



Family poultry farming

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The family poultry farming is more promising in rural /tribal areas, which will certainly improve the nutritional, economic, social well being of rural / tribal population by utilizing locally available, less expensive inputs. The concept of family poultry farming accepted and adopted by our ancestors has been practiced for centuries as a backyard operation in India. The practice of keeping chickens that are either the native indigenous or the cross breeds, under scavenging system of backyard farming, is still popular.

Advantages

1. Low investment, maintenance cost and risk
2. Good demand and higher prices for eggs and birds of native fowl
3. Easy to manage and handle
4. Helps in pest control and weed clearance etc.
5. Contribute to village economy
6. Women involvement is easy
7. Have social and spiritual benefits and play an important role in rural economy
8. Can easily integrate with other agriculture,

aquaculture and livestock farming practices

9. Plays a significant role in the cultural life of rural people in the following ways.

- i) As a gift to visitors and relatives
- ii) As starting capital to youths
- iii) As a potential source of employment
- iv) As an easy source of income for small scale farmers

Poultry production in tribal families is women domain, who manage production as well as selling of birds and eggs. The family poultry production is an integrated approach with application of knowledge in breeding, feeding, disease control measures, housing and marketing.

Give considerations to the followings:

- i) To protect the day old chicks from adverse environment diseases and predators, chicks have to be provided with artificial brooding during the initial 4/5 weeks of age.

- ii) Nutritional deficiencies particularly calcium, energy and vitamins are common in birds reared under family farming conditions.

- iii) Disease control is a hard task and is rarely practiced in villages. The single most important disease that affects poultry production under free range is Newcastle disease/Ranikhet disease.

Under present scenario, the farmers in rural / tribal areas prefer the indigenous birds to exotic under rural free-range poultry farming. Why? The reasons are:

1. Easy availability
2. Easy to look after
3. Better adaptability under local environmental conditions
4. Tastes and nature
5. Better broody and mother nature
6. More demand and better price
7. Hardier nature of birds
8. More familiarity in rearing desi birds

The improved germplasm developed for the inten-

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