

Most Sustainable and Profitable Source for Small Farms: Backyard Poultry Farming

Avantika Lingwal, Gaikwad D. S. and Naleeni Ramawat

Amity Institute of Organic Agriculture, Amity University, Noida, UP, India

SUMMARY

Right now backyard poultry farming is the need of the hour, among many aspects one of them would be how almost every farmer can adopt it due to lower investment. Farmers with very small amount of land or asset can also invest in it. The other reason would be nutritional aspect, with every passing day human beings are aware about their sedentary lifestyle and are focusing more about their important nutritional needs thus; they are focusing more on foods like meat, eggs, chicken etc.

INTRODUCTION

Backyard poultry also known as homestead poultry is one of the most common practices done in rural areas. Poultry farming is an integral part of animal husbandry. It is the domestication of birds like chicken, ducks, turkeys and geese for production of meat or eggs. It is also good on benefit especially for marginal and landless farmers due to the fact that it needs low investment. It can easily be maintained by women and children and even elderly. Apart from economic aspect, eggs and meats is a significant source of energy and protein. There are various ways of characterize of backyard poultry farming such as night shelter system, scavenging, natural hatching of chicks, low productivity of birds, scant supplementing feed, local marketing. Right now backyard poultry farming is the need of the hour, among many aspects one of them would be how almost every farmer can adopt it due to lower investment. Farmers with very small amount of land or asset can also invest in it. The other reason would be nutritional aspect, with every passing day human beings are aware about their sedentary lifestyle and are focusing more about their important nutritional needs thus; they are focusing more on foods like meat, eggs, chicken etc.

Role of women in backyard poultry farming:

A study revealed that those women who are involved in backyard poultry farming are middle aged, landless, married and a part of nuclear family. Due to various factors and lack of communication and resources they are still using indigenous breeds.

Economics of backyard poultry farming:

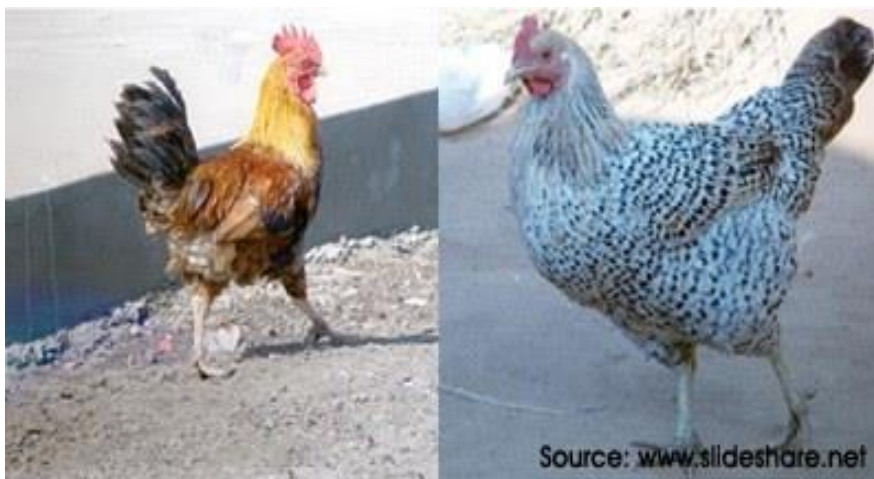
It is one of the most efficient ways to increase the room for employment for unemployed youth and women. Apart from the normal yield due to farming it can be add on benefit.

Commonly used breeds in backyard poultry farming

Breeds

Ankaleshwar: The average annual production of Ankaleshwar is 70-80. The physical characteristics of Ankaleshwar is they are small, single combed and are basically reared by the tribes of Narmada

Photos



(Source: www.sapplpp.org)

Harringhata black: The Average annual egg production of harringhata black is 45.They are particularly in size



(Source: epashupalan.com)

Ghagus: The average annual egg production of ghagus is 52.They is very small in size and usually has smaller combs.



(Source: www.pdonpoultry.org)

Aseel: The average annual egg production of assel is 30-35This breed is known for its high stamina game with majestic galt.



(Source: www.indiamart.com)

Danki: The average annual egg production of danki is 32.They is heavier in size as compared to other breeds and it has compressed single comb.



(Source: www.sapplpp.org)

Other breeds that are mostly used are Kadaknath, telicherry, Mewari etc

Management practices:

Checking up constant body temperature and protection from predators. Brooder house should be well ventilated and clean. Litter absorbs moisture from poultry droppings and provides warmth during winter and coolness during summer. Raking the litter should be done frequently. Always provide clean drinking water to the birds. Nightshelters for birds are suggested. Night shelter needs to be cleaned and should be properly ventilated. Feed material should be given in abundance and providing food like waste grains, germinated seeds, etc is an efficient idea. Try to restrict feed at six months of age during the monsoon season, worms and insects will be enough feed for the birds.

Advantage of backyard poultry farming

- Eggs and birds can be sold in the local market for easy income.
- It aids in soil fertility significantly.
- It can be an integral part of INM (Integrated nutrient management) along with aquaculture etc.
- According to a survey products from rural poultry farming fetch higher price than intensive farming

CONCLUSION

In rural poultry sector poor, landless labour and marginal farmer occupied by major role. So backyard poultry farming provide as source of income to the rural and poor families. It is most subsidiary source of income for landless labour and poor farmers. Backyard poultry farming is a low input business in comparison with commercial farming and this is a good source of income for rural peoples.

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