

Hatchery Farming and Its Socio-Economic Attributes in Haryana

Bindu (Geography), School of Arts and Social Science, Research Scholar, Glocal University, Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh)

Dr. Kunwar Pal (Geography), Assistant Professor (School of Arts and Social Science), Glocal University, Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh)

ABSTRACT

This article delves into the fascinating dynamics of hatchery farming in Haryana, shedding light on the interplay of landownership, education, and generational involvement. It reveals that landowning castes predominantly operate hatcheries, particularly medium and small-sized ones, while educational backgrounds do not strongly correlate with hatchery size. The study highlights the emergence of hatchery farming among less-educated entrepreneurs and the industry's substantial growth in recent decades. The article also underscores the prevalence of single-person management in hatchery farms and the unique blend of hatchery farming with commerce and service among higher social classes. Although not recognized as a distinct sector, hatchery farming contributes significantly to the state's agricultural landscape, with a majority of third-generation farmers involved.

Keywords : Hatchery farming , Landownership

1. INTRODUCTION

The age-old question of "what came first, the chicken or the egg?" According to the Bible, God created birds before anything else, thus it's possible that hens were the first to lay eggs and give birth to chicks. Eggs naturally hatch from their shells. However, a hatchery in this context refers to a place where eggs are incubated in an artificial environment. The term "hatchery" refers to the part of the poultry industry that produces and distributes chicks that are one day old in the current lexicon. Broiler and layer parent and day-old chicks can be produced at a hatchery, which may be a component of a breeding farm or a franchiser or sub-franchisee. The term "farm hatchery" can be used to describe a business that does not keep breeding stock but instead buys hatching eggs to hatch and supply day-old chicks. However, the word "hatchery" does not include businesses that produce day-old chicks solely to meet internal demand.

2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF HATCHERY FARMERS

The last two decades have seen the rise of a new agricultural industry in Haryana: the hatchery. Primary data was used to write this chapter. For this analysis, we surveyed 123 different hatchery farms. Farmers that run hatcheries in the state have had their socioeconomic profiles examined to determine their average wealth, land holdings, and levels of education.

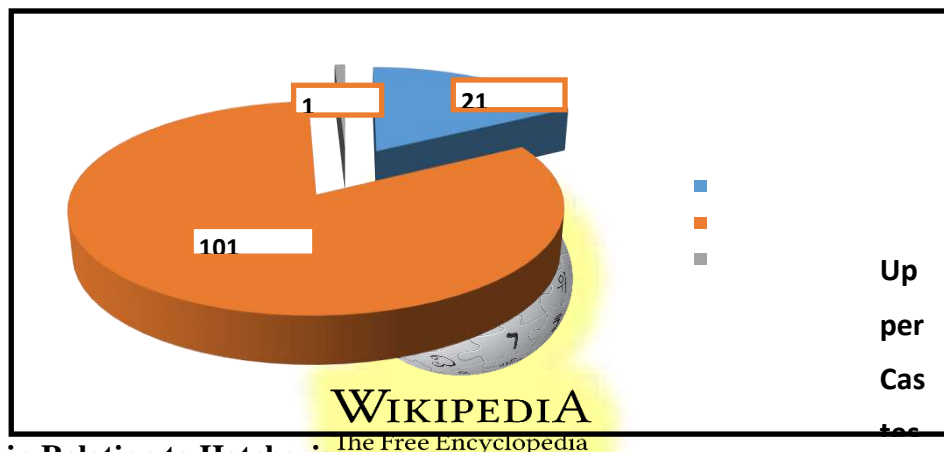
2.1 Economic and Social Position of Egg Producers

Table 1 and Figure 1 show that people from higher socioeconomic status tend to work in hatcheries. There are five farmers who work in a Haryana hatchery, and four of them are landowners. About 1 in 5 hatchery owners does not come from a higher social class. The participation of people from lower social classes in this industry is minimal.

Table 1: Distribution of Poultry Farms by Social Status, Landholding Size and Educational Status of layer Farmers

Social Status of Farmers		Landholding Size of Farmers		Educational Status of Farmers	
Upper castes	21 (17.07)	Small Farmer	32 (26.02)	Illiterate and Below Primary	24 (19.51)
Landholding Castes	101 (82.11)	Medium Farmers	64 (52.03)	Primary and Middle	18 (14.63)
Other Castes	01 (0.81)	Large Farmer	27 (21.95)	Matriculation	17 (13.82)
				Senior Secondary	26 (21.14)
				Graduate and Above	38 (30.89)
Total	123 (100.00)	Total	123 (100.00)	Total	123

Fig. 1 Social Status of Hatchery Farmers in the State



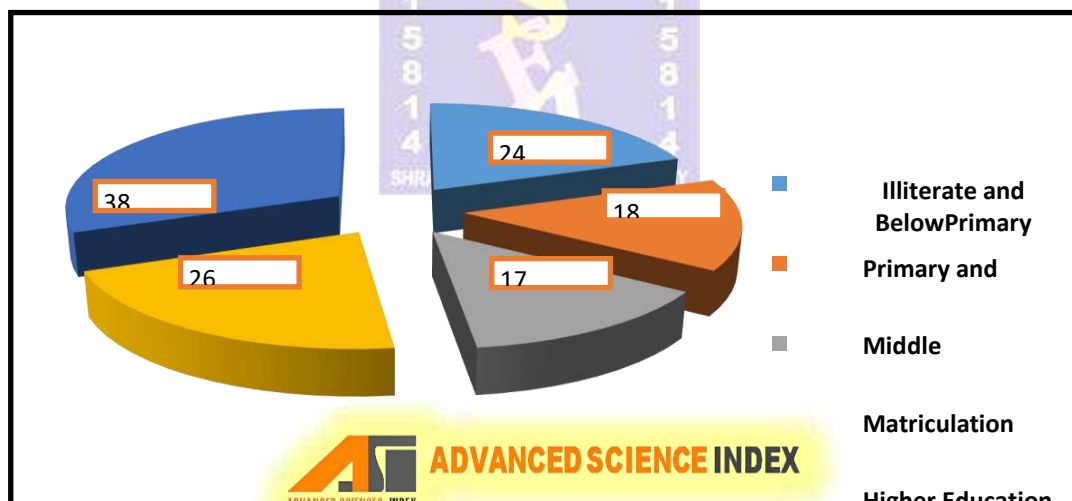
Farm Size in Relation to Hatcheries

Medium-sized landowners in the state are responsible for most of the state's hatchery farms. About a quarter of them are also farmers with holdings of less than 10 acres. Large farmers who possess more than 20 acres of land own the remaining 22 percent of hatcheries.

4.2.3 Educational Attainment of Hatcher Farmer

It is intriguing that approximately 31 percent of the state's hatcheries are owned by individuals with a college degree or higher. Similarity, roughly one-fifth of hatcheries are owned by individuals with a postsecondary education. This indicates that the majority of hatcheries in the state are owned by highly educated individuals. On the other hand, roughly one-fifth of them are owned by illiterates and individuals with primary education or less.

Fig. 2: Educational Status of the Hatchery Farmers



Capacity Physically of Hatchery Farms

Table 2 depicts the distribution of physical capacity of hatchery farms by the social status of the producers. It is evident from the table that approximately 53 percent of producers in the state have hatcheries with medium capacity. Only nine percent of producers have small-sized hatcheries. In the state, approximately 22 percent of producers have very large (above 1.5 million capacity) hatcheries. Furthermore, it is evident that 16 percent of hatcheries are vast in size (100,000 to 150,000). The landowning strata dominate the hatchery farming industry. The proportion of higher castes is highest (approximately 29 percent) in very large hatcheries, followed by landowner castes (approximately 21 percent). There is an almost identical pattern in large hatcheries. However, the proportion of landowning caste producers in medium and small capacity hatcheries is comparatively higher. Approximately 63% of hatcheries possessed by landowning castes are medium or small in size.

Table 2 Haryana: Hatchery Farms by Annual Physical Capacity according to Social Status, Landholding Size and Educational Status of Farmers

Status	Physical Capacity (Number of Hens)					
	Up to 50000 (Small)	50000 – 1 lakh (Medium)	1 lakh – 1.5 lakh (Large)	Above 1.5 lakh (Very Large)	Total (All)	Average Strength of Farms
Social Status						
Upper Castes	01 (04.76)	10 (47.62)	04 (19.05)	06 (28.57)	21 (100.00)	203571
Landowning Castes	10 (09.90)	54 (53.47)	16 (15.84)	21 (20.79)	101 (100.00)	160891
Other Castes	00 (00.00)	01 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	01 (100.00)	90000
Total	11 (08.94)	65 (52.85)	20 (16.26)	27 (21.95)	123 (100.00)	167601
Landholding Size						
Small	08 (25.00)	17 (53.12)	03 (09.38)	04 (12.50)	32 (100.00)	87625
Medium	02 (03.12)	43 (67.19)	09 (14.06)	10 (15.62)	64 (100.00)	105078
Large	01 (03.70)	05 (18.52)	08 (29.63)	13 (48.15)	27 (100.00)	319629
Total	11 (08.94)	65 (52.85)	20 (16.26)	27 (21.95)	123 (100.00)	147634
Educational Status						
Illiterate and Below Primary	01 (04.16)	12 (50.00)	04 (16.67)	07 (29.17)	24 (100.00)	129791
Primary and Middle	03 (16.67)	08 (44.44)	03 (16.67)	04 (22.22)	18 (100.00)	100555
Matriculation	02 (11.76)	11 (64.71)	02 (11.76)	02 (11.77)	17 (100.00)	87647
Senior Secondary	02 (07.69)	14 (53.85)	05 (19.23)	05 (19.23)	26 (100.00)	184961
Graduate and Above	03 (07.89)	20 (52.63)	06 (15.79)	09 (23.68)	38 (100.00)	173815
Total	11 (08.94)	65 (52.85)	20 (16.26)	27 (21.95)	123 (100.00)	144951

Number of Employees Employed

Table 3 displays the number of employees employed in hatcheries according to the social status of the owners. It is evident from the table that approximately forty percent of all hatcheries have a median number of employees. Approximately one-third of hatcheries are small (with up to five employees). There are approximately 11 percent very large hatcheries and 17 percent large hatcheries in terms of the number of employees. Landowning strata own all of the enormous hatcheries in terms of labor force. Likewise, the majority of sizable hatcheries are owned by landholding castes. However, landowning caste proprietors also dominate small hatcheries (approximately 34 percent). In terms of the number of employees employed, the proportion of upper-caste farmers in medium-sized hatcheries is approximately 62%. Evidently, landowning castes own hatcheries of varying sizes, whereas elite castes own primarily medium-sized hatcheries. The preceding discussion suggests that there is no

empirical correlation between the number of employees and the social status of hatchery farmers.

Table 3 Haryana: Hatchery Farms by Number of Workers Employed according to Social Status, Landholding Size and Educational Status of Farmers

Status	Number of Workers				
	Up to 15 (Small)	16 – 25 (Medium)	26 - 35 (Large)	Above 35 (Very Large)	Total(All)
Social Status					
Upper Castes	04 (19.05)	13 (61.90)	04 (19.05)	00 (00.00)	21 (100.00)
Landowning Castes	34 (33.67)	36 (35.64)	17 (16.83)	14 (13.86)	101 (100.00)
Other Castes	01 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	01 (100.00)
Total	39 (31.71)	49 (39.84)	21 (17.07)	14 (11.38)	123 (100.00)
Landholding Size					
Small Farmers	16 (50.00)	10 (31.25)	06 (18.75)	00 (00.00)	32 (100.00)
Medium Farmers	20 (31.25)	32 (50.00)	10 (15.63)	02 (03.12)	64 (100.00)
Large Farmers	03 (11.11)	07 (25.93)	05 (18.52)	12 (44.44)	27 (100.00)
Total	39 (31.71)	49 (39.84)	21 (17.07)	14 (11.38)	123 (100.00)
Educational Status					
Illiterate and Below Primary	06 (25.00)	09 (37.50)	04 (16.67)	05 (20.83)	24 (100.00)
Primary and Middle	05 (27.78)	10 (55.56)	03 (16.66)	00 (00.00)	18 (100.00)
Matriculation	07 (41.18)	06 (35.29)	03 (17.65)	01 (05.88)	17 (100.00)
Senior Secondary	09 (34.62)	10 (38.46)	05 (19.23)	02 (07.69)	26 (100.00)
Graduate and Above	12 (31.58)	14 (36.84)	06 (15.79)	06 (15.79)	38 (100.00)
Total	39 (31.71)	49 (39.84)	21 (17.07)	14 (11.38)	123 (100.00)

Source: Compiled by Authors; Figures in parentheses are percentage of total.

Duration of Beginning Farm

The distribution of hatcheries by year of establishment and social status of proprietors is shown in Table 4. The table indicates that approximately one-fourth of hatcheries were established prior to 1995. In terms of land ownership patterns, there is little distinction between upper castes and landowners during that period. However, no members of the lower strata participated in the establishment of hatcheries. Approximately 31 percent of hatcheries

were established between the years 2000 and 2005. During this time, the greatest number of hatcheries possessed by upper castes were established. In addition, approximately one-fourth of hatcheries were opened after 2005, with landowning strata playing a significant role as approximately 27 percent of their hatcheries were opened during this time. In addition, approximately 19 percent of all hatcheries were opened between 1995 and 2000, with equal contributions from landowners and upper strata. The only hatchery owned by members of other castes was established between 2000 and 2005, when the greatest number of hatcheries were established. It is evident that landowners and upper strata established hatcheries in the state and have continued to dominate over the past three decades.

Table 4.Haryana: Hatchery Farms by Period of Starting according to Social Status, Landholding Size and Educational Status of Farmers

Status	Year of Establishment				
	Up to 1995	1996 – 2000	2001 - 2005	After 2005	Total
Social Status					
Upper Castes	05 (23.81)	04 (19.05)	08 (38.09)	04 (19.05)	21 (100.00)
Landowning Castes	25 (24.75)	19 (18.81)	29 (28.71)	28 (27.72)	101 (100.00)
Other Castes	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	01 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	01 (100.00)
Total	30 (24.39)	23 (18.70)	38 (30.89)	32 (26.02)	123 (100.00)
Landholding Size					
Small Farmers	04 (12.50)	05 (15.62)	07 (21.88)	16 (50.00)	32 (100.00)
Medium Farmers	15 (23.44)	10 (15.63)	25 (39.06)	14 (21.87)	64 (100.00)
Large Farmers	11 (40.74)	08 (29.63)	06 (22.22)	02 (07.41)	27 (100.00)
Total	30 (24.39)	23 (18.70)	38 (30.89)	32 (26.02)	123 (100.00)
Educational Status					
Illiterate and Below Primary	05 (20.84)	08 (33.33)	08 (33.33)	03 (12.50)	24 (100.00)
Primary and Middle	06 (33.33)	03 (16.67)	04 (22.22)	05 (27.78)	18 (100.00)
Matriculation	03 (17.65)	02 (11.76)	02 (11.76)	10 (58.83)	17 (100.00)
Senior Secondary	08 (30.77)	06 (23.08)	08 (30.77)	04 (15.38)	26 (100.00)
Graduate and Above	08 (21.05)	04 (10.53)	16 (42.11)	10 (26.31)	38 (100.00)
Total	30 (24.39)	23 (18.70)	38 (30.89)	32 (26.02)	123 (100.00)

Source: Compiled by Authors; Figures in parentheses are percentage of total.

Age Distribution Among Farmers

Table 5 displays the age of hatchery farmers by social status. It reveals that the majority of hatchery producers (36 percent) are between the ages of 35 and 45. There is a modest proportion of young farmers (14.63 percent) below the age of 35. Approximately 33 percent of producers are mature (aged 45 to 55). The remaining 17 percent of hatchery producers are older than 55 years of age. Among the landowning castes, the proportion of older hatchery producers is the highest (about 20 percent). However, upper caste hatchery producers are predominantly middle-aged (43 percent) and elderly (48 percent). In landowning castes, the maximum concentration of hatchery farmers is also found among middle-aged and elderly individuals. However, this caste has the greatest percentage of young hatchery farmers (16 percent).

Table 5 Haryana: Hatchery Farms by Age of Farmers according to Social Status, Landholding Size and Educational Status of Farmers

Status	Age of Farmers (Years)				Total
	Up to 35 (Young)	35-45 (Middle)	45-55 (Mature)	Above 55 (Old)	
Social Status					
Upper Castes	01 (04.76)	09 (42.86)	10 (47.62)	01 (04.76)	21 (100.00)
Landowning Castes	16 (15.84)	35 (34.65)	30 (29.71)	20 (19.80)	101 (100.00)
Other Castes	01 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	01 (100.00)
Total	18 (14.63)	44 (35.77)	40 (32.53)	21 (17.07)	123 (100.00)
Landholding Size					
Small Farmers	02 (06.25)	11 (34.37)	13 (40.63)	06 (18.75)	32 (100.00)
Medium Farmers	07 (10.94)	26 (40.62)	24 (37.50)	07 (10.94)	66 (100.00)
Large Farmers	09 (36.00)	07 (28.00)	03 (08.00)	07 (28.00)	24 (100.00)
Total	18 (14.63)	44 (35.77)	40 (32.53)	21 (17.07)	123 (100.00)
Educational Status					
Illiterate and Below Primary	00 (00.00)	03 (12.50)	07 (29.17)	14 (58.33)	24 (100.00)
Primary and Middle	01 (05.56)	06 (33.33)	08 (44.44)	03 (16.67)	18 (100.00)
Matriculation	04 (23.53)	05 (29.41)	08 (47.06)	00 (00.00)	17 (100.00)
Senior Secondary	03 (11.54)	13 (50.00)	07 (26.92)	03 (11.54)	26 (100.00)
Graduate and Above	10 (26.32)	17 (44.74)	10 (26.31)	01 (02.63)	38 (100.00)
Total	18 (14.63)	44 (35.77)	40 (32.53)	21 (17.07)	123 (100.00)

Source: Compiled by Authors; Figures in parentheses are percentage of total.

Occupational Combination

The combination of occupation and social status of hatchery producers is depicted in Table 6. Due to the fact that poultry farming is an agricultural enterprise, poultry producers are heavily involved in agriculture and poultry business. According to the table, 63.41 percent of all hatchery farmers also engage in agriculture. It is intriguing that only 3% of producers are exclusively engaged in hatchery business. Approximately 18% of hatchery farmers conduct commerce with hatchery. In addition, 15.46% of hatchery producers provide services in addition to poultry production. About 5 percent of hatchery farmers from the upper castes are exclusively engaged in poultry husbandry. About 69 percent of the agricultural and poultry industries are dominated by land-owning castes. However, a greater proportion of upper strata farmers combine hatchery and business (approximately one-fourth), whereas service and poultry account for approximately one-third of farmers. Evidently, landowning castes engage in hatchery farming alongside agriculture, whereas superior castes primarily engage in hatchery farming alongside business and services.

Table 6 Haryana: Hatchery Farms by Occupational Combination according to Social Status, Landholding Size and Educational Status of Farmers

Status	Occupational Combinations of Farmers				
	Only Poultry	Agriculture and Poultry	Business and Poultry	Service and Poultry	Total
Social Status					
Upper Castes	01 (04.76)	08 (38.10)	05 (23.81)	07 (33.33)	21 (100.00)
Landowning Castes	03 (02.97)	70 (69.31)	17 (16.83)	11 (10.89)	101 (100.00)
Other Castes	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	01 (100.00)	01 (100.00)
Total	04 (03.25)	78 (63.41)	22 (17.88)	19 (15.46)	123 (100.00)
Landholding Size					
Small Farmers	02 (06.25)	22 (68.75)	03 (09.37)	05 (16.63)	32 (100.00)
Medium Farmers	01 (01.56)	41 (64.06)	12 (18.75)	10 (15.63)	64 (100.00)
Large Farmers	01 (03.70)	15 (55.56)	07 (25.93)	04 (14.81)	27 (100.00)
Total	04 (03.25)	78 (63.41)	22 (17.88)	19 (15.46)	123 (100.00)
Educational Status					
Illiterate and Below Primary	01 (04.00)	18 (72.00)	04 (16.00)	02 (08.00)	25 (100.00)
Primary and Middle	00 (00.00)	14 (77.78)	01 (05.55)	03 (16.67)	18 (100.00)
Matriculation	01 (06.25)	11 (68.75)	03 (18.75)	01 (06.25)	16 (100.00)
Senior Secondary	01 (03.45)	18 (62.07)	06 (20.69)	04 (13.79)	29 (100.00)
Graduate and Above	01 (02.86)	17 (48.57)	08 (22.86)	09 (25.71)	35 (100.00)
Total	04 (03.25)	78 (63.41)	22 (17.88)	19 (15.46)	123 (100.00)

Source: Compiled by Authors; Figures in parentheses are percentage of total.

Chicken Production

Table 7 displays the distribution of hatcheries based on the number of babies produced and the social status of the farmers. Due to their ownership of large farms, the landholding castes are the primary producers of chicks in hatchery farming. It is evident from the table that approximately 30 percent of hatchery farmers are extremely large-scale producers of chicks in the state (more than 20 million chicks annually).

Table 7 Haryana: Hatchery Farms by Annual Production of Chicks according to Social Status, Landholding Size and Educational Status of Farmers

Status	Numbers of Chicks Produced in a Year				
	Up to 10 Lakh (Small)	10 – 15 Lakh (Medium)	15 – 20 Lakh (Large)	Above 20 Lakh (Very Large)	Total (All)
Social Status					
Upper Castes	03 (14.29)	02 (09.52)	06 (28.57)	10 (47.62)	21 (100.00)
Landowning Castes	34 (33.66)	24 (23.76)	16 (15.84)	27 (26.73)	101 (100.00)
Other Castes	01 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	01 (100.00)
Total	38 (30.89)	26 (21.14)	22 (17.89)	37 (30.08)	123 (100.00)
Landholding Size					
Small Farmers	14 (43.75)	06 (18.75)	05 (15.62)	07 (21.88)	32 (100.00)
Medium Farmers	21 (32.81)	15 (23.44)	09 (14.06)	19 (29.69)	64 (100.00)
Large Farmers	03 (11.11)	05 (18.52)	08 (29.63)	11 (40.74)	27 (100.00)
Total	38 (30.89)	26 (21.14)	22 (17.89)	37 (30.08)	123 (100.00)
Educational Status					
Illiterate and Below Primary	04 (16.67)	07 (29.17)	08 (33.33)	05 (20.83)	24 (100.00)
Primary and Middle	07 (38.89)	02 (11.11)	01 (05.56)	08 (44.44)	18 (100.00)
Matriculation	10 (58.82)	02 (11.76)	03 (17.65)	02 (11.76)	17 (100.00)
Senior Secondary	06 (23.08)	08 (30.77)	02 (07.69)	10 (38.46)	26 (100.00)
Graduate and Above	11 (28.95)	07 (18.42)	08 (21.05)	12 (31.58)	38 (100.00)
Total	38 (30.89)	26 (21.14)	22 (17.89)	37 (30.08)	123 (100.00)

Source: Compiled by Authors; Figures in parentheses are percentage of total.

The proportion of upper strata in large-scale production of chicks is relatively high (approximately 48 percent). Similarly, the proportion of upper caste hatchery farmers is higher (approximately 29 percent) among large-scale (15-20 lakh) chick producers. The

proportion of major production hatcheries is approximately 18 percent overall. About 31 percent of all hatcheries are small-scale producers of chicks. This category of chick producers is dominated by landowning castes, as roughly one-third of them produce fewer than 10 million chicks annually. Medium-sized chicken producers account for approximately 21 percent of all producers. They are dominated by landowner castes (approximately 24 percent). The sole producer of other caste chicks is a small-scale producer. It is evident that the majority of hatcheries owned by upper strata are large or extremely large in terms of chick production. However, the vast majority of hatcheries possessed by landholding castes produce medium and small quantities of chicks.

Hens Production

Table 8 displays the quantity of hens sold by social status by state hatchery producers. It demonstrates that 52 percent of all hatchery farms are medium-scale hen sellers (30000 to 60,000 per year). 23 percent of farmers have sold chickens on a small basis (up to 30,000). According to the table, only 15% of producers have sold more than 600,000 to 90,000 chickens. Approximately 10% of producers are extremely large-scale sellers. Approximately 48 percent of upper caste hatchery producers are medium-sized sellers, followed by one-third who are large-sized sellers. Approximately 53% of landowning caste proprietors are also medium-sized sellers. Approximately one-fourth of landowning caste producers are small merchants. The solitary other caste hatchery farmer is a small-scale chicken vendor. It is clear that upper caste hatchery farmers are predominantly medium and large vendors of chickens, while landowner castes are predominantly medium and small producers of chickens. Table 8 displays the number of hens sold by hatchery producers based on their level of education. It indicates that the majority of hatchery producers sell hens of medium size. This category includes the vast majority of illiterate, sub-primary, matriculated, and senior secondary educated hatchery farmers. The proportion of matriculated farmers among small chicken vendors is higher (approximately 29 percent). In very large sellers, the proportion of farmers with primary and middle school education is greater than that of farmers with other levels of education.

Table 8 Haryana: Hatchery Farms by Annual Production of Hens according to Social Status, Landholding Size and Educational Status of Farmers

Status	Numbers of Sold Hens				
	Up to30000 (Small)	30000 – 60000 (Medium)	60000 – 90000 (Large)	Above 90000 (Very Large)	Total (All)
Social Status					
Upper Castes	02 (09.52)	10 (47.62)	07 (33.33)	02 (09.52)	21 (100.00)
Landowning Castes	25 (24.75)	54 (53.47)	12 (11.88)	10 (09.09)	101 (100.00)
Other Castes	01 (100.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	00 (00.00)	01 (100.00)
Total	28 (22.76)	64 (52.03)	19 (15.45)	12 (09.76)	123 (100.00)
Landholding Size					
Small Farmers	13 (40.63)	14 (43.75)	04 (12.50)	01 (03.12)	32 (100.00)
Medium Farmers	12 (18.75)	39 (60.94)	09 (14.06)	04 (06.25)	64 (100.00)
Large Farmers	03 (11.11)	11 (40.74)	06 (22.22)	07 (25.93)	27 (100.00)
Total	28 (22.76)	64 (52.03)	19 (15.45)	12 (09.76)	123 (100.00)

Educational Status					
Illiterate and Below Primary	06 (25.00)	14 (58.33)	01 (04.17)	03 (12.50)	24 (100.00)
Primary and Middle	05 (27.77)	07 (38.89)	03 (16.67)	03 (16.67)	18 (100.00)
Matriculation	05 (29.41)	10 (58.82)	02 (11.76)	00 (00.00)	17 (100.00)
Senior Secondary	04 (15.38)	15 (57.69)	05 (19.23)	02 (07.69)	26 (100.00)
Graduate and Above	08 (21.05)	18 (47.37)	08 (21.05)	04 (10.53)	38 (100.00)
Total	28 (22.76)	64 (52.03)	19 (15.45)	12 (09.76)	123 (100.00)

CONCLUSION

In Haryana, the castes who own land are the ones who run the hatchery farms. In Haryana, four out of the five hatchery farmers are members of castes that traditionally own land. Small and medium sized farmers dominate the landscape. Most people who own hatcheries also have college degrees. Medium-sized hatcheries account for the vast majority of the industry's annual physical output. The landowning castes generally have access to hatcheries of medium and small sizes. Hatchery farmers' landholding sizes are positively correlated with their farm output. Hatchery sizes are directly correlated to the size of farmers' plots of land. However, the educational levels of the farmers who own hatcheries do not correlate with their sizes. Seventy percent of hatcheries fall into the medium-to-small size range, employing less than twenty-five people. The size of a hatchery farmer's landholdings is positively correlated with the size of their workforce. There are around three decades' worth of modern hatcheries in the state. About a quarter of them started up after 1995, while the rest did so in this century. The hatchery farms in Haryana were initially established by the larger and more established farms. Farmers with lower levels of education did not spearhead the creation of hatcheries in the state. Many less-educated businesspeople stepped up to get into hatchery farming. When categorized by age, the majority of hatchery farmers fall into the middle age bracket. The upper-class hatchery farmers tend to be of retirement age. Hatchery farmers with lower levels of education are more common among the elderly, whereas those with higher levels of education are more common among those in the younger and middle age brackets. Two-thirds of hatchery farmers are third-generation farmers, according to a distribution of farmers based on their age. Upper-class people have been involved in the agricultural hatchery business for longer. Most third-generation farmers are actually quite modest landholders. Most of the state's hatcheries were founded by less affluent people, whose descendants have since grown the industry. In the majority of cases, a single person or family runs a hatchery farm in the state. Large-scale farmers are more likely to be run by a single proprietor than smaller farms. Multiple ownership is more common among smaller and medium-sized landholders. The percentage of single-person households is highest among college grads, followed by those with a high school diploma or equivalent. The state does not recognize hatcheries as a separate sector of the economy. Only 3% of farmers actually use hatcheries as a means of making a living. Farmers from land-owning castes often also raise hatchlings, whereas those from higher social classes often mix hatchery farming with commerce and service.

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