

INTRODUCTION

In the world today the poultry industry, because of the development of modern technology, is able to make a large contribution towards the world's supply of animal proteins which are often short in the diet of many people. One of the reasons for this is that domestic fowls are adaptable to most climatic conditions. Also a high level of production can be obtained by good management practices.

In modern commercial systems of poultry keeping, developed mainly in the United States ^{Canada} and Great Britain, the impetus was provided by various factors such as labour shortage and cost, capital availability and profit motivation, an increasing demand for poultry products, cheap feed, and an increase in technical knowledge. These practices have in the last two to three decades spread into the Tropics, and helped to bring about an increase in egg production there. As indicated by the figures for Latin America in Table 1.

TABLE I: Egg Production in Various Parts of the World, from 1934 to 1962.

Country	(Million Metric Tons)									
	1934/ 1938	1948/ 1952	1954/ 1955	1955/ 1956	1956/ 1957	1957/ 1958	1958/ 1959	1959/ 1960	1960/ 1961	1961/ 1962
	(a v e r a g e)									
Latin America	0.48	0.57	0.73	0.77	0.80	0.88	0.92	0.88	0.92	0.94
North America	2.42	3.94	4.09	4.09	4.16	4.13	4.16	4.24	4.08	4.04
Western Europe	1.95	2.13	2.65	2.72	2.81	2.94	3.11	3.27	3.34	3.45
Rest of World	1.47	2.12	2.83	3.02	3.13	3.45	3.51	3.81	4.06	4.27
TOTAL	6.32	8.76	10.30	10.60	10.90	11.40	11.70	12.20	12.40	12.70

Source: F.A.O., The State of Food and Agriculture, 1962.

In the tropics, as well as in temperate countries, poultry management aims at controlling three major factors, all of which are interrelated. These are climate, nutrition and disease. One of the aims of this survey was to show how these problems ^{are} were being tackled in Trinidad.

One of the advantages of intensive poultry production, over most other systems of animal protein production, is that it has a very low land requirement per ton of product per annum. Therefore such systems have an advantage in areas where

land is a limiting factor in agricultural production; especially as the land used need not be fertile. Also such systems produce valuable manure that can be used to raise the fertility of the surrounding land.

The size of poultry units can easily be adjusted to suit the economic requirements of any given situation. Because of the small unit size of a fowl and its low individual cost, it is an attractive economic form of increasing the volume of animal production especially in areas of peasant arable farming. Suitable feeding stuffs for poultry are also already grown for human consumption in these areas. Because intensively kept fowls require high quality vegetable and animal protein, they compete with humans for the available sources of these proteins. In many parts of the tropics humans are protein deficient, so that there is not (liable) to be much available for poultry. Only in areas where the general standard of living is high, such as in Trinidad, will there be a demand for eggs and meat large enough to make intensive production worthwhile. Another aim of this survey was to investigate (into) the sources of poultry feed in Trinidad.

One of the main aims of this survey was to study the methods of management practised in Trinidad, for egg production by domestic fowls and to compare and contrast them as far as possible. There are one or two comparable studies that have been done in the past, and these were reviewed with other available literature to show the changes that have occurred in the last decades.

The first part of this report is a discussion of the general aspects of management practices in Trinidad. This is based on the results of questionnaires filled out during interviews with producers.

In the second part of this report the results of analysis of production records of some of the commercial flocks on the island are discussed. The aim was to examine some of the efficiency factors of production and to compare them. The work on this section was hampered by the poor records kept by most of the producers.

One of the major problems of poultry husbandry is feeding stuffs and their nutritional value. So a third section, consisting of a more detailed discussion on the available feeds was included.