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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR POULTRY DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

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Abstract

Poultry farming supports nutritional security, rural employment, women's empowerment, and supplementary household income in India. Yet farmers face rising feed costs, disease outbreaks, limited credit, weak infrastructure, and market volatility. This paper reviews the main Government of India programmes for poultry development implemented through the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD): the National Livestock Mission, the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme,

the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, the Poultry Disease Action Plan 2024, and Kisan Credit Card facilities. It indicates which scheme suits which purpose and what applicants should prepare. Government support can strengthen a poultry enterprise but cannot guarantee profitability, which depends on planning, feed management, quality chicks, biosecurity, market access, and financial discipline.

Keywords: Poultry development, Government schemes, National Livestock Mission, rural entrepreneurship and Kisan Credit Card.

Introduction

Poultry has become one of the most important pillars of India's livestock sector, supplying eggs and affordable protein while creating jobs and income in villages. Small farmers, self-help groups (SHGs), rural youth, and commercial entrepreneurs all take part. Their main constraints are feed costs, disease, credit, infrastructure, market swings, and access to improved breeds and scientific management. To address these, the DAHD, under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, runs several programmes (Table 1).

Table 1. Major schemes supporting poultry development

Scheme	Purpose	Best suited to	Key caution
National Livestock Mission (NLM)	Capital subsidy for rural poultry breeding enterprises [1,2]	Parent farms, rural hatcheries, mother units	Subsidy is subject to scheme ceilings and approval
Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP)	Disease control, surveillance, veterinary infrastructure [3–5]	All farmers, through state departments	Coverage varies by state
Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)	Loan-linked support for feed, breeding, and veterinary-input infrastructure [6]	Investors and processors	Not a subsidy for ordinary broiler or layer sheds

Poultry Disease Action Plan 2024	Disease reporting and outbreak preparedness [7,8]	Commercial, backyard, and government farms	A management framework, not a subsidy
Kisan Credit Card (KCC)	Short-term working capital [9–11]	Operating costs: feed, chicks, medicines	A credit facility, not a grant

National Livestock Mission (NLM)

Launched in 2014–15 and restructured in 2021–22, the NLM emphasizes entrepreneurship, employment, and productivity. Its Entrepreneurship Development Programme supports rural poultry breeding farms, low-input and climate-resilient varieties, chick supply, and links between producers, input suppliers, and markets. Individuals, SHGs, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), cooperatives, and eligible companies may apply. Eligible projects can receive a capital subsidy of 50% of project cost, subject to the scheme ceiling and guidelines [1,2]. Applicants should confirm the activity-specific ceiling before preparing a proposal.

Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP)

A single outbreak can erase months of work through deaths, lower output, poor growth, and movement restrictions. The LHDCP helps states and Union Territories strengthen vaccination, diagnosis, vaccine production, surveillance, and veterinary training. Under applicable provisions, it also provides compensation when birds or products must be culled under prescribed control measures [3–5]. Eligible diseases, vaccination drives, and compensation depend on current guidelines and state programmes. Disease control is thus an economic safeguard as well as a veterinary matter.

Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)

The AHIDF draws private investment into animal husbandry infrastructure. For poultry, it chiefly covers feed manufacturing plants, eligible breeding and breed-multiplication infrastructure, and veterinary vaccine and drug facilities [6]. Eligibility depends on the specific activity, prevailing guidelines, and financing conditions. The scheme's continuation period ran to 31 March 2026, so applicants should confirm whether an extension or replacement is in force.



Poultry Disease Action Plan 2024

The plan brings commercial farms, backyard units, and government poultry establishments into disease surveillance and reporting. It aims at early identification, better coordination among farmers, veterinarians, and agencies, stronger diagnostics, and preparedness for outbreaks such as avian influenza [7,8]. Farmers should follow their state department's reporting instructions and call a veterinarian promptly if they see unusual mortality or signs of disease.

Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

Feed, chicks, medicines, vaccination, and electricity must be paid for long before any bird or egg is sold. The KCC has been extended to eligible animal husbandry activities, including poultry, for short-term working capital [9–11]. Farmers should approach their bank with details of the enterprise, production cycle, estimated expenditure, and documents. The sanctioned amount, interest concessions, and repayment terms depend on government provisions, bank policy, and borrower eligibility.

Conclusion

These schemes address finance, breeding, disease control, infrastructure, and working capital. Choosing the right one, and preparing a sound project, matters as much as the assistance itself.

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