

SUCCESS STORIES

1. Increasing farmer's income through Kadaknath chicken in Mokokchung, Nagaland

Introduction

Local chicken is always being the meat of choice amongst the local population. However, performance of local chicken in the district is decreasing over the years due to inbreeding depression creating a huge gap between demand and availability. In order to minimize this gap, there is a necessity to introduce a suitable breed with better performance like growth and egg production as well as ability to withstand the changing climatic conditions.

KVK Intervention

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Mokokchung introduced Kadaknath, a dual-purpose breed, with the hope of solving the problems with indigenous chickens. Training on package of practices recommendation was given at Khanimu village and attended by 21 farmers. Four passionate farmers were provided with 50 each of day old chicks and these were reared under enclosure for a month by feeding starter feed. The sheds were constructed using locally available low cost materials. The chickens were let free after one month and allowed to forage in the open backyards.

Output and outcome

Mr. Meyatoshi Longkumer of Khanimu village after getting suitable training started his poultry unit with 50 Kadaknath birds. He reared the birds with proper care and the birds started laying eggs at 7 months of age with a body weight of 1.3kg as compared to 12 months and 1.2kg, respectively for local chickens. The number of eggs produced by Kadaknath at 40 weeks was found to be 52 while the local birds produced 30.

The farmer generated an income of Rs. 22300.00 by disposing the surplus male birds after retaining two male birds for breeding. He also sold 950 eggs and generated Rs.9500.00. Now he has about 30 chicks of different age groups hatched by his local chickens as Kadaknath hens are poor setters and do not brood their own eggs.

Impact

The dual purpose Kadaknath birds in backyard has instilled a sense of eagerness amongst the farmers in the village and neighbouring villages of the region due to easy accessibility of eggs and poultry meat at doorsteps resulting in providing additional income to farmers. The higher protein and lower cholesterol in Kadaknath meat also opens alternative meat option to the increasing health conscious citizens of the district.



Kadaknath chicken foraging in backyards



Nest for egg laying

2. Increasing farmer's income through Oyster Mushroom cultivation in Mokokchung, Nagaland

Background

Mushroom cultivation in the homestead has been practiced by the farmers of Mokokchung district for quite some time. There is huge demand of mushroom in the market and favourable climatic conditions for its production. However, the farmers are unable to produce year round due to lack of scientific production techniques and non-availability of spawn in the district. In this context, training on scientific methods of mushroom cultivation techniques was necessary to educate the farmers to make it a sustainable and profitable enterprise.

KVK intervention

Keeping the potential of mushroom production in view, KVK Mokokchung conducted training on scientific methods of mushroom production at Longmisa Village where 16 farm women attended the programme. Techniques on mushroom cultivation were demonstrated and the farmers practically learned spawn run and preparation of polybags. Among the trainees, Mrs. Chayusenla was very enthusiastic and was interested in cultivation of mushroom on a commercial scale. She was provided with 50 packets spawns, 2kg of polybag, 2 sprayers and financial assistance for construction of mushroom production unit. Suitable technical guidance was given to her from the initial stage of straw substrate preparation till harvesting of the crop.

Output and outcome

At the onset of technology adoption, Mrs. Chayusenla started with 100 mushroom beds. The cropping period was approximately 45 days where 190kg of fresh mushrooms were harvested and sold @ Rs.250.00 per kg resulting in a return of Rs.47500.00. The benefit cost ration was observed to be 2.04. She expanded her production area in the second year by establishing low cost production unit to accommodate 200-300 mushroom bags and become a role model for other farmers. The technology has spread to other women folks of her village as well as nearby localities covering one women SHG and 7 individual farmers.

Impact of the intervention

The training imparted, advisory services and regular monitoring of the farmers' production unit has resulted in substantial increase of income. Mushroom production technology has also made farm women realize productive utilization of their leisure time in

preparation of straw substrate in the evening which otherwise were spend by talking with other folks. Additionally, the paddy straws which are generally spread and burnt in the field are preserved and help farmers generate additional income. Further, year round production of mushroom has enabled district horticulture department to regularly produce spawn which otherwise produced only on receipt of requisition in advance.

