strategic Pathways for Growth. To support these interventions, the National Livestock Mission provides financial assistance and digitized portals for farmers to access subsidies. Organizations like the Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) are also focusing on training the next generation of poultry professionals in digital and technical management.

Another Article titled, **Hairline Cracks in Hatching Eggs** authored by Aviagen India Poultry Breeding Company Pvt Ltd said that Hatching eggs with hairline cracks pose a hidden threat, reducing the embryo's ability to hatch and increasing the risk for contamination. A normal hatching egg leaves the hen without cracks. From the moment of lay, the egg is exposed to manual or automated egg collection, sorting, packing, and movement on the breeder farm, followed by transportation to the hatchery, and in some cases, transfer from plastic or pulp trays to setter trays. During this journey, rough egg handling may cause hairline cracks in the egg shell and possibly disrupt the underlying shell membranes. These hairline cracks may not be immediately visible to the naked eye and do not leave a trace of the exact moment of impact. Because of this, hairline cracks are often missed when doing quality checks during egg collection at the breeder farm. On arrival at the hatchery, hairline cracks that have occurred on the breeder farm are visible, but not consistently recognized, removed, and discarded. Egg quality analysis, conducted by Aviagen incubation specialists at customer hatcheries, revealed that the percentage of hairline cracks can be as high as approximately 7% for certain flocks. Consequences of Hairline Cracks Contamination Risk: A cracked egg leaves the door open for bacteria to penetrate and possibly cause contamination.

Another Article titled, **Beyond Acidification: The Power of Buffered Organic Acids for Peak Poultry Performance** by Neotle Global Pvt Ltd discussed that in commercial poultry production, water is the ultimate driver of performance. It is the flock's most vital nutrient, making up 60% to 85% of a bird's body weight and about 75% of an egg. A flock can survive for weeks without feed, but missing water for just a few days will devastate an operation. Typically, birds consume twice as much water as they do feed, a requirement that can easily quadruple during periods of extreme heat stress. Because daily water intake is a prime indicator of overall flock health and a core pillar of basic animal welfare, ensuring a safe, adequate supply is non-negotiable. However, providing volume is only half the battle—protecting water quality is where efficiency is won or lost. This is why water acidification has transitioned from an optional practice to a technical necessity, serving as a powerful tool to sanitize water lines, suppress harmful pathogens, and support optimal avian gut health.

Readers are invited to send their views and comments on the news, special feature and articles published in the magazine which would be published under "Readers Column" in the magazine. Time to time, we shall try to update you on various aspects of Poultry sector. Keep reading the magazine Poultry Fortune regularly and update yourself. Wish you all fruitful results in your efforts.

M.A.Nazeer
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(CLFMA)

- the Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Breeders Association (KPFBA)
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- the Broiler Coordination Committee Tamil Nadu

According to industry representatives, soybean meal prices have risen by more than 40% in recent weeks. As soybean meal is the principal protein source used in poultry feed, the increase has sharply raised production costs across the broiler and layer sectors.

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observed in several parts of India.

As part of the measure, culling of parent breeder stocks has commenced across the country. Breeder birds that were previously sold for around USD 1.47 per bird are reportedly being sold at nearly USD 0.68 per bird as producers move to reduce future chick placements and liquidate excess stock.

The industry has also raised concerns over soybean market dynamics, arguing that domestic production remains sufficient to meet national requirements. Representatives alleged that speculative trading and hoarding have contributed to the recent increase in prices and said the issue would be raised with the Central Government.

Poultry organizations have renewed their demand for permitting imports of genetically modified (GM) soybean meal, which they believe could help stabilize feed prices and provide relief to poultry farmers facing escalating production costs.

The developments highlight the growing pressure that feed-price volatility is placing on India's poultry sector, where feed accounts for the largest share of production expenses.





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Eggland's Best named most trusted egg brand again

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By Dr K.Somi Reddy, Director, Srinivasa Farms Pvt Ltd



Eggland's Best

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Director, Srinivasa Farms Pvt Ltd.*

BrandSpark International. "Our research shows that consumers trust and rely on Eggland's Best for exceptional quality and nutrition, and that is

something to celebrate."

One of the most extensive brand trust studies in America, this year's BrandSpark Most Trusted Awards were based on survey insights from 35,215 qualified American shoppers, including 182,000 brand evaluations across 359 categories." It is an honor to be recognized as America's No. 1 egg brand for the 12th straight year," said Kurt Misialek, president and CEO of Eggland's Best. "Our mission has always been to deliver the best-tasting and most

nutritious egg possible. Further recognition from BrandSpark and feedback from valued customers and shoppers demonstrates that our commitment to that mission remains steady."

Compared with ordinary eggs, Eggland's Best eggs contain six times more Vitamin D, 25% less saturated fat, more than double the Omega-3s, 10 times more Vitamin E and more than double the Vitamin B12. The superior nutrition in Eggland's Best eggs is due to its proprietary, all-vegetarian hen feed that contains healthy grains, canola oil and a wholesome supplement of rice bran, alfalfa, seakelp and Vitamin E. In addition, independent testing has revealed that Eggland's Best eggs have stronger eggshells than ordinary eggs, leading to less breakage and helping them stay fresher longer. "Eggland's Best eggs are always one of my top recommendations to clients because of their nutritional value and quality," said Dawn Jackson Blatner, registered dietitian and nutritionist. "With six times more Vitamin D, more than double the Omega-3s and 10 times more Vitamin E compared with ordinary eggs, they offer nutritional advantages that help support a healthy lifestyle. Being named America's Most Trusted Egg Brand for yet another year reinforces what many consumers already know and value about the brand."

Compared with ordinary eggs, Eggland's Best eggs contain six times more Vitamin D, 25% less saturated fat, more than double the Omega-3s, 10 times more Vitamin E and more than double the Vitamin B12. The superior nutrition in Eggland's Best eggs is due to its proprietary, all-vegetarian hen feed that contains healthy grains, canola oil and a wholesome supplement of rice bran, alfalfa, seakelp and Vitamin E. In addition, independent testing has revealed that Eggland's Best eggs have stronger eggshells than ordinary eggs, leading to less breakage and helping them stay fresher longer. "Eggland's Best eggs are always one of my top recommendations to clients because of their nutritional value and quality," said Dawn Jackson Blatner, registered dietitian and nutritionist.

4 management tips to reduce fear-related losses in layers

Unmanaged fear responses in laying hens could be linked to increases in feather pecking, fractures and flock smothering.



Fear in laying hens is a measurable welfare and production risk, not just a behavior, according to a recent review from the Poultry Extension Collaborative.

According to the authors, while domestic hens are largely shielded from predators or other threats, protection hasn't eliminated the fear response itself — it's just changed what triggers it. Laying hens may register humans, equipment or sudden environmental changes as dangers, and the resulting stress can carry measurable costs to bird growth, egg production or mortality.

Four ways to reduce fear

The review outlines four management strategies that guide producers on how to reduce fear-related welfare and production losses:

1. Early-life environment: Introducing enrichment,

perches and foraging opportunities from a young age, along with a predictable daily routine, to encourage conditioning to routine stimuli

2. Stockmanship: Maintaining calm, consistent handling; minimizing physical restraint and using panels rather than chasing to move or separate birds
3. Housing design: Reducing loud noises and abrupt lighting changes, announcing entry before approaching birds and identifying structural collision risks, especially in multi-tier aviary systems
4. Strain selection: Working with breeder companies to select genetic lines suited to a farm's specific housing and management

approach

Why it matters for producers

Fear-driven flock behavior isn't limited to isolated incidents. When a startled hen tries to flee, collisions with housing structures or other birds can cause fractures, and mass movement triggered by fear can lead to piling and smothering events. These outcomes suggest fear management needs the same attention producers give nutrition and biosecurity.

Investments in early rearing environment, low-stress handling protocols and housing design can pay off not only in terms of welfare but in reduced injury and mortality risk.

The authors noted that fear reduction is an ongoing management discipline rather than a one-time fix, as genetics, rearing conditions and individual

temperament all shape how a flock responds to stress.

Fear starts early and isn't uniform across birds

The review cites research showing that fear responses, such as tonic immobility, can be induced in chicks as early as one day after hatch, indicating a strong innate component. However, the amount of fearfulness varies by genetics and individual bird.

White-feathered strains have shown more passive fear responses, such as prolonged tonic immobility and quicker movement from an employee. Brown-feathered strains show more active responses, including attempts to fight or flee. Even within a single strain, individual hens can differ. Field observations on free-range farms found some hens fleeing from a predator while others approached or even foraged near it after an attack.

That variability, the authors noted, means fear management can't rely on a single fix. It requires evaluations of strain, environment and individual flock behavior.

Courtesy: WATT Poultry, Meredith Dawson, July 6, 2026



Associations discuss with Priya P. Nair on Soybean Meal Crisis Impacting India's Poultry & Livestock sector

New Delhi: Representatives from major Poultry Associations of India had a meeting with Mrs Priya P. Nair, Economic Adviser (Joint Secretary level), Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi, to discuss the growing challenge of rising feed costs driven by the sharp increase in Soybean meal prices.

During the meeting, the representatives highlighted several key concerns:

- Soybean Meal is a critical ingredient for livestock feed, including poultry, dairy, aquaculture, and shrimp farming owing to its high protein content.
- India's poultry and livestock sector continues to grow steadily at an estimated annual rate of 6% to 8%, reflecting its increasing contribution to food security and the rural economy.
- Estimated Soybean Meal requirement for FY 2026 to 2027 is 10.62 million metric tonnes

(MMT).

- Expected domestic production is 8.32 MMT.
- Estimated supply gap: around 1.74 MMT, creating significant pressure on feed manufacturers and livestock producers.

To address this situation, the associations requested that the matter be conveyed to the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Mr Piyush Goyal with an appeal for a time-bound import relief of 1.5 MMT of Soybean Meal. Such a measure would help stabilise feed costs and support the sustainability of India's poultry and allied livestock sectors.

The Associations thanked Mrs Priya P. Nair for her patient hearing, valuable guidance, and positive engagement on this important issue.

A collaborative and timely policy response can go a long way in safeguarding farmers, producers, and consumers while ensuring the continued growth of India's poultry & livestock economy.

37th PFI AGM at Kochi on September 23 – 24

New Delhi: Poultry Federation of India is organising its 37th AGM on September 23 - 24 at Hotel Grand Hyaatt, Kochi,

Kerala. The PFI in its note invited for sponsorship, registration and room booking. Contact: poultryfederation@gmail.com.

Illegal movement of Anganwadi eggs

Minister Parthasarathi complains to another Minister Ms Sandhya Rani, Nuzvidu Rural, in Andhra Pradesh

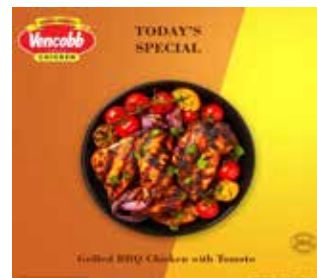


Minister Kolu Parthasarathy showing eggs to the CDPO via video call

Vijayawada: Anganwadi Minister in Andhra Pradesh Mr Kolu Parthasarathy's inspection revealed that eggs meant for supply to the Anganwadi centers were being transported illegally. He brought this matter to the attention of Women and Child Welfare Minister Ms Sandhya Rani and higher officials. The minister was returning from a program in Musunur mandal on July 1. While stopping at Tukkuluru in Nujiveedu mandal of Eluru district and talking to the activists, he saw a vehicle supplying eggs to Anganwadi centers. The minister stopped the vehicle and asked the driver where the eggs were being taken. When he gave an irrelevant answer, the eggs in the vehicle were inspected. He questioned lack of stamps on the eggs. The Eggs meant for Anganwadi children but are not reaching them. It was found that the signatures of the Wadi activists were

collected without providing eggs to the children.

Immediately, they called Nuzvidu CDPO Ms Vijayakumari and showed the eggs and the vehicle in a video call. The CDPO also tried to mislead the minister, and he expressed his anger. He ordered departmental action to be taken up and immediate action against the contractor. The vehicle was given a police escort and taken to the ICDS office in Nuzividu.



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Scientific Overview of Immuity+: An Advanced Immunomodulatory Formulation



At Annual General Meeting for FY 2025–2026, held at Hotel Ramada Encore in Indore, Vetline, a division of Simfa Labs Private Limited, announced the launch of Immuity+, a scientifically developed solution aimed at strengthening poultry immunity and improving overall flock health. The key officials present at the product launch included Director Mr Dilraj Singh Bhatia, Executive Director Mr Sumeet Singh Bhatia and Dr Amit Kumar Patra, General Manager (Sales & Marketing) who played a major role in presenting the product and outlining its benefits.

The growing need to enhance disease resistance in poultry while minimizing antibiotic dependence has accelerated the development of scientifically designed immunomodulatory products. Immuity+ is a novel formulation

developed to support poultry immune competence through a synergistic combination of nutritional and bioactive components.

Formulation and Mechanistic Insights

Immuity+ comprises a precise blend of Beta glucan, Nucleotides, MOS, Alpha-monolaurin, organic trace minerals (such as zinc and selenium), nutritional and antioxidant molecules. Each component is selected based on its established role in immune regulation and gut health.

Nutritional nucleotides and essential amino acids support rapid cell repair, enhance protein synthesis and immune function by reducing the energy burden of de novo synthesis during stress. Antioxidants reduce oxidative stress, preserving the functional integrity of immune cells, while organic trace minerals contribute

to enzymatic defence systems and lymphocyte proliferation.

Immuno-physiological Effects

Immuity+ is designed to influence both innate and adaptive immune responses. It enhances the functional activity of macrophages, heterophils and natural killer cells, and supports humoral immunity by promoting antibody synthesis. Additionally, the formulation contributes to improved gut integrity and supports the gut-associated lymphoid tissue (GALT), which plays a central role in avian immune defence.

Performance and Health Outcomes

Scientific evaluations suggest that supplementation with Immuity+ results in:

- Increased resistance to infectious diseases
- Lower morbidity and

mortality rates

- Improved feed conversion efficiency
- Enhanced growth performance in broilers and sustained productivity in layers

Application and Compatibility

Immuity+ can be administered via feed or drinking water and is compatible with standard vaccination protocols and nutritional programs. Its flexible application makes it suitable for broilers, layers, and breeder flocks across various production systems.

Conclusion

Immuity+ is a science-based solution to keep poultry healthy. It works by improving nutrition and supporting gut health, which helps birds build stronger natural immunity. The product reflects Vetline's commitment to providing sustainable and effective healthcare solutions for modern poultry production, supporting improved performance, productivity, and long-term farm profitability.



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Zamira Australia Brings Industry Leaders Together for Knowledge-Sharing Seminar in Raipur



SS Brahmarkar, Founder of Brahmarkar Group being felicitated during Zamira Seminar at Raipur

Raipur, Chhattisgarh, 18 May 2026: Recognising the important role poultry farming plays in the economy of

Chhattisgarh, Zamira Australia recently hosted a successful technical seminar in Raipur, bringing together more than 60

veterinarians, poultry producers, integrators, feed manufacturers and industry stakeholders for a day of learning, discussion



Achin Banerjee, Daa Egg Industry



Sidharth receiving an appreciation from Zamira

and collaboration. Poultry production continues to be a vital contributor to income generation, employment and food security across the region. With this in mind, the seminar was designed to facilitate the exchange of practical knowledge between industry experts and poultry farmers, while encouraging the next generation of poultry professionals to learn from some of the sector's most experienced leaders.

The event commenced with a welcome address by Dr Shaveta Sood, Director, South Asia, Zamira Australia, who highlighted Zamira's commitment to supporting the poultry industry through quality products, technical expertise and long-term partnerships.

"The Zamira Promise is built on quality, integrity and a commitment to helping poultry producers achieve sustainable success," Dr Sood said.

A key highlight of the seminar was a technical presentation by Dr Vorachai Leethochawalit, an internationally respected poultry consultant from Bangkok, Thailand, with more than 33 years of experience in poultry farming consultancy and integration.

Presenting on the topic "From Shell to Skeleton: Calcium's Overlooked Story", Dr



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Nitin Sarin, Sarin Poultry Farm receiving an appreciation



Dr Vorachai Leethochawalit, Poultry Consultant addressing



Mehul Patel, MK Poultry Farm, son of late Kiran Patel receiving an appreciation



Dr Shaveta Sood, Director South Asia, Zamira



Pankaj Choubey, Maa Sharda Distributor receiving an appreciation



Dr Manoj Shukla, Independent Consultant in Raipur

Vorachai explored the critical relationship between eggshell quality, skeletal health and farm profitability. He discussed the factors influencing eggshell strength and bone integrity in layers and

breeders, emphasising the importance of selecting the right calcium source.

Dr Vorachai also shared insights into ZamiBoost Shell Strength, explaining how its sustained-release calcium technology can

support stronger eggshells, improve skeletal health and increase the number of saleable eggs, ultimately contributing to improved profitability for poultry producers.

The technical program

continued with Dr Manoj Shukla, a poultry consultant with more than 25 years of experience in disease diagnosis and farm-level health management.

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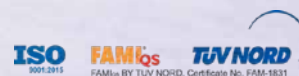
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Dr Shailaja Rajyam, Product & Marketing Manager, Zamira

management, Dr Shukla discussed the growing complexities facing poultry producers and highlighted the critical role of ventilation in disease prevention. His presentation covered the differential diagnosis of bacterial, viral and mycoplasmal respiratory diseases, providing practical guidance on recognising symptoms and implementing effective management strategies.

Delegates also received an overview of Zamira Australia's product portfolio from Dr Shailaja Rajyam, Product and Marketing Manager, who outlined the company's



Dr Sujit Kulkarni, Consultant to Zamira

approach to supporting poultry health and productivity through evidence-based solutions.

Additional technical insights were provided by Dr Sujit Kulkarni, Consultant to Zamira from Bextral, Netherlands, who delivered an informative session on ZamiBoost Immune Defence Liquid and its role in supporting bird health and resilience.

During the event, Zamira also recognised several distinguished guests and industry leaders, including Mr S.S. Brahmarkar (Brahmarkar Group), Mr Govind Chandrakar (Yashasvi Poultry), Mr Nitin Sarin (Sarin Poultry Farm),

Mr Sidharth Sur (Mini Poultry Farm), Mr Mehul Patel (MK Poultry Farm) and Mr Achin Banerjee (Daa Egg Industry).

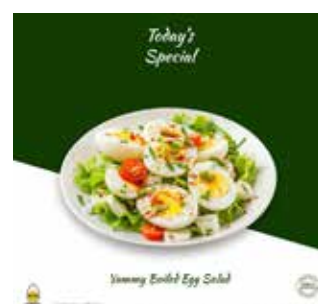
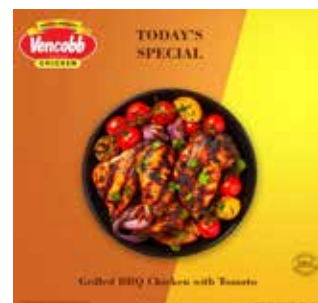
Zamira expressed its appreciation to its customers, industry stakeholders and channel partner Mr Pankaj Choubey of Maa Sharda, Distributor for their continued support and collaboration.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks from Mr Manoj Singh, Zonal Sales Manager, Zamira Australia, before delegates gathered for a networking dinner, providing further opportunities to exchange ideas, strengthen industry relationships and discuss the future of poultry production in the region.

By bringing together experienced professionals, emerging leaders and poultry producers, the Raipur seminar reinforced the value of knowledge sharing and industry collaboration in supporting the continued growth and sustainability of India's poultry sector.



Over 60 guests attended Zamira Australia's 'Shell to Skeleton' seminar in Raipur



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Chick quality control:

Assessing the quality of day-old chicks at the hatchery

Chick quality control relies on assessing multiple parameters, each requiring careful consideration and correlation for a comprehensive analysis



and representative sample batches for investigation. However, if a significant number of chicks exhibit a specific issue, further in-depth analysis should be organized.

A practical approach to quality control from parameters to sampling

According to Petersime, effective chick quality assessment in the hatchery involves combining different key parameters, which range from visual traits to hidden characteristics such as yolk sac residue. It is crucial to take the unique characteristics of the parameters into account and connect their results to ensure a thorough evaluation of overall chick quality.

Beyond selecting parameters, focusing on when and how to sample also plays a critical role. The optimal time for quality control is between 16 to 20 hours after the hatch peak, typically in the take-off room. To ensure a representative sample, a minimum of 3 hatcher baskets per flock is used for group chick quality assessments – preferably the same baskets already labelled and used for egg breakouts, taken from the top, middle and bottom position.

- For a more in-depth analysis

Top-quality chicks are the cornerstone of the poultry industry. The quality of day-old chicks significantly impacts growth performance and, ultimately, the final product delivered to the end-customer.

For any hatchery, the main goal is to maximize the percentage of first-quality chicks. Achieving this goal requires a thorough approach to assessing chick quality. This article aims to present a practical how-to approach for providing a reliable estimate of the quality of day-old chicks.

The critical role of chick quality assessment

Evaluating chick quality provides important information on the entire production process. Chick quality is influenced by preincubation, incubation and post-hatch factors. Factors such as breeder flock health, nutrition, storage environment and transport all affect chick quality. Incubation conditions – temperature, CO₂ concentration, humidity level and the frequency and angle of turning

during incubation – play vital roles in both embryo development and chick quality. Post-hatch factors like chick handling, processing, storage environment and transport also impact growth performance later in life.

That being said, it is self-evident that commercial hatcheries cannot inspect each day-old chick in detail, as it would be done scientifically. Instead, chick quality assessments should be conducted in a practically feasible manner, by selecting key parameters



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Presentation

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of individual chicks within the group, sampling 15 chicks from each of the 3 hatcher baskets is recommended, resulting in a total sample of 45 chicks per flock.

The most appropriate time to conduct a chick quality assessment is between 16 to 20 hours after the hatch peak.

This example demonstrates how to apply the theory in practice. For a hatcher containing 2 different flocks, baskets are selected from the following positions: the 3rd from the top, the 8th from the top and the 3rd from the bottom. This results in a total sample of 6 baskets for this hatcher.

Review of key parameters used in chick quality control

Based on Petersime's expertise, the following parameters are regarded as essential for assessing chick quality. While some parameters are more subjective than others, trained observers can assess specific characteristics or traits to provide a reliable estimate of the quality of day-old chicks.

1. First impression and vitality

Observing the general look and vitality of all chicks in the 3 sampled baskets is a fundamental and

recommended practice. Day-old chicks of good quality are in general clean, dry, lively, alert and free from deformities. Their feather colour is uniform, and their eyes are bright and round. For a deeper insight into vitality, sampling 15 chicks per sampled basket is considered a practical approach. This can be evaluated by gently placing a chick on its back to check if it turns itself back within three seconds.

2. Navel and belly

Checking the navel and belly is a relatively easy and effective method for evaluating chick quality. It can give several hints on incubation conditions. During the final stages of incubation, many important

processes occur, such as blood withdrawal from the chorioallantoic membrane and yolk sac uptake. The navel is the physical point where this vascular and yolk sac retraction occurs. Therefore, examining the navel of 15 chicks per sampled basket is a powerful tool for identifying the root causes of

problems and understanding what occurred during the incubation period.

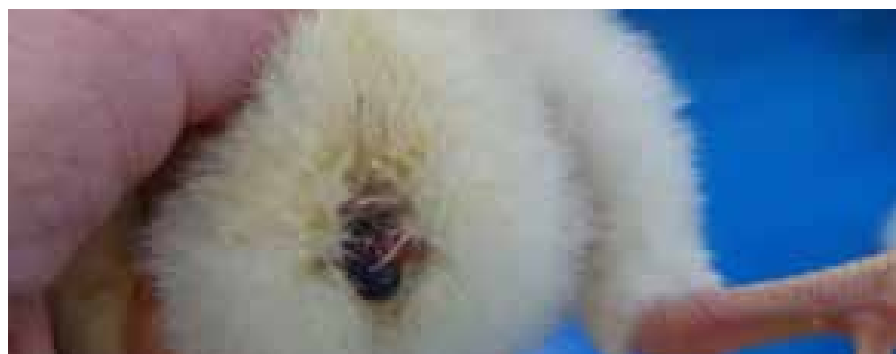
A good-quality navel is closed, dry and free of eggshell and membrane residues. A poor-quality navel is a potential entry point for bacteria into the most sensitive part of the body cavity, which drastically increases susceptibility to disease and the risk of post-hatch mortality. The belly must be soft, smooth and nonbloated.

3. Feathering

A newly born chick of good quality looks fluffy and has clean and dry feathers, free from any materials such as yolk and meconium. Flat feathers on the head and neck indicate either too high or too low temperatures during the last days of incubation. Examining 15 chicks per sampled

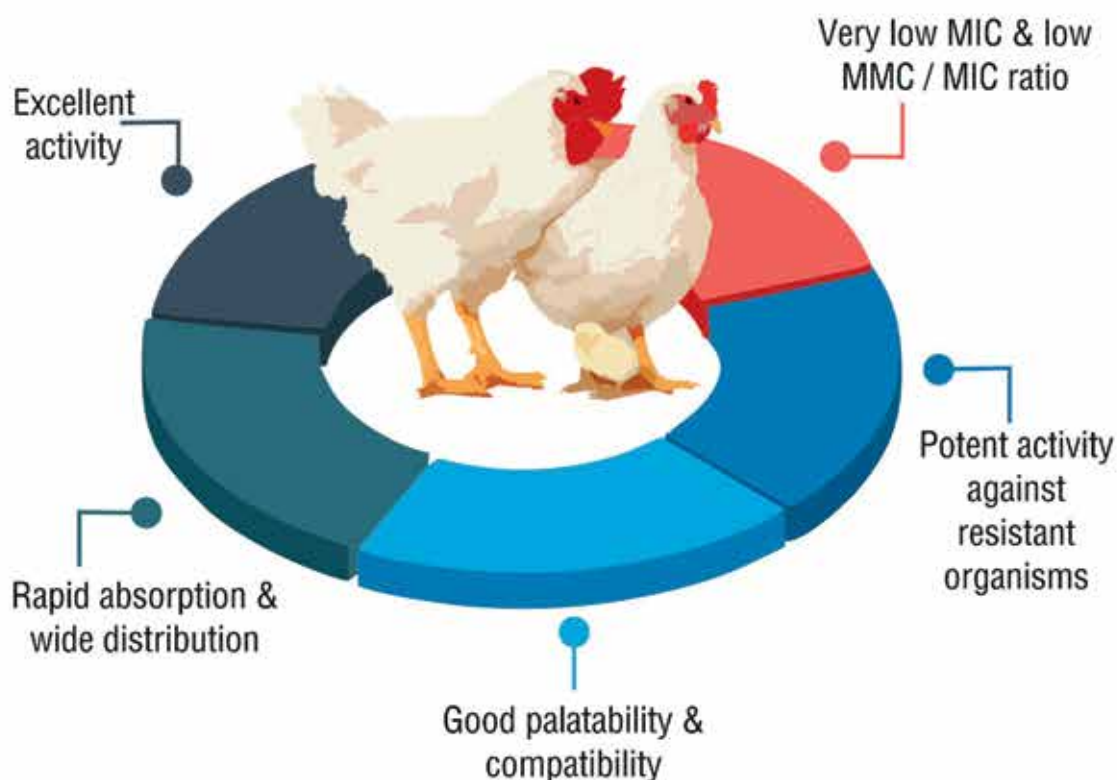


Chicks of premium quality must be lively and are responsive to movement.



The Condition of the navel reveals much about chick quality. A badly healed navel has a protruding, large dark button or a long string of non-absorbed membrane.

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Chicks displaying flat feathers on their head and neck suggest temperature fluctuations during the final days of incubation.

basket for feather fluffiness, dryness and cleanliness is sufficient to assess the feathering quality in the group.

4. Beak

The beak is vital for physical well-being, as it is used for breathing, drinking and picking up feed. It needs to be healthy and fully formed. The nostrils should be clean and open so the chick can breathe normally. Crossed beaks are often hereditary or caused by a viral infection. For each of the sampled baskets, 15 chicks can be examined specifically for the presence of red or dark spots. This can indicate either that the temperature in the hatcher was too high or that the chick struggled to emerge from the eggshell due to insufficient weight loss, possibly caused by incorrect humidity conditions.

5. Legs (toes, joints and knees)

Good-quality chicks have well-developed, hydrated legs that are free from injuries. Good leg health is important for posthatch performance, as it allows chicks to develop their muscles optimally,



A red spot on the beak is a signal that something was wrong with the incubation conditions

move freely, look for feed and behave naturally. Chicks with spread legs have posture problems because they lack sufficient strength in their legs. For each of the sampled baskets, 15 chicks can be examined specifically for red hocks. This can indicate that the temperature during the incubation process was too high or weight loss was poor.

6. Chick yield – Yolk sac residue

Chick yield is calculated by dividing the average chick weight by the average fresh egg weight and multiplying the result by 100. When the incubation process is carried out properly, the chick yield at take-off typically represents around 67-68% of the initial fresh egg weight. Practically speaking, the procedure involves separating all chicks from the hatch residues. Next, the total weight of chicks in each basket is measured, followed by counting the number of chicks per basket. These two figures are then used to calculate the average chick yield.

Although this is an objective measurement, the value is relative. This is because the total body weight is the sum of the chick weight and the remaining yolk residue weight. If a lot of yolk is left over, then less development has occurred. Hence, chick yield as a single indicator does not give a good indication of chick quality. It should be supplemented with a subsample of 15 chicks per sampled basket to have an accurate assessment on how effectively the yolk sac was utilized.

The yolk residue weight must be subtracted from the total body weight. An acceptable yolk sac to body weight ratio is 10% or less, indicating optimal environmental conditions during incubation and effective yolk utilization by the embryo. This method provides a more precise indicator of chick quality, but it is labour-intensive and involves sacrificing chicks.

Conclusion

Achieving high hatchability is crucial



Red hocks can have various causes but typically indicate issues with incubation conditions or hatchery procedures.

but ensuring the quality of the day-old chicks supplied to farms is just as important. Farms are looking for chicks with the best growth potential, resulting in the best outcome at the end of the rearing period.

- By implementing a thorough approach to chick quality assessment, hatcheries can enhance their percentage of premium-quality chicks, ultimately benefiting the entire poultry production chain.
- In summary, here is essential guidance on chick quality control in commercial hatcheries:
- While inspecting every chick individually is not feasible, representative sampling offers valuable insights. Sampling 15 chicks per basket and at least 3 baskets per flock is recommended. Furthermore, performing chick quality assessments at standardized times – between 16 and 20 hours after the hatch peak – provides reliable data for evaluation.
- Chick quality control relies on assessing multiple parameters, each requiring careful consideration and correlation for a comprehensive analysis. Examine the chicks thoroughly, focusing on vitality, navel, belly, feathers, beak, legs and chick yield.
- Don't forget that all observations reflect what happened to the eggs and chicks before incubation, during incubation and immediately after hatch.

Courtesy: Petersime Incubators & Hatcheries

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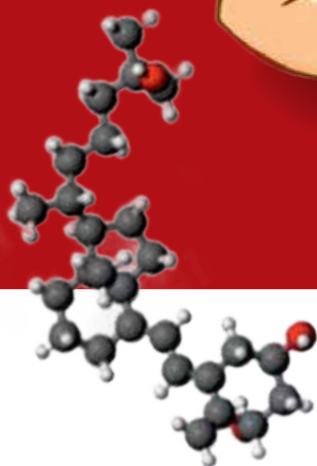
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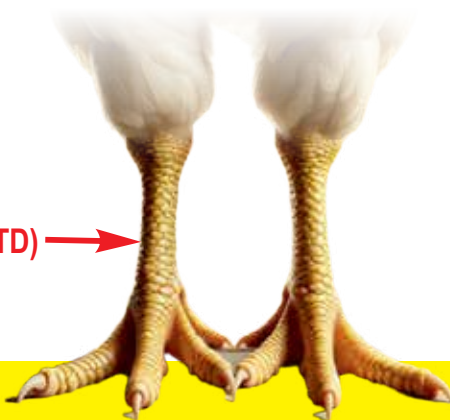


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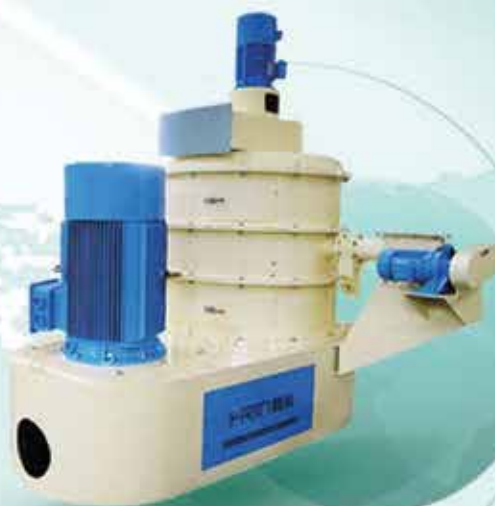
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Indian Poultry Sector needs High-tech Interventions for Future Sustainability

Prof. D.R.N. Sreenivas Gowda, Former & Founder Vice Chancellor, KVAFSU, Bidar, Bangalore and Mangalore.
Former Director, IAH & VB Bangalore, and Former Prof and HOD, Dept. of Pathology, Vety. College UAS Bangalore

Introduction

India's poultry sector is undergoing rapid modernization (Poultry 4.0), requiring high-tech interventions to manage disease, optimize feed costs, and meet rising demand. Key technologies include IoT sensors, AI analytics for health monitoring, automated feeding/climate control, and blockchain for traceability to improve efficiency and safety.

Critical High-Tech Interventions Needed

- **Smart Farming & IoT:** Implementation of IoT sensors and cameras to monitor flock health, behavior, and environmental conditions (temperature, humidity, air quality) in real-time.
- **Automated Environment Control:** Advanced, automated climate-controlled housing to minimize climatic stress and disease outbreaks.
- **Precision Feeding Systems:** Automated feeders that optimize feed conversion efficiency, crucial for reducing high feed costs.
- **AI & Data Analytics:** Utilizing AI for predictive analytics in disease management, forecasting demand, and reducing seasonal production imbalances.
- **Blockchain & Traceability:** Implementing digital tools for supply chain transparency, from farm to consumer, ensuring compliance with FSSAI standards.
- **Cold Chain Technology:** Investment in smart, modern, and energy-efficient cold storage and logistics to reduce spoilage, as the industry shifts toward chilled/frozen products.

Challenges to Adoption

- **High Capital Costs:** Significant upfront investment is required

for IoT devices, software, and infrastructure modernization.

- **Digital Literacy & Training:** A major need for training farmers in rural areas to operate, manage, and troubleshoot automated, data-driven systems.
- **Infrastructure & Data Privacy:** Concerns regarding consistent technology infrastructure and security for data collected from AI-driven operations.

Growth Drivers and Future Focus

- The industry is shifting from traditional, wet-market-driven setups to fully automated, ISO-certified, and e-commerce-ready systems.
- Startups are disrupting the supply chain with improved cold-chain management and last-mile delivery technology.
- Policy support is needed for promoting sustainable practices, including better vaccination protocols and the use of technology to combat antibiotic resistance.

Strategic Pathways for Growth

To support these interventions, the National Livestock Mission provides financial assistance and digitized portals for farmers to

access subsidies. Organizations like the Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) are also focusing on training the next generation of poultry professionals in digital and technical management.

Conclusion

The Indian poultry sector is rapidly transitioning toward "Poultry 4.0," a framework that integrates automation and digital intelligence to meet rising demand for affordable protein. While India is already the world's third-largest egg producer, high-tech interventions are essential to overcome challenges like high feed costs, disease outbreaks, and labor shortages.

Source:

- Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying: National Livestock Mission Scheme.
- Poultry India: Technological Innovations in Indian Poultry.
- Vprint Infotech Reports: Smart Poultry Farming Strategies for 2026.
- Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI): Poultry Sector LMIS Report.
- Poultry TRENDS: Digital Transformation and AI Redefining Indian Poultry

Implementation Challenges in India

Challenge	Impact on High-Tech Adoption
High Initial Investment	Advanced systems like IoT and automated feeders require significant upfront capital, which is difficult for small-scale farmers.
Digital Literacy Gap	Many rural farmers lack the technical skills to interpret digital dashboards or troubleshoot automated equipment.
Data Privacy	Concerns regarding who owns and monetizes the massive amounts of data collected by smart systems.
Feed Cost Volatility	Since maize and soya make up nearly 90% of feed, tech interventions in feed formulation are needed to manage fluctuating prices.

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Hairline cracks in hatching eggs

By Aviagen India Poultry Breeding Company Pvt Ltd

Hatching eggs with hairline cracks pose a hidden threat, reducing the embryo's ability to hatch and increasing the risk for contamination. A normal hatching egg leaves the hen without cracks. From the moment of lay, the egg is exposed to manual or automated egg collection, sorting, packing, and movement on the breeder farm, followed by transportation to the hatchery, and in some cases, transfer from plastic or pulp trays to setter trays.

During this journey, rough egg handling may cause hairline cracks in the egg shell and possibly disrupt the underlying shell membranes. These hairline cracks may not be immediately visible to the naked eye and do not leave a trace of the exact moment of impact. Because of this, hairline cracks are often missed when doing quality checks during egg collection at the breeder farm. On arrival at the hatchery, hairline cracks that have occurred on the breeder farm are visible, but not consistently recognized, removed, and discarded. Egg quality analysis, conducted by

Aviagen incubation specialists at customer hatcheries, revealed that the percentage of hairline cracks can be as high as approximately 7% for certain flocks.

This article focuses only on hairline cracks. It does not address body-checked eggs that were cracked and repaired inside the hen's reproductive tract. These eggs typically have a crack covered by a layer of calcium, making the crack appear as a ridge or band (Figure 1).

How to find hairline cracks?

Hairline cracks only become apparent after a few days when moisture from the air has had time to penetrate the crack and produce a faint gray line at the shell surface. When searching for hairline cracks in an egg pack, pick up and inspect each egg with a flashlight, as the crack may be located at the bottom or on the other side. A flashlight makes it easier to detect the moisture that has entered the crack becomes illuminated.

How to locate the point or location of impact?

Hairline cracks are often caused by

collisions with other eggs or hard materials in the egg collection system. Whether an eggshell cracks depends on the speed of the impact and the quality of the eggshell. High impact speed (G-force) and weak shells increase the likelihood of cracks.

The location of impact can be found in several ways. A quick check can be done by using your eyes and ears to detect the sight and sound of colliding eggs before or during egg collection and by looking for sharp edges or rough transitions. Start from the laying nest and work down the egg collection system.

Another method is to collect eggs after each transition point, store them for two days, and examine them for hairline cracks using a flashlight. However, modern technology allows us to use a more sophisticated approach. An artificial egg with G-force sensors inside can be used to track the egg's journey from laying until arrival at the hatchery.

Each transition point should be checked several times, and real-time data provides information



FIGURE 1: Examples of a body-checked egg (left) and illuminated hairline cracks (right).



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Figure 2: An artificial egg with a G-force sensor inside (cracklessegg.com)

on the range of impact and the corresponding time. There are several artificial eggs on the market, for example: Wireless Egg Node, CracklessEgg, Mach-Sens Egg Tracker, and Gregg Smart Egg (Figure 2).

Hairline crack prevention gentle egg handling

- Minimize the use of harsh or overly automated equipment, and train staff and drivers on the importance of delicate egg handling. Transport safeguards
- Use shock-absorbent materials and avoid jarring motions during egg transportation from the farm to the hatchery. Routine hatchery inspection
- Candle samples from every batch of eggs immediately upon arrival at the hatchery, and track the

hairline crack trends over time. Routine breeder management evaluation

- Any condition that makes the egg shell weaker will increase the likelihood of cracks. This could be related to heat stress, nutrition, water quality, disease, or bird age. Routine egg journey inspection at the breeder farm

Check the basics. Every nest must have a nest mat in good condition and, in the case of automation, a nest mat that is positioned correctly so that the eggs roll gently onto the belt without colliding with the nest walls or conveyor belt structures. The collection frequency should be a minimum of 4 times per day to prevent egg-to-egg collisions on the conveyor belt.

Consequences of hairline cracks contamination risk

A cracked egg leaves the door open for bacteria to penetrate and possibly cause contamination. This risk increases when a hairline crack is caused while the egg is still in the cooling-down phase, just after lay, combined with a (slightly) dirty eggshell. Egg contents shrink when cooling down from the hen's body temperature to storage temperature. This shrinking process facilitates bacterial penetration through cracks, as the slight under pressure pulls anything outside the egg into the egg. Usually, the shell and inner membrane act as a natural barrier for microbes or bacteria; however, when the shell and membrane are cracked and disrupted, the embryo is at risk. Eggshell cleanliness, affected by breeder house management, plays an important role in determining whether an egg with a hairline crack has to face a bacterial challenge. Research shows that losses due to contamination increase by a factor 5 to 6 (Figure 3).

Reduced hatchability

Eggs with hairline cracks have reduced hatchability, as they are more vulnerable to contamination and dehydration. Reduction in embryo viability doubles or triples across all stages of incubation compared to a normal shell (Figure 3). A cracked egg will lose more weight due to increased moisture loss during incubation. Egg weight loss is, therefore, higher, and this will consequently lead to a lower chick yield (Figure 4). Chick yield is, however, less affected, as late dead embryos and dehydrated cull chicks are not included in the chick yield parameter. Overall, chicks hatched from cracked eggs have a lower quality, if they manage to hatch, resulting in more culled chicks (Figure 5). However, results may differ if using in-ovo vaccination.

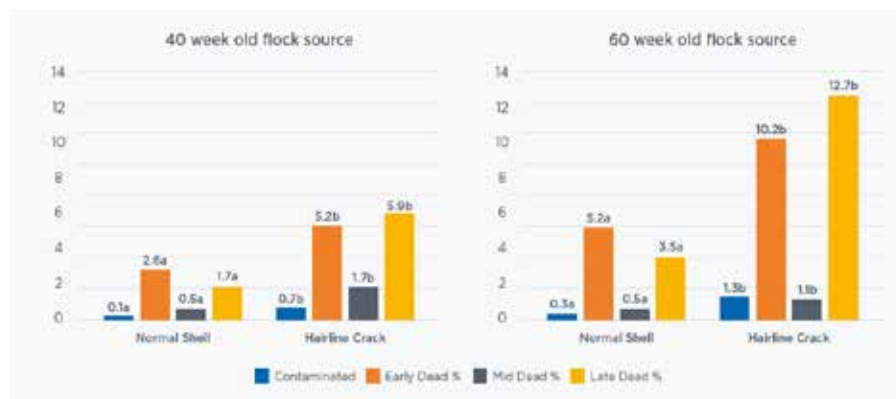


FIGURE 3: Hatch debris analysis (Aviagen trials 2025 and 2026). Letters show statistical differences between norm eggshells compared to shells with a hairline crack.

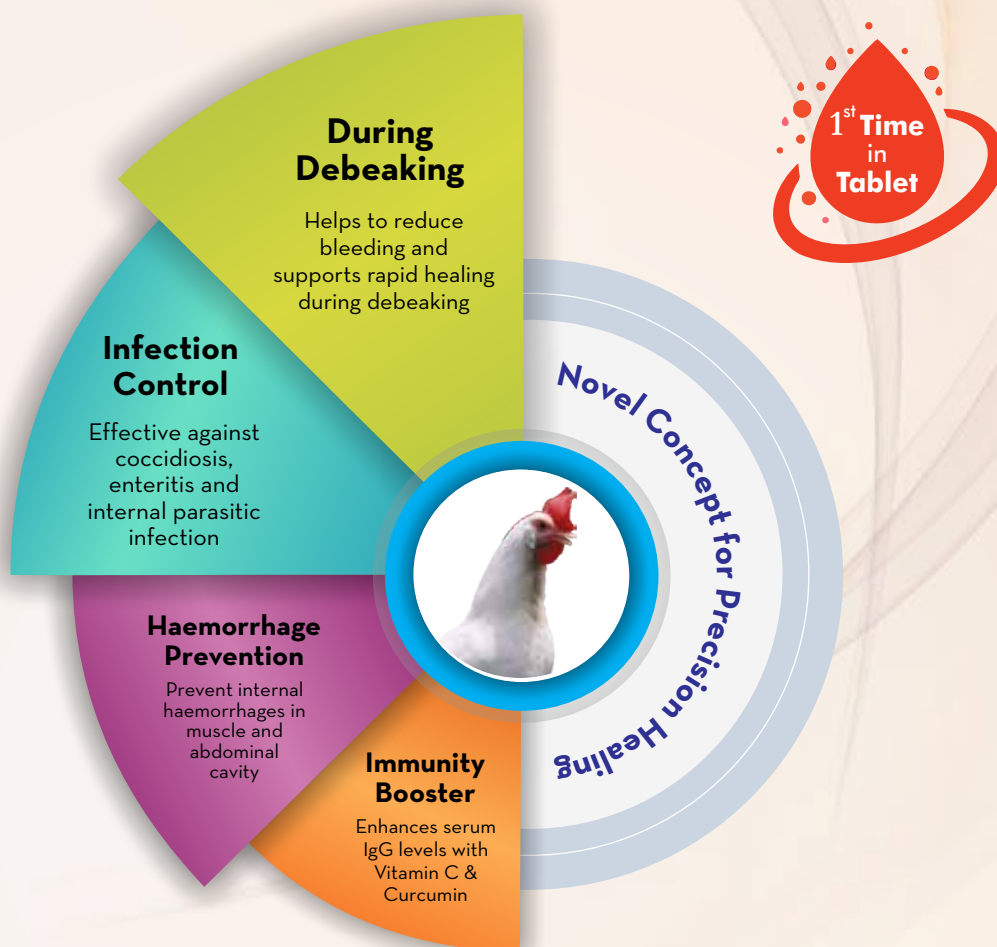
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FIGURE 4: Weight loss and chick yield % (Aviagen trials 2025 and 2026). Letters show statistical differences for weight of normal eggshells compared to shells with a hairline crack. No significant difference was seen for chick yield, as it was close to or within target, and incubation time was variable.

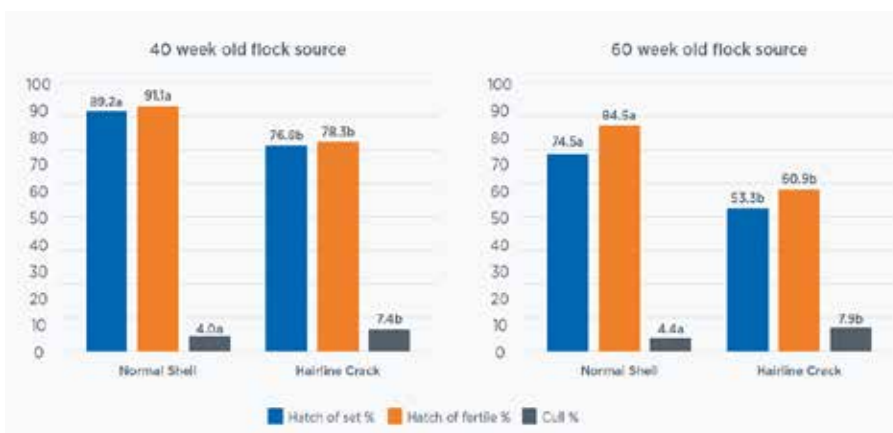


FIGURE 5: Hatch of set, hatch of fertile, and cull %. Hatch of set and hatch of fertile have culls removed. (Aviagen trials 2025 and 2026). Letters show statistical differences for weight loss between normal eggshells compared to shells with a hairline crack.

below, with an average specific gravity above 1,080 for both flock ages (Figure 5), illustrates the drop in hatchability when comparing clean, normal eggs to those with hairline cracks. Experiments conducted by other researchers, for example, Barnett et al. (2004), show significantly larger drops in hatchability, which may be related to the origin of the eggs and eggshell cleanliness.

As a commercial example, an average hatchery that sets 1 million eggs per week, with 4% hairline cracks in their egg pack, loses 0.5% hatchability. Assuming that hairline cracked eggs under hatch at a rate of 12.4%, this means 5,000 chicks are lost weekly. On a yearly basis, this translates to a loss of 260,000 chicks.

Conclusion

Eggs with hairline cracks are inferior

compared to eggs without hairline cracks in terms of hatchability and chick quality, and cause an economic loss. Hairline cracks are detectable and mostly visible after a few days of storage at either the breeder farm or hatchery. There are multiple ways to find the cause, and therefore, eggs with hairline cracks are an unnecessary loss that should be avoided.

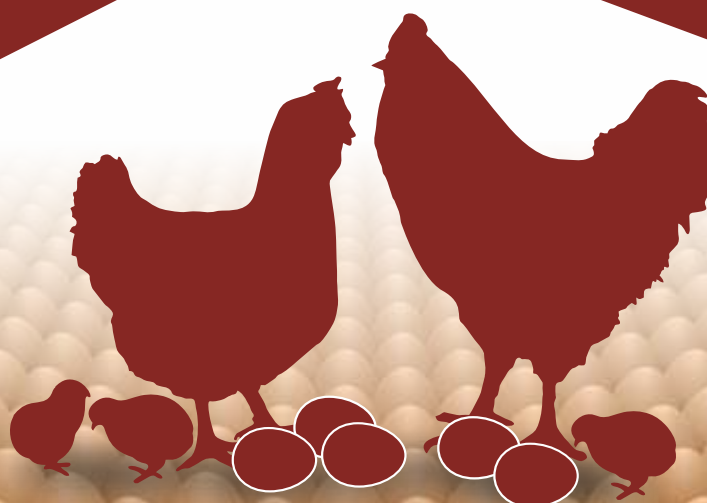
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Beyond Acidification: The Power of Buffered Organic Acids for Peak Poultry Performance

By Neotle Global Pvt Ltd

1. Introduction

In commercial poultry production, water is the ultimate driver of performance. It is the flock's most vital nutrient, making up 60% to 85% of a bird's body weight and about 75% of an egg. A flock can survive for weeks without feed, but missing water for just a few days will devastate an operation. Typically, birds consume twice as much water as they do feed, a requirement that can easily quadruple during periods of extreme heat stress. Because daily water intake is a prime indicator of overall flock health and a core pillar of basic animal welfare, ensuring a safe, adequate supply is non-negotiable. However, providing volume is only half the battle—protecting water quality is where efficiency is won or lost. This is why water acidification has transitioned from an optional practice to a technical necessity, serving as a powerful tool to sanitize water lines, suppress harmful pathogens, and support optimal avian gut health.

2. Characteristics of Organic Acids in Poultry Nutrition

Organic acids are naturally occurring compounds that contain a carboxyl (-COOH) functional group responsible for their acidic nature. This category encompasses various carboxylic acids, including certain fatty acids and amino acids. As weak acids, organic acids only partially dissociate in water, a property that contributes significantly to their antimicrobial effectiveness.

Among them, short-chain organic

acids (C1–C7) are particularly important due to their ability to inhibit the growth of harmful microorganisms. These acids include monocarboxylic acids such as formic, acetic, propionic, and butyric acids; hydroxyl-containing acids such as lactic, malic, tartaric, and citric acids; and unsaturated acids including fumaric and sorbic acids. Organic acids with pKa values ranging from 3 to 5 are generally considered most effective for antimicrobial applications.

3. The Scientific Basis of Using Buffered Organic Acids

Buffered organic acids are increasingly preferred in poultry production because they overcome many of the limitations associated with free (unbuffered) organic acids while maintaining their antimicrobial and gut health benefits.

3.1. Improved Stability and Reduced Corrosiveness

Conventional organic acids are highly acidic and can be corrosive to feed mill equipment, water lines, and drinking systems. Buffering agents partially neutralize the acid, reducing corrosiveness while preserving antimicrobial activity. This improves handling safety and extends equipment lifespan.

3.2. Sustained pH Reduction Throughout the Gastrointestinal Tract

Controlled Release Throughout the Gastrointestinal Tract

The major advantage of buffered

organic acids is their ability to provide sustained acid availability throughout the digestive system.

Free organic acids act mainly in the upper digestive tract:

Crop → Proventriculus → Gizzard

Due to rapid dissociation, fewer active acid molecules may reach intestinal regions involved in nutrient absorption.

Buffered organic acids gradually release active molecules, extending their activity through:

Crop → Proventriculus → Gizzard → Duodenum → Jejunum → Ileum

Upper Digestive Tract Effects

Buffered acids help:

- Reduce microbial contamination from feed and water
- Maintain unfavorable conditions for pathogens
- Support gastric acidity
- Improve digestive enzyme activation

Intestinal Effects

Continuous acid availability supports:

- Suppression of harmful bacteria
- Stable intestinal microbial balance
- Improved digestion and absorption
- Better nutrient utilization

This controlled-release behavior allows buffered organic acids to function as targeted delivery systems rather than simple acidifiers.

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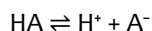
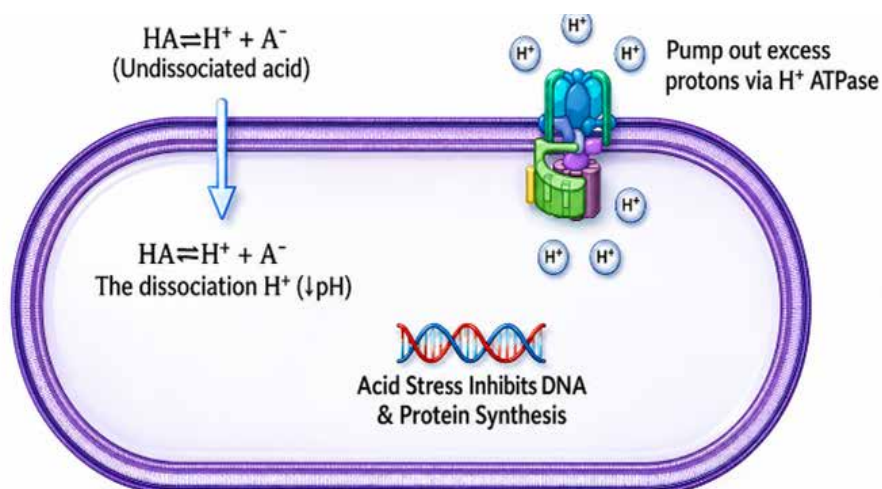
The strong taste and odor of unbuffered acids can reduce feed and water consumption when inclusion levels are high. Buffered acidifiers are generally more palatable, minimizing negative effects on feed intake and ensuring consistent consumption.

3.4. Importance of Dissociated and Undissociated Forms in Buffered Organic Acidifiers

The antimicrobial efficiency of organic acids depends on their ability to maintain a balance between two chemical forms:

Undissociated form (HA) $\rightleftharpoons$ Dissociated form ($H^+ + A^-$)

Represented as:



Buffered acidifiers are designed to maintain a higher proportion of undissociated acid molecules (HA) across a wider pH range, allowing controlled and sustained antimicrobial activity throughout the gastrointestinal tract.

Role of the Undissociated Form (HA) – The Active Antimicrobial Form

The undissociated acid molecule (HA) is the most important form because it can pass through bacterial cell membranes.

Once inside the bacterial cell:

- HA dissociates into hydrogen ions (H^+) and acid anions (A^-)
- The release of H^+ reduces the internal pH of the bacterial cell
- The bacteria use excessive energy to restore pH balance
- This disrupts enzyme activity, metabolism, and growth
- Eventually, bacterial multiplication is inhibited

Role of the Dissociated Form ($H^+ + A^-$)

The dissociated form contributes mainly to:

- Lowering environmental pH
- Creating unfavorable conditions for pathogenic bacteria

- Supporting acidification of the digestive environment

However, because charged molecules cannot easily cross bacterial membranes, the dissociated form has limited direct antimicrobial penetration compared with HA.

3.5. Greater Compatibility with Modern Poultry Production Systems

Buffered acidifiers are easier to apply through drinking water and feed because they:

- Cause less fluctuation in water pH.
- Improve storage stability.
- Reduce handling hazards.

- Provide more predictable performance under commercial farm conditions.

4. Comprehensive Benefits of Buffered Organic Acids

4.1. Effective pH Reduction

The acidification efficiency of buffered organic acids is directly influenced by the initial water quality, particularly its alkalinity, hardness, and total dissolved solids (TDS). Alkalinity, primarily derived from bicarbonates and carbonates, represents the water's buffering capacity and is the most critical factor determining the amount of acidifier required to achieve the target pH. Water with high alkalinity resists pH change and therefore requires higher inclusion rates of acidifiers. Similarly, elevated hardness levels, resulting from calcium and magnesium salts, can increase acid demand by contributing to the buffering effect of water. Total dissolved solids (TDS), which reflect the overall concentration of dissolved minerals and salts, may also affect acidifier requirements depending on their composition. Consequently, water sources with higher alkalinity, hardness, and mineral content generally require greater quantities of buffered organic acids to achieve and maintain the desired pH range. For optimal results, dosage should always be adjusted based on water quality analysis rather than a fixed inclusion rate.

4.2. Long-Lasting pH Balance

Unlike conventional organic acids that may cause rapid pH fluctuations, buffered organic acids provide sustained pH control over an extended period. Once the target pH is achieved, the buffering system gradually releases acid molecules, counteracting the neutralizing effects of bicarbonates, minerals, and organic matter present in the water. This controlled-release mechanism minimizes pH rebound



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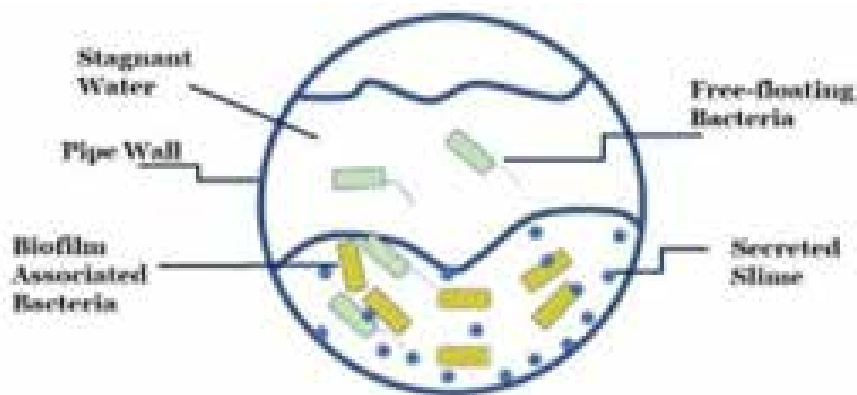
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and helps maintain a stable acidic environment for several hours, ensuring continuous antimicrobial activity, improved water hygiene, and consistent protection against microbial proliferation throughout the drinking water system.

4.3. Broad-Spectrum Control of Waterborne Microorganisms

The combination of multiple organic acids provides a broader antimicrobial spectrum than individual acids alone. Different acids act synergistically to suppress a wide range of pathogenic microorganisms through complementary mechanisms of action. This multi-acid approach effectively controls:

- Pathogenic bacteria
- Yeasts and molds
- Biofilm-forming microorganisms
- Waterborne contaminants

The synergistic action of organic acids enhances microbial control while reducing the likelihood of microbial adaptation, thereby supporting safer and more hygienic drinking water.

4.4. Biofilm Disruption and Pipeline Hygiene

Biofilms are structured microbial communities enclosed within a protective extracellular matrix that adheres to the inner surfaces of water pipelines. These biofilms serve as reservoirs for pathogens and can

compromise water quality. Buffered organic acids help disrupt biofilms by weakening the protective matrix, inhibiting bacterial attachment and multiplication, and facilitating the gradual removal of existing deposits. Continuous acidification also helps prevent biofilm re-establishment, resulting in cleaner water lines, improved water flow, and enhanced sanitation throughout the distribution system.

4.5. Support for a Healthy Microbial Balance

Buffered organic acids create an environment that suppresses harmful microorganisms while favoring beneficial acid-tolerant bacteria. Many beneficial microbial populations, including *Lactobacillus* species, are naturally adapted to moderately acidic conditions and can thrive where pathogenic bacteria struggle to survive. As a result, buffered organic acids help reduce pathogen pressure, promote a balanced microbial ecosystem, support digestive health, and contribute to improved nutrient utilization and overall animal performance.

5.0 Conclusion

As poultry production continues to move toward improved biosecurity, reduced antibiotic dependence, and enhanced production efficiency, water quality management has become more critical than ever.

Buffered organic acids offer a scientifically proven and practical solution by combining effective pH reduction, sustained acidification, broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity, biofilm control, and support for a healthy gut microbiota. Unlike conventional acidifiers, their controlled-release properties provide longer-lasting efficacy and greater compatibility with modern poultry production systems. By improving drinking water hygiene and creating favorable conditions for digestive health, buffered organic acids help producers maximize bird performance, welfare, and profitability, making them an indispensable component of contemporary poultry management programs.





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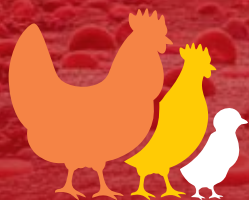
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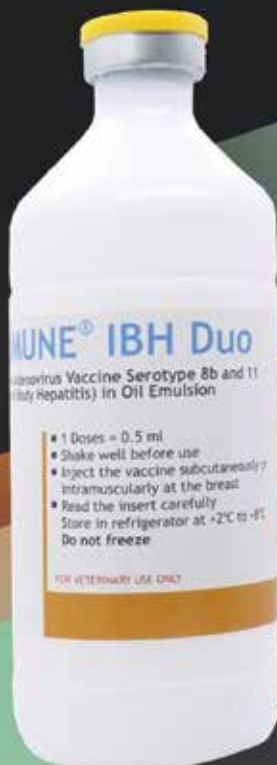
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