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Livelihood development through backyard poultry farming

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Abstract

The present investigation is based on improvement of rural tribal farmers by introducing poultry farming for self-employment generation which helps in doubling the farmer's income. Rural and tribal areas have received little attention in poultry sector. The backyard farming have the potency to improve the economic status of a large majority of tribal rural families as it is a low input or no input venture^{1,2}. The study was carried out in the village of Rowtapathar under Rowta development block under Udalguri district of Assam. The present survey revealed that the selected progressive farmer was able to earn an annual net profit of Rs. 1, 17600.00 from poultry rearing.

Keywords: Tribal, self-employment, poultry, backyard farming, net profit

Introduction

Most of the people of Udalguri district are non-vegetarian having high demand for meat & fish production^[6]. The district also has more than 32 percent of ST population and mainly dependent on animal sector for earning their livelihood^[3]. As per 2011 census, out of the total population 4.52 percent lives in urban regions of district and 95.48 percent population lives in rural areas of villages^[3]. The total Udalguri district population living in rural areas is 794,094. Taking this into consideration, poultry farming acts as a commercial enterprise for self-employment in rural areas, leading to generate livelihood for most of the people. As well as ducklings/ chicks production is gaining popularity in the district. There is a huge gap in the availability of nutritious egg and poultry meat between urbanites and malnourished tribal people^[4]. To overcome the problem in rural and tribal areas, the solution is backyard poultry and duck farming with improved variety^[5]. Smt. Dobagi Baglari of Rowtapathar under Rowta development block of Udalguri district is the example of such woman who involved herself in the poultry sector for livelihood generation. Her hard work and constant involvement in this sector turned her as a role model in poultry farming in Udalguri.

Materials and methods

The present investigation was carried out on the basis of the farmer's data within two years of journey with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Udalguri. In the year 2018 she first came in contact with KVK, Udalguri and showed interest in poultry farming. Before that she was involved in rearing of local chicken and duck in small numbers and waged labour which is not at all sufficient for her livelihood. After KVK intervention, she participated in different trainings and Demonstration under Tribal Sub-plan programme. Different interventions carried out were demonstrations of Quail birds, Kamrupa chicken and Khaki campbell duck.

Results and discussion

Khaki-Campbell ducklings are first introduced in her village including her Self Help Group (SHG). A total of 40 ducklings are provided to her SHG so that each member has 4 numbers of khaki Campbell duck. The Lady Smt. Baglari multiplied her duck tremendously and as of now she has 56 numbers of duck which is 14th times higher within 2 years. In the mean time she also sold many ducklings and eggs for her livelihood. She is the one who has introduced scientific duck farming technology in her village successfully and become a successful duck farmer.

After duck she was involved in quail farming and raised 10 numbers of quail birds and now she has make it 30 numbers by natural brooding with local hen. She also involved in local chicken and improved variety of Kamrupa birds farming.

She never sold her chicken eggs as she produced chicks by natural hatching and reared them up to 3 months and sold them in market as a source of meat.

Special Strength

Smt. Baglari has become one of the most successful people in poultry farming because of her constant learning attitude and has the courage of taking risk in different situation. KVK provides her with constant technical support and market linkage for egg as well as meat.

Success Points / Results

Smt. Baglari earned a handsome amount of Rs. 1, 17,000.00 per annum by rearing of poultry. She has got an amount of Rs.5100.00 monthly by selling hatching eggs of duck. She also sold ducklings produced by her natural hatching with local chicken @Rs. 45.00/day old ducklings which generate an income of Rs. 2000.00 per month. She also sold quail eggs at Rs. 3.00/eggs to the villagers and in local nearby market area which provides her an income of Rs. 600.00/month, Rs.2100.00/month by selling of grower chicken @ 340.00/ kg at wholesale price.

Outcomes / Extension aspects

She became the role model for her villagers especially for women's of the village and nearby villages. She sales her ducklings and chicks to nearby 3 villages and sales eggs for artificial hatching to Mr. Cias Daimari, Udalguri, dogormokha village. So as of now she involved in horizontal transfer of technology to total 140 nos of fellow farmers in Udalguri district.



Fig 1: free scavenging of Khaki Campbell duck



Fig 2: Semi intensive system of duck rearing



Fig 3: two storied housing for quail and Kamrupa birds



Fig 4: Discussion with farm woman

Conclusion

The present investigation revealed that as maximum population in Udalguri district are living in rural areas and woman are mainly busy in household works. So poultry farming in backyard system which can run smoothly by woman farmer can be able to upgrade the livelihood of the rural areas. Also there is good market linkage as the demand is more in the district as well as adjacent districts which can lead to transform the economy of the district as well as Assam.

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