

Backyard Poultry Farming: Avenues for Livelihood improvement and Nutritional Security

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Backyard poultry farming has been very popular in Sikkim. It is mostly practised by women as an aid for income generation and livelihood security. But, rural farmer rear Desi type of chicken with low egg (50-60egg/year) and meat production in backyard system. For improving the rural poultry farming, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim has introduced 500 Kamrupa birds in the year 2018-19 covering five beneficiaries in Naku Chumpong Village of West Sikkim as a part of OFT.

Intervention

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim conducted On Farm Trial “Introduction of Newly developed Poultry Breed, Kamrupa” at Naku Chumpong, West Sikkim during the year 2018-19. Breed was introduced to promote the Backyard Poultry Farming. These improved birds can be reared in both intensive and free ranging systems. Birds can be reared for egg production in small numbers (10-20) in free range condition with local feeds. Before starting the trial, the farmers of the Naku Chumpong were trained and made aware of improved chicken breed. As per the methodology Brooding, Housing, Feeding, Vaccination and Deworming of chicks were done. Chicks were reared for 4 weeks at demo farm and during this period vaccination of Ranikhet Diseases was done at 7 days and IBD at 18 days old respectively. 500 birds which were 6 weeks old birds were distributed to farmers. Birds were reared in traditional system with local available feeds by the farmers. Different parameters like monthly body weight gain, egg production, diseases incidence, were regularly monitored at regular interval.

Results:

The performance and adaptability of Kamrupa birds is presented below in Table: 1 which clearly shows that Kamrupa perform far much better than Desi birds.

Parameters	Technology	Farmer Practice
B. wt at 60 days (g)	800-950	450-500
B. wt at 150 days old(g)	2-2.5	1-1.5
Age at first egg(days)	137-146	155-160
wt. of egg(g) at 40 weeks	50-54	45-50
Egg colour	Brown	Brown
Egg production/month	14-20	5-8
Survivability (%)	98	96

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KVK, West Sikkim Conducted various activities during the trial period like awareness programme on Backyard Poultry farm with improved breed of chicken, importance of hygiene and sanitation in farm, demonstration of construction of poultry house using locally available materials, Vaccination of birds, formulation of poultry ration using locally available material, regular field visits.

Farmers have shown high acceptability for the Kamrupa birds. After demonstrations and on seeing the performance of the birds the farmers could observe the advantages of the rearing these birds like high egg laying capacity, long shank, colourful plumage and hardiness like local birds, higher weight gain over the local birds and better performance even with poor quality diet. The farmers were highly motivated with the performance of the birds and the demand for Kamrupa birds is very high.