

Research Article

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22192/ijamr.2026.13.09.003>

Economic analysis of the government regional poultry farm: A case study of Mundayad, Kannur, Kerala

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Abstract

Keywords

Regional poultryfarm, chicks and eggs, cost- revenue, capital productivity, capital intensity, asset turnover ratio

Poultry farming in India has demonstrated its ability to enhance both productivities per hectare and productivity per head in the agricultural sector. The poultry industry in India is highly vertically integrated, achieving efficiency levels comparable to many Western countries. Kerala presents a promising outlook in the field of poultry farming. Kerala's poultry farming has shown resilience despite challenges, with a substantial increase in egg production and poultry population. Establishment of Mega Poultry Projects and Poultry Biodiversity Centres, in regions like Kolahalmedu in Idukki District, Thrivazhamkunnu in Palakkad District and Mundayad in Kannur District are discussed. Govt. Regional Poultry Farm, Mundayad, Kannur is a service oriented farm committed to support local poultry farmers and government-approved egger nurseries by providing necessary inputs. It is one of the few Regional Farms of Kerala, attached with Piggery. The farm has a significant role in providing day- old chicks, eggs and other inputs for govt. approved egger nurseries and other poultry farmers in the district. Through this analysis, the study examines the economic aspects of Govt. Regional Poultry Farm, Mundayad, Kannur.

1. Introduction

Indian economy is agriculture based economy. Almost more than half of the population residing in India depends on agriculture for their livelihood. Agriculture remains the principal source of livelihood for approximately 70% of rural household. As of 2020, according to data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), agriculture, forestry and fishing contributed around 18 percent to India's GDP. Agriculture and allied activities provides food to the people of the country and make this country self-sufficient. It also provides fodder for animals and raw materials for agro-based industries. Agriculture and its allied activities primarily include animal husbandry, poultry farming, dairy farming, pisciculture (fishery), apiculture (producing honey), and sericulture (producing raw silk from caterpillars). These activities also include conservation of water and soil, horticulture (cultivation of flowers), agro and social forestry, etc.

Human food derived from animal is gaining importance in the dietary practice of Indian masses. Poultry farming is an agro- based activity that is particularly suitable for rural areas. Its considerable potential for employment and income generation has made it an important avenue for self- employment among rural communities. Moreover, poultry farming is an efficient means of converting plat- based feed into food products with high biological value, making it significant from a nutritional perspective.

India has the world's largest livestock population. Poultry farming in India has proven to be capable of enhancing both the productivity per hectare and the productivity per head in agriculture sector. The Poultry industry in India is highly vertically integrated and has achieved efficiency levels comparable to those observed in several western countries. Among poultry farming, broiler breeding through modern technology has gained considerable acceptance among farmers and others.

Kerala has demonstrated promising growth in the poultry farming sector. The poultry sector in Kerala has a strong grass root foundation and has demonstrated significant growth despite adverse agro- meteorological conditions. During 2019-20, the state recorded a production of 218 crore eggs along with an increase of 57 lakhs in its poultry population. Kerala's poultry farming has shown resilience despite challenges, with a substantial increase in egg production and poultry population. Mega projects are planned to further boost the sector. While Kerala was once an egg exporter, production has declined in recent years despite a rise in poultry population. Commercial egg production faces viability issues, suggesting a need for subsidized commercial farms and strengthened backyard rearing. The state faces a significant gap in meeting its poultry meat demand, prompting initiatives like the Kerala Chicken Project, aimed at increasing market share, though progress has been slow.

2. Statement of the problem

The Poultry sector is an important component of Kerala's agricultural economy , contributing to employment, income generation, and nutritional security. Although the Government Regional Poultry Farm, Mundayad, Kannur, plays a significant role in supplying quality chicks, eggs, and other input to poultry farmers and public, very few studies have examined its economic performance and economic efficiency . An assessment of its cost, returns, productivity, resource utilization, and contribution to the development of the poultry sector is essential for improving its functioning and policy support. Therefore, this study attempts to analyse the economic performance of the Government Regional Poultry Farm, Mundayad, Kannur and identify the major economic issues and prospects associated with its operations.

3. Objectives of the study

1. To examine the cost and revenue structure of the government Regional poultry Farm, Mundayad.
2. To ascertain the farm's efficiency in generating revenue and how efficiently the farm utilizes its resources.

4. Materials and Methods

Sampling Design: The research is a case study of Govt. Regional Poultry Farm, Mundayad, Kannur. Both primary and secondary data are used in the present study. Primary data is collected through a well-designed questionnaire for analysing the study. Secondary data include the recorded data of the farm.

Statistical Tools for the Study: In this study various statistical tools and indices such as percentage changes, capital productivity, capital intensity, total asset turnover ratio and operating ratio.

5. Review of literature

Nanda Kumar T. et al (2022) highlights the rapid growth of India's poultry farming, driven by the private sector. Chicken meat and egg production grew annually by 9% and 6%, respectively, from 2000-01 to 2018-19, making India a top global producer. Rajani Osti et al (2017) conducted a study in Nepal aimed to examine the challenges faced in poultry farming, its characteristics, and economic viability. The study emphasizes the necessity for governmental and agency interventions to enhance extension services, bolster chicken health, and establish organized marketing channels, ultimately improving farmers' profitability. Chatterjee. R. N. (2015)

opinions that despite facing challenges, the poultry production in India has shown remarkable growth. The increasing demand for chicken eggs and meat suggests further expansion and industrialization in the sector. The adoption of small-scale poultry farming in rural backyards is expected to improve the nutritional and economic status of rural communities. Masud Chowdhury M.D. et al (2015) opinions poultry farming is crucial for alleviating poverty and malnutrition, but profitability is challenging. To enhance sustainability, measures such as improving feed quality, formulating a national policy, providing financial support, ensuring price stability, increasing research, offering social security, conducting training, and bridging information gaps are essential.

6. Results, Analysis and Discussion

The analysis focuses on evaluating the farm's revenue, cost, and operational efficiency in generating income and utilizing available resources. Various statistical tools and financial indicators, including percentage analysis, capital productivity, capital intensity, total asset turnover ratio, and operating ratio, have been used to analyse the data. The findings are presented systematically to assess the economic performance of the farm and to identify its strengths, challenges, and future prospects.

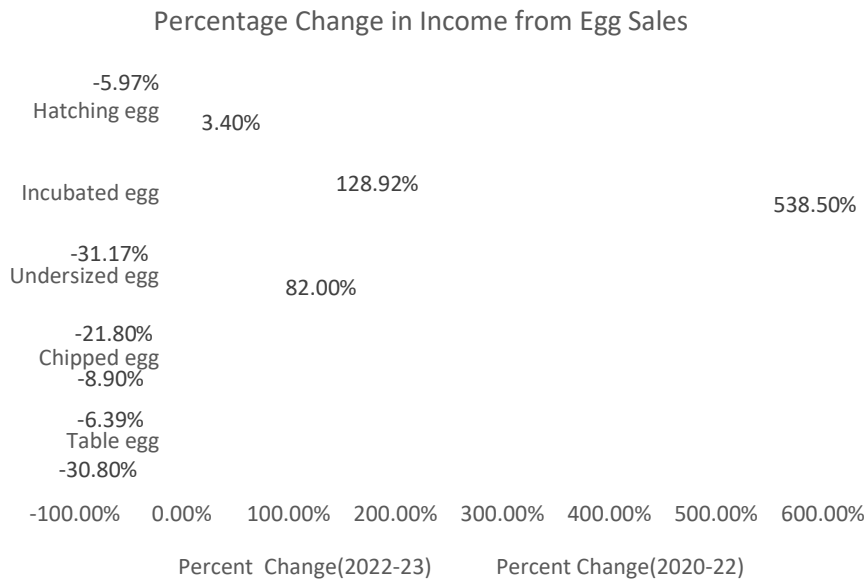
6.1 Revenue and expenses of the farm

Cost and revenue analysis is an important tool for evaluating the financial performance and operational efficiency of the farm. It provides an understanding of the income generated, the expenditure incurred, and the relationship between costs and return over a specific period.

Table 1 Income Received During the Period 2020-23

Items	2020-21 (Amount in Rs)	2021-22 (Amount in Rs)	Percentage Change(2020 -22)	2022-23 (Amount in Rs)	Percentage Change(2022 -23)
Male chicks	1638850	1600130	-2.4%	1140890	-28.70%
Female chicks	3751198	3964730	5.7%	4881693	23.13%
Unsexed chicks	1752944	2856321	62.9%	672598	-76.45%
Table egg	928626	642975	-30.8%	601881	-6.39%
Chipped egg	26797	24411	-8.9%	19089	-21.80%
Undersized egg	22193	40400	82.0%	27809	-31.17%
Incubated egg	325	2075	538.5%	4750	128.92%
Hatching egg	53950	55767	3.4%	52435	-5.97%
Manure(kg)	119030	142068	19.4%	103381	-27.23%
Fodder	120	531	342.5%	150	-71.75%
Fodder slips	720	4300	497.2%		
Culled bird(Sexing error) below 6 months @ 100/Kg	43413	33494	-22.8%	51997	55.24%
Gunny bags	38580	22910	-40.6%	18350	-19.90%
Auction sales(sale of trees)	1929	51798	2585.2%	59899	15.64%
Unsexed chicks + bonus culled birds	18000				
Culled birds @90/kg	806966	887202	9.9%	748923	-15.59%
Sale of bird for exhibition				9776	
Total	9203641	10329112	12.2%	8393621	-18.74%

Source: Recorded data of the farm

Figure 1 Percentage Change in Income from Egg Sales

Source: Recorded data of the farm

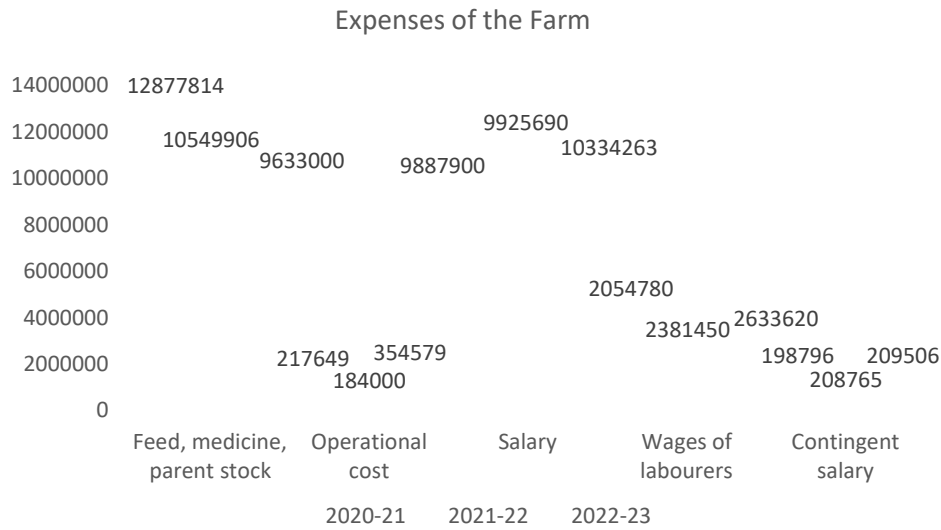
It is revealed from the table 1 that the income trends of the farm over the past three years, showcasing varied performances across different categories. Income from male chicks are low compared to female chicks because the rate of male chicks is comparatively low. Egg sales experienced mixed outcomes, with declines in table and chipped eggs countered by increases in undersized and incubated eggs, though the latter saw a drop in the last year. These fluctuations are

due to variations in rates each year and a decrease in chipped eggs as a result of improvements in the handling and storage of eggs. Despite an initial increase in total income of 12.2 % in 2021-22, there was a substantial decrease of 18.74 % in 2022-23. These fluctuations are due to variations in rates each year and disruptions in production due to the loss of some sheds during the period 2022-23 because of the NH bypass road construction.

Table 2 Expenses of the Farm

Expenses	2020-21 (Amount in Rs)	2021-22 (Amount in Rs)	Percentage Change(2020-22)	2022-23 (Amount in Rs)	Percentage Change(2022- 23)
Feed, medicine, parent stock	12877814	10549906	-18.08%	9633000	-8.69%
Operational cost	217649	184000	-15.46%	354579	92.71%
Salary	9887900	9925690	0.38%	10334263	4.12%
Wages of labourers	2054780	2381450	15.90%	2633620	10.59%
Contingent salary	198796	208765	5.01%	209506	0.35%
Total	25236939	23249811	-7.87%	23164968	-0.36%

Source: Recorded data of the farm

Figure 2 Expenses of the farm

Source: Recorded data of the farm

From table and figure 2 outline the expenses in the farm over three fiscal years (2022,2023), along with their percentage variances. The largest expense category, feed, medicine, and parent stock, saw a significant decrease of 18.08% from 2020-21 to 2021-22 and a further decrease of 8.69% in 2022-23. Operational costs decreased by 15.46% in 2021-22 but surged by 92.71% in 2022-23. Salary expenses remained relatively stable with a slight increase of 0.38% in 2021-22

and a further increase of 4.12% in 2022-23. Wages for labourers increased by 15.90% in 2021-22 and continued to rise by 10.59% in 2022-23. Overall, the total expenses decreased by 7.98% from 2020-21 to 2021-22 but saw a slight increase of 0.54% in 2022-23. These variations are result of shifts in cost requirements and operational adjustments within the farm over the three years and fluctuations in salary, wages, prices of feed, medicine and parent stock.

Table 3 Revenue-Cost Relationship

Year	Total Income	Total Cost	Profit/Loss
2020-21	9203641	25236939	-16033298
2021-22	10329112	23249811	-12920699
2022-23	8393621	23164968	-14771347

Source: Recorded data of the farm

Table 3 presents the revenue-cost relationship; it shows a consistent trend of farm operating at a loss. Despite a slight increase in total income from ₹92,03,641 in 2020-21 to ₹1,03,29,112 in 2021-22, followed by a decrease to ₹83,93,621 in 2022-23, the total costs have remained

substantially higher each year due to variations in cost requirements, operational adjustments and small market size leading to significant losses. Specifically, the losses were ₹1,60,33,298 in 2020-21, ₹1,29,20,699 in 2021-22, and ₹1,47,71,347 in 2022-23. This consistent financial

deficit highlights the farm's service-oriented mission to support local poultry farmers and government-approved egger nurseries by providing necessary resources rather than focusing on profit generation.

Table 4 Details of Assets of the farm

Items	Amount(Rs)
Sales Room	10000000
New Office building	9000000
Hatchery Building	7000000
4 Poultry Shed	6820000
Generator room and equipment	1000000
Generator	1010000
Overhead water tank	1830000
Double decker shed	8500000
Egg cleaning area	730000
Labour rest room	950000
Total	46840000

Source: Recorded data of the farm

Table 4 shows the details of the fixed assets available at the Government Poultry Farm, Mundayad. The total value of the farm's asset is ₹46,840,000, indicating a substantial investment in infrastructure and facilities required for efficient poultry production and management.

6.2 Capital productivity, capital intensity, asset turnover and operating ratio of the farm

6.2.1 Capital Productivity

Capital productivity is a measure of how efficiently capital is used to generate output in of

the farm. It is expressed as the ratio of total output (or value added) to the amount of capital employed.

Essentially, it indicates how much output is produced per unit of capital.

Capital Productivity = $\frac{\text{Total Output}}{\text{Total Capital Employed}}$
 $\text{Total Capital Employed} = \text{Total Assets} - \text{Current Liabilities}$

Table 5 Capital Productivity of the Farm

Year	Total Output	Total Capital Employed(Rs)	Capital Productivity
2020-21	719324	46840000	0.015357045
2021-22	1319361	46840000	0.0281674
2022-23	1098389	46840000	0.023449808

Source: Recorded data of the farm

Table 5 illustrate capital productivity of the farm. In 2020-21, the capital productivity stood at 0.015357045, which means that for every unit of capital input, the farm generates approximately 0.0154 units of output during that period. The capital productivity index for 2021-22 is 0.0281674, which means that for every unit of capital input, the farm generates approximately 0.0282 units of output during the period. However, in the subsequent year, 2022-23, there was a slight decline as the capital productivity decreased to 0.023449808, because of decrease in total output due to loss of some sheds because of NH bypass road construction.

6.2.2 Capital intensity

Capital intensity refers to the level of capital investment required per unit of output. It reflects the extent to which capital resources are utilised. It is expressed as ratio of total capital cost to total output.

Capital intensity (per unit of output) = Total Capital Cost/Total output *Total Capital Cost is the sum of fixed capital and variable capital costs of the farm.

* Variable capital include costs of feed, medicine, parent stock, wages and salary.

Table 6 Components of Total Capital Cost

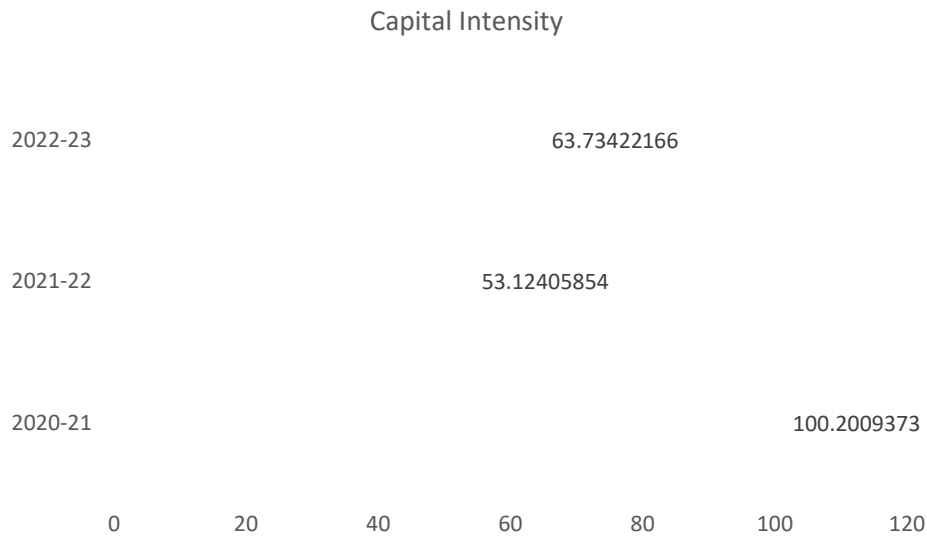
Year	Fixed Capital	Variable Capital Cost	Total Capital Cost
2020-21	46840000	25236939	72076939
2021-22	46840000	23249811	70089811
2022-23	46840000	23164968	70004968

Source: Recorded data of the farm

Table 7 Capital Intensity Per Unit of Output

Year	Total Capital Cost	Total Output	Capital Intensity
2020-21	72076939	719324	100.2009373
2021-22	70089811	1319361	53.12405854
2022-23	70004968	1098389	63.73422166

Source: Recorded data of the farm

Figure 3 Capital Intensity Per Unit of Output

Source: Recorded data of the farm

Figure 3 presents the capital intensity per unit of output over three fiscal years (2020-23), highlighting the relationship between total capital cost and total output. In 2020-21, the capital intensity was high at 100.2009373, indicating that each unit of output required a substantial capital investment. In 2021-22, there was a significant reduction in capital intensity to 53.12405854, as the output doubled, while the total capital cost slightly decreased. However, in 2022-23, the capital intensity rose again to 63.73422166, as the output decreased to 1,098,389 units due to loss of sheds because of NH bypass road construction. This fluctuation indicates variations in cost requirements over the three-year period.

6.2.3 Total Asset Turnover Ratio

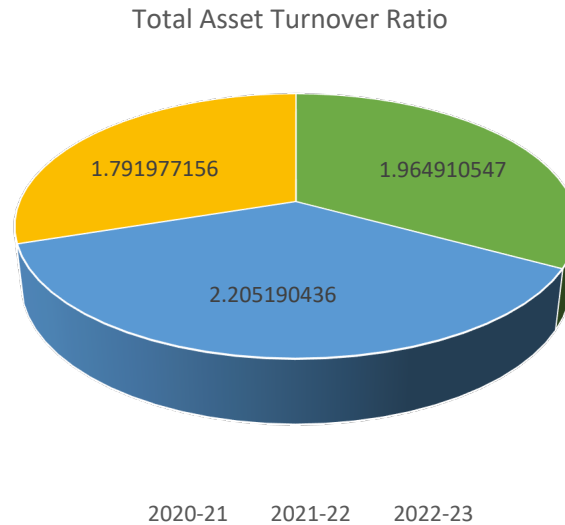
The total asset turnover ratio is a financial measure used to assess how efficiently a farm utilises its assets to generate sales. It is calculated by dividing the net sales by the average total assets over a given period. This ratio provides insight into how well a farm is using its assets to produce revenue.

Total Asset Turnover Ratio = Net Sales/Average Total Asset

Table 8 Total Asset Turnover Ratio of the Farm

Year	Net Sales	Average Total Asset	Total Asset Turnover Ratio
2020-21	9203641	4684000	1.964910547
2021-22	10329112	4684000	2.205190436
2022-23	8393621	4684000	1.791977156

Source: Recorded data of the farm

Figure 4 Total Asset Turnover Ratio of the Farm

Source: Recorded data of the farm

Table 8 presents the total asset turnover ratio over three fiscal years (2020-23). The ratios for the fiscal years 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23 were 1.96, 2.21, and 1.79 respectively. The ratio of 1.96 in 2020-21 suggests moderate asset efficiency in revenue generation, indicating that for each unit of assets, the company generated approximately 1.96 units of revenue. In 2021-22, the ratio increased to 2.21, signalling improved asset utilization efficiency and a higher revenue generated per unit of asset. However, in 2022-23, the ratio declined to 1.79, indicating a decrease in asset efficiency compared to the previous fiscal year due to disruption in production due to the loss of some sheds because of NH bypass road construction.

6.2.4 Operating Ratio

The operating ratio is a financial metric used to evaluate the farm operational efficiency by measuring the proportion of operating expenses to net sales. It is calculated by dividing the total operating expenses by the net sales. A lower operating ratio indicates better operational efficiency, as it suggests that a smaller proportion of revenue is being consumed by operating expenses.

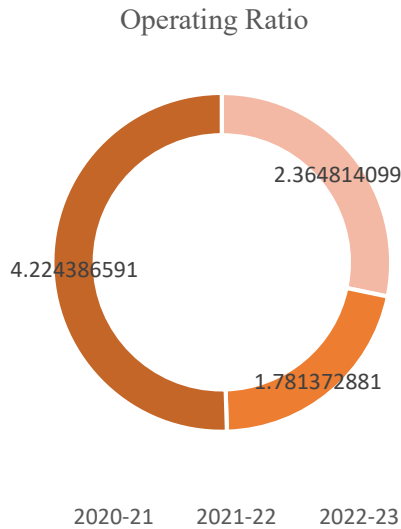
$$\text{Operating ratio} = (\text{Operating Expense} / \text{Net Sales}) \times 100$$

Table 9 Operating Ratio of the Farm

Year	Operating Cost	Net Sales	Operating Ratio
2020-21	217649	9203641	2.364814099
2021-22	184000	10329112	1.781372881
2022-23	354579	8393621	4.224386591

Source: Recorded data of the farm

Figure 5 Operating Ratio of the Farm



Source: Recorded data of the farm

Figure 5 shows the operating ratio over three fiscal years (2020-23). The operating ratio, fluctuated over the fiscal years 2020-21 to 2022-23. In 2020-21, the ratio stood at 2.36, while in 2021-22, the ratio improved to 1.78 percent, suggesting enhanced efficiency as operating expense decreased. However, in 2022-23, the operating ratio surged to 4.22 percent, due to increase in operational cost and decline in revenue as a result of decrease in output due to the loss of some sheds because of NH bypass road construction. These fluctuations emphasise shifts in the farm's operational efficiency and financial performance over the three-year period.

6.3 Findings

Over the past three years, the farm's income trends have shown varied performances across different categories. Income from male chicks remained low compared to female chicks due to their lower rate. Egg sales experienced mixed outcomes, with declines in table and chipped eggs being offset by increases in undersized and incubated eggs, although the latter saw a decline in the last year. These fluctuations were influenced by rate variations each year and a decrease in chipped eggs resulting from improved egg handling and storage. Despite a 12.2%

increase in total income in 2021-22, there was a significant decrease of 18.74% in 2022-23, attributed to annual rate variations and production disruptions caused by the loss of some sheds during the NH bypass road construction.

- Over three fiscal years (2020-23), the farm saw significant changes in expenses. Feed, medicine, and parent stock expenses decreased by 18.08% from 2020-21 to 2021-22 and by 8.69% in 2022-23. Operational costs dropped by 15.46% in 2021-22 but surged by 92.71% in 2022-23. Salary expenses remained stable, with a slight increase in both years. Labour wages rose by 15.90% in 2021-22 and by 10.59% in 2022-23. Overall, total expenses decreased by 7.98% from 2020-21 to 2021-22, but increased slightly by 0.54% in 2022-23, reflecting adjustments in operational needs and fluctuations in salaries, wages, and the prices of feed, medicine, and parent stock.
- The revenue-cost relationship shows consistent losses for the farm over the years. Despite a marginal rise in total income from ₹92,03,641 in 2020-21 to ₹1,03,29,112 in 2021-22, followed by a decline to ₹83,93,621 in 2022-23, costs have consistently outpaced revenue. The farm incurred losses of ₹1,60,33,298 in

- 2020-21, ₹1,29,20,699 in 2021-22, and ₹1,47,71,347 in 2022-23, emphasizing its service-oriented mission to support local poultry farmers and government-approved egger nurseries rather than prioritize profit generation.

These financial deficits underscore the farm's dedication to providing essential inputs.

- The farm's capital productivity showed fluctuations over the observed period. In 2020-21, it was 0.0154, rising notably to 0.0282 in 2021-22, indicating improved efficiency in output generation. However, in 2022-23, it declined slightly to 0.0234 due to reduced output caused by the loss of sheds from NH bypass road construction.
- Over the fiscal years 2020-23, the farm's capital intensity per unit of output fluctuated notably. In 2020-21, it was high at 100.20, indicating substantial capital investment per unit of output. However, by 2021-22, it decreased significantly to 53.12 as output doubled while capital costs slightly decreased. This trend reversed in 2022-23, with capital intensity rising again to 63.73 due to output reduction due to shed losses because of NH bypass road construction.
- Over the course of three fiscal years from 2020 to 2023, the farm's total asset turnover ratio experienced fluctuations. Beginning at 1.96 in 2020-21, the ratio suggested moderate asset efficiency in revenue generation, implying that for each unit of assets, the company generated approximately 1.96 units of revenue. Then in 2021-22, the ratio increased to 2.21, reflecting improved asset utilization efficiency and a higher revenue generated per unit of asset. However, in 2022-23, the ratio declined to 1.79. This decrease in asset efficiency was attributed to disruptions in production caused by shed losses due to the NH bypass road construction.
- Over the span of three fiscal years from 2020 to 2023, the operating ratio of the farm exhibited notable fluctuations, indicating varying degrees of operational efficiency and financial performance. Beginning at 2.36 percent in 2020-21, there was a positive shift as the ratio improved to 1.78 percent in 2021-22, suggesting enhanced efficiency marked by a decrease in operating expenses. However, this trend reversed sharply in 2022-23, with the operating ratio surging to 4.22 percent. This increase can be attributed to an increase in operational costs or a decline in revenue as a result of a decrease in output due to shed losses because of NH bypass road construction.

6.4 Recommendation

- Reinforce or relocate sheds and critical infrastructure to mitigate the impact of external factors such as construction projects or natural disasters.
- Implement more precise feeding and medication regimes to optimize the use of resources and reduce waste.
- Conduct regular audits of operational expenses to identify areas for cost savings without compromising productivity.
- Negotiate better rates with suppliers for feed, medicine, and other essentials.
- To reduce the impact on operations, create a contingency plan for upcoming construction projects or other external disruptions.

7. Conclusion

The study on the poultry production dynamics and financial performance of the Govt. Regional Poultry Farm, Mundayad, Kannur, reveals a complex and dynamic environment influenced by various factors. The farm has experienced significant fluctuations in total output, income, and expenses from 2020 to 2023, primarily due to health issues and external disruptions such as the NH bypass road construction. While there were periods of growth and improvement, particularly in 2021-22, challenges such as rising costs or declining revenue were evident in 2022-23.

The farm operates with expenses exceeding revenue each year, this emphasise farm's commitment to its service-oriented mission of supporting local poultry farmers and govt. approved egger nurseries by providing necessary inputs. To improve future outcomes, it is crucial to continue investing in health management, reinforce infrastructure, optimize resource use, and develop contingency plans for external disruptions. These strategic actions aim to enhance productivity, mitigate risks, and ensure sustainable growth.

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Quick Response Code DOI: 10.22192/ijamr.2026.13.09.003	

How to cite this article:

Samritha AV, Jjikumari T, Aradhana Rajeevan. (2026). Economic analysis of the government regional poultry farm: A case study of Mundayad, Kannur, Kerala. *Int. J. Adv. Multidiscip. Res.* 13(9): 24-37.

DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.22192/ijamr.2026.13.09.003>