

An intervention for sustainable livelihood through backyard poultry Farming: A success story

Introduction or identification of problem

Chicken production under free range and semi-intensive system provides additional income and also supplement protein intake to the rural and tribal folks. It is also one of the viable alternative system for improving the livelihood of rural household. Although almost every tribal household rear at least 15-20 nos. of poultry birds in their backyard, the state is not a position to meet the total requirement of meat as well as egg. The major reason for this condition is that desi birds whose productivity is very low both in terms of meat (1-1.2 kg/year/bird) and egg (50-60 nos. of egg/hen/year) constitute a major portion of the total poultry population.

Technology as a solution

In order to improve the productivity of the backyard poultry, ICAR, Nagaland centre has introduced Vanaraja (a dual purpose bird) and Gramapriya (a layer bird) under the Poultry Seed Project. These birds have all the desirable qualities of indigenous chicken combined with better production potential in terms of meat and egg. The annual egg production of Gramapriya is 200-220 eggs/birds and 160-180 in case of Vanaraja. This suggests the enormous scope for increasing the egg and meat production by introducing improved poultry variety like Vanaraja, Gramapriya etc. suitable for backyard poultry farming under low input production semi intensive farming system.

The present study describes the successful venture of Mr. Vevoyi a resident of Khushiabill village under Dimapur district. He approached KVK Dimapur for technical guidance before taking up poultry as an enterprise. In order to give him technical back up he was exposed to 4 days intensive training at KVK Dimapur, ICAR Research Complex, Nagaland Centre on scientific managerial practices of poultry.

After the training, he constructed low-cost poultry house as per the specification using the locally available housing materials like bamboo mat, wooden planks etc. C.G. I. sheet was used for roofing and paddy husk as litter material.

In August, 2014 he was given 200 nos. of 21 days old Vanaraja birds under Institute TSP from ICAR Research Farm, Nagaland Centre after giving proper prophylactic measures and vaccination programmes. He was so convinced with the income he got from the first batch and the experience gained from his own farm, he began to expand his farm from 200 nos. of birds to 600 and then to 1200 nos.

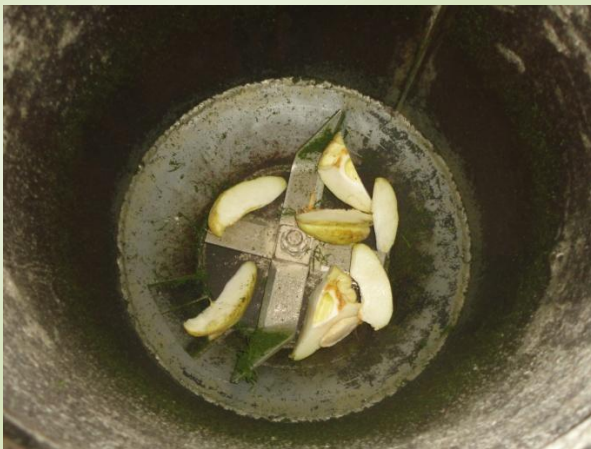
200 nos. of day old chicks are collected once in two weeks from ICAR Research Farm, Nagaland Centre and rear it mainly for meat purpose. Vaccinations against infectious diseases



Backyard poultry unit of Mr. Vevoyi

are done in the farm itself as per the schedule. A locally made brooder is also available to cover 200 nos. of day old chicks at a time. Mortality ranges from 2-2.5 % which is very negligible. He rears the birds for two and half months and disposes it to the market at a rate of Rs. 170/kg and by that time the birds attains body weight of 1.6-1.7 kg/bird. That way, in one batch he could sale 312-331 kgs of meat earning Rs. 53040-56270 as gross income.

The major expenditure included the feed cost, cost of chicks, medicines and miscellaneous expenditure. Feed cost being the major problem in poultry farming, he has developed a feed crusher of 1.5 HP with 5 kg capacity. It is used for grinding and mixing of the feeds and fodders like maize, banana leaves, chow chow, sweet potato leaves as well as the tuber and tapioca etc. This mixture is then fed to the poultry birds mainly during day time. Vitamin and mineral mixtures in minimum quantity are also supplemented daily in order to avoid deficiency problems. The birds are also let loose during day time for scavenging. This reduces the requirement of concentrate feeds and thereby reduces the feed cost. The total expenditure for rearing of 200 birds for two and months comes to Rs. 40,000-42,000. Family labour was considered for day-to-day activities in the poultry farm. Therefore, the net profit earned from 200 nos. of poultry birds comes to around Rs. 13,000-15,000. He has already completed 6 batches. Another 3 batches of different age groups are still remaining.



Squash being grinded and added to feed



Maize, banana leaves, chow chow, sweet potato leaves as well as the tuber and tapioca



Wheat bran mixed



Mixed feed for poultry birds



Source of technology with year

The Vanaraja and Gramapriya birds are developed by PDP, Hyderabad, 1997-98

Horizontal spread of technology/impact

Mr. Vevoyi was so satisfied with the performance of Vanaraja bird and the income that he got from sale of meat and egg encouraged him to rear from 200 to 1200 nos. of chicks earning a sum of Rs. 13,000 to 15,000 thousand per batch. His success has encouraged neighboring villages to start this enterprise. Now new SHG's have taken up this livelihood oriented enterprise