



Empowerment through Scientific Backyard Poultry Farming

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ABSTRACT

Backyard poultry farming is a viable enterprise with low initial investment along with higher income and improved the livelihood and socio economic status of the small and marginal farm woman. However, farm woman are getting low income due to conventional rearing of backyard poultry. KVK, Namakkal planned to improve their livelihood of the farm woman through various scientific interventions. KVK, Namakkal enhanced the skills and capacity building of farm woman through training programme on scientific backyard poultry farming and motivate the farm woman through distribution of improved germplasm of desi poultry, night shelters, on farm trials and front line demonstrations. Farm woman adopted scientific backyard poultry farming and getting additional income of Rs.17000 to Rs.19000 per annum, provided additional income to the family and increased their socio economic status.

Situation Analysis


Backyard poultry farming is the important activity of rural woman of Namakkal district in Tamil Nadu. Namakkal district was known for egg production. However, Backyard poultry farmers live in a low socio economic status due to adoption of traditional backyard poultry farming. The farm woman involved in backyard poultry farming reared non-descript birds which yielded low egg production (50-60 eggs), less body weight (1 to 1.1 kg at 5 months of age), low hatchability percentage from natural brooding and early chick mortality. Backyard poultry farmers reared birds without proper housing and find difficult to protect the desi birds from predator during night time. Backyard poultry was only sufficient to meet family needs.

Plan, Implementation and Support

The KVK, Namakkal adopted Naraikinaru and Mangalapuram villages of Namagiripettai block of Namakkal district. KVK scientists visited the village advised farmers to get a training of their interest and form a group by involving women of their village. In the year, 2019-2020 one woman group formed with 10 farm woman. After two years 5 more woman groups were formed with the participants of 55 farm woman. All 65 members of

the group enrolled themselves in Entrepreneurship Development Programme on backyard poultry farming conducted by KVK.

KVK Namakkal planned to enhanced livelihood and nutrition security of rural family through various scientific interventions. KVK improved the skills and capacity building on scientific backyard poultry rearing through on campus, off campus and skill development training programme. Farm woman trained on brooding management, least cost feed preparation, vaccination, deworming, ectoparasites management, candling and hatching of eggs using egg incubator etc. KVK motivated scientific backyard poultry farming by distribution of improved germplasm of desi bird (Vanaraja, Gramapriya, TANUVAS Aseel, TANUVAS Star chicken, and Aseel cross), Feed supplements probiotics EC as growth promoter, TANUVAS waterer with heater to control early chick mortality, semi automatic egg incubator with the capacity of 100 eggs to improve the hatchability percentage, night shelters for protection of desi birds from predators through ICAR OFT, FLD , TANUVAS FLD programmes, CPPM SCSP, and ICAR SCSP scheme.

		
Distribution of desi poultry night shelters to farmers by Vice chancellor of TANUVAS	Field visit to semi automatic incubator	Demonstration of Lasota vaccination to backyard farmers at adopted village

year	No of farm woman covered	Egg production (Eggs No/bird/year)	Body weight (kg)	Annual income per family (Rs)
2020-2021	20	145	1.75	17,500 - 18500
2021-2022	25	151	1.82	18000 - 19500
2022-2023	20	158	1.93	18500 - 19500

	
Field visit to backyard poultry unit	

Output:

Rural woman adopted scientific rearing backyard poultry as suggested by KVK. Now the backyard poultry lay eggs numbers up to 150 /bird /year and increased the body weight from 1.6 to 1.8 kg at the end of 5 months of age. The egg weight of improved variety of desi bird was higher (45-50 g) than the country chicken (35-40 g). Periodical

vaccination and deworming decreases the incidence of disease and increase the profitability in backyard farming. The main source of income for farm woman was from sale of surplus egg @ Rs 12-15/egg and sale of surplus cocks and hen @ Rs.350-450/kg. Backyard poultry manure used for nutritional kitchen garden.

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Outcome

Initially, backyard poultry satisfy the family nutritional security and now farmers selling surplus eggs and cocks on regular basis in local market and earn Rs. 17000-19000 per annum. Backyard poultry farmers keep in touch with KVK, Namakkal and as a follow up, animal science scientist visits the village for conducting group meeting and interacted with backyard poultry farmers regularly. KVK Namakkal provided all the need based advisories and skill for further expansion of the backyard poultry for reducing the cost of production.

Impact

Adoption of scientific backyard poultry farming improved the family economic status, social status, nutritional status, awareness level leads to a better life of farm woman. Now these farm women have become self dependent and even contributing to the overall income of the family. The farm woman reared improved variety of desi birds successfully and getting more income by directly selling backyard birds to the consumer in the local market. The farm woman from neighboring villages of adopted village approach the KVK for scientific backyard poultry farming.