

ABSTRACT

As a result of an import substitution drive in the poultry industry to which several fiscal incentives were given, the output of the broiler industry grew very rapidly. Self-sufficiency was soon achieved but there followed periods of instability in production.

The major positive features of the industry's performance has been its contribution to output growth and output diversification and substitution of an imported food item for one of a fairly similar quality and price. In the areas of income levels and employment, its contribution has not been very outstanding and the data available does not allow the formation of conclusions on income and net foreign exchange savings.

The worst feature of the industry's performance is its inability to terminate its dependence of foreign sources of inputs, which account for a very substantial part of its costs of production. In fact, the industry has become as tied to the international market as is the sugar industry, the only difference being that the latter depends on the international market mainly for export opportunities while the former cannot survive without the necessary inputs of corn, soya and concentrates. It is thus difficult to conclude that it has succeeded as a development effort.

Any future attempts to develop the industry properly must first tackle this problem of input supply, along with marketing production, credit and supply control, to name a few.