**SITUATION OF FAMILY POULTRY IN BANGLADESH: CHALLENGES, PROSPECTS AND POLICY ISSUES**

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Family Poultry is an integral part of the farming system and has created both direct and indirect employment opportunity, improved food security and enhanced supply of quality proteins to peoples meal, contributing country’s economic growth and reducing poverty level in rural and urban areas of Bangladesh. The demand for meat, eggs and its products have been expanding dramatically with income growth, population growth, urbanization and dietary changes.

Family poultry comprises of 1) semi-scavenging system, 2) semi-intensive system and 3) commercial system of operation.

Family poultry is constrained by a number of issues like a) lack of infrastructures for providing services to poultry farmers, b) shortage of skilled manpower, c) shortage of quality chicks and breeding materials, d) shortage of poultry feed/feed ingredients and high prices, e) poor quality of inputs, e) lack of quality control facilities for medicines, vaccines and biological products, feed and feed ingredients, chicks, eggs and birds, f) drug and vaccine residues in poultry meat, g) shortage of vaccines, h) poor provision of veterinary services and i) lack of organized marketing system .

Overcoming the above challenges, family poultry can contribute towards promotion of sustainable improvement in productivity of meat and egg production including processing and value addition, sustained improvement in income, nutrition and employment for the small and marginal farmers; and finally facilitate increased private sector participation and investments in poultry production, services, market development and export of poultry products.

Key words: Family poultry, quality control, investment, market development