



**Biotica  
Research  
Today**

**Vol 2:9 941  
2020 943**

# Management Practices for Backyard Poultry Farming: A Tool to Generate Income for Rural Livelihood in India

**U. T. Mundhe\* and V. D. Deshmukh**

Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Mahatma Gandhi Mission, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gandheli, Aurangabad, Maharashtra (431 007), India

 Open Access

**Corresponding Author**

U. T. Mundhe

e-mail: [utmundhe12@gmail.com](mailto:utmundhe12@gmail.com)

 **Keywords**

Backyard Poultry, Eggs, Farming, Gramapriya

## Article History

Received in 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Received in revised form 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Accepted in final form 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

E-mail: [bioticapublications@gmail.com](mailto:bioticapublications@gmail.com)

## How to cite this article?

Mundhe and Deshmukh, 2020. Management Practices for Backyard Poultry Farming: A Tool to Generate Income for Rural Livelihood in India. Biotica Research Today 2(9): 941-943.

## Abstract

In India, rural population ranges from 65 to 70 percentages among total living population which mainly comprises of poor, marginal, less land and landless people. Backyard poultry farming is an age old practice for production of eggs and meat. Most of the backyard poultry farming includes indigenous poultry birds which were having poor or less production performance in terms of egg and meat along with high susceptibility to occurrence of diseases. Earlier the annual egg production potential of indigenous poultry birds ranges from 65 to 75 eggs/bird/year along with less weight gain which led towards less meat production. Such type of drawback can be easily overcome by using improved varieties of backward poultry birds which are having better egg and meat production potential ability. It is a better tool to improve socio-economic status of poor livelihood and traditional farmers as it needs low capital initial investment along with high economic output.

## Introduction

Backyard poultry farming is an easy, less labor and labor less business, less risky and income generated business for poor, less land and land less householders. This business has tremendous capacity of reducing malnutrition, poverty and increase chances of employment generation. In India more than 60% population depends on agriculture for their livelihood, in this context, the rural backyard poultry plays an important role to generate revenue for the landless or marginal farmers to earn their livelihood and balanced food.

*Importance of backyard poultry farming includes,*

- Employment generation for rural youth, small scale farmers and farm women's.
- Source of income generation with low cost initial investment with higher outcome.
- Feed cost is low as compared to broilers and layer birds.
- Poultry manure can be use as manure for improving soil fertility.
- Production from backyard poultry farming in terms of eggs and meat can easily be sold in local market as there is growing demand for the same.
- Birds are less susceptible to infectious diseases like bacterial, viral and fungal as they are having better immunity.

## Characteristics Features of Improved Verities of Backyard Poultry Birds

- Better ability in terms of infectious disease resistance.
- Good brooding ability.

- Hardy in nature.
- Ability to escape and protect from predators.
- Good scavengers.
- Good mothering ability.
- Attractive and good plumage color.

Improved varieties of backyard poultry birds are: Gramapriya, Giriraja, Girirani, Vanaraja, Kaveri, Kadaknath and Shreeneedhi. The annual egg production may ranges from 160 to 200 eggs. The age at first egg lays depends on plane of nutrition and its ranges from 6 to 6.5 months.

### Housing Management

No any scientific housing system is required for backyard poultry farming. The main intension is to protect the birds from rain, wind, intensive sunlight and predators. During day time birds are let loose for feeding in backward of the house while at night birds need protection or shelter in shed. For getting better production potential, some of the features in housing system are as follows.

- The poultry shed should be in East-West direction as it protects from entry of direct sunlight and rain in the shed.
- Low cost housing material could be used like bamboo, wood and grass etc.
- Proper space should be there in the shed for ventilation to prevent respiratory distress to the birds.
- Provision of Foot bath should be made before entry in the shed.
- Litter material should be steered at regular interval.
- Central height of the shed could be 12 feet with side slope of 7 to 8 feet.
- Asbestos could be used for roofing material.
- Overcrowding in the shed should be avoided.
- Separate space should be provided for different age groups of birds.
- Feeders and waters should be regularly washed and disinfected.
- Direct entry of outside visitors should be avoided in the shed.
- Proper space should be provided to the birds in the shed for brooding, feeding and watering.
- Floor space requirement for adult bird is 1 to 2 square feet.
- For brooding 2 watt/bird light should be provided to birds up to 6 week in brooder house.
- The optimum initial temperature required is 95 °F in first week and it can be reduced to 5 °F per week up to 6 week till it reached to 70 °F.

### Feeding Management

- Feed cost ranges from 65 to 70 % of total expenditure to

the backyard poultry birds.

- It includes maize, broken rice, wheat, Doc of groundnut cake or soybean cake, jiggery and salt.
- Feed must include proper feed ingredients like protein, energy, fat, vitamins and minerals.
- The diet should contain 2600 Kcal/ME/Kg of feed along with 18 to 20 % protein.
- Feeding schedule should be changed on weekly interval basis.
- In first week provide 10 gms of feed per bird per day and increase it on weekly interval @ 10 gms/bird/day up to one month.
- After 6 to 7 week provide 60 gms of feed/bird/day.
- After 20 to 21 weeks provide 100 to 120 gms of feed/bird/day for better growth and production.

### Disease Management

Backyard poultry birds must be protect from infectious diseases to get better productivity in terms of egg and meat. Periodic Deworming should be done at an interval of 3 to 4 months to protect from internal and external parasites. Strict vaccination schedule should be followed against the viral diseases.

Table 1: Vaccination schedule

Sr. No.	Age (Days)	Vaccine	Dose	Route
1	01	M. D.	0.2 ml	S/C
2	6 - 8	R. D	One drop	Eye
3	26 – 28	I.B.D/ R. D.	One drop	Eye
4	42 - 58	FOWL POX	0.5 ml	Wing stab method
5	60	R2B	0.5 ml	S/C
6	130 – 140	I.B.D and R. D.	0.2 ml	S/C
7	260 - 280	I.B.D and R. D.	0.2 ml	S/C



Figure 1: A view of backyard poultry farming

## Conclusion

In backyard poultry farming there is a production of eggs and meat with negligible inputs. For such farming improved strains, disease free and dual purpose poultry birds must be selected. To reduce mortality periodic vaccination programmed must be followed. Selection of those birds must be done those are having better feed conversion efficiency and disease resistance capacity. There is no need of construction of big housing sheds for the birds; only night shelter is required to protect birds from predators.

## References

- ICAR, Directorate of Poultry Research, Annual Report, Pp.1-92, (2018-19).
- Thangadurai, R., Venilla, M.A., Sivakumar, C., 2020. Performance of TANUVAS Aseel under Backyard Condition in Dharmapuri District. Biotica Research Today, 2, 7 (Jul. 2020), 645-648.
- Thangadurai, R., Shanmugam, P.S., Vennila, M.A., Sivakumar, C., 2020. Success Story on Backyard Poultry Rearing under ARYA Programme. Biotica Research Today, 2, 9 (Sep. 2020), 859-861.