

Performance Analysis and Socio Economic Aspect of the Village Chicken in Trincomalee District



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Abstract

A study was carried out to find the performance of village chicken and their socio-economic role in the society in Trincomalee district. Livestock sector includes cattle, goat and poultry keeping in which latter especially chicken farming with indigenous birds has a great contribution on the socio-economic values of the poultry farmers. The survey investigated socio-economic characters, rearing systems, feeding practices and major problems of village chicken in Trincomalee district. For this purpose five DS divisions were selected randomly and required informations gathered by using structured and pre tested questionnaires from 100 poultry farmers.

The survey investigated in Trincomalee district shows that, 56% of the farmers practiced crop-livestock mixed farming, 40% of the farmers practiced solely livestock farming and only 4% of the farmers practiced livestock- livestock mixed-farming, 91% farmers practiced part time, 9% of farmers practiced. Survey revealed that 81% of farmers reared only village chicken, 11% of the farmers reared village with layer and 8% of the farmer reared village chicken with broiler.

Also the research found that, Almost all (89%) the farmer kept their birds in exposed area in day time, during night birds come to main house or tree, the less percentage of farmers was rearing extensive system (4%) and intensive system, (7%). and 875 chicks, finisher 415, and egg laying hens 905 in the Trincomalee district. majority of them were indigenous breed womens participation was also found. Manure was left without proper management,

Most of the farmers allowed to roaming around 10-12 hours among concentrate feeders 70% of the village chicken rearer used rice bran at the rate of 75g-150g Higher percentage of rice bran usage may be because of higher availability

throughout the year and low cost compared than compound feed. The common feeding method was by broadcasting grain on the bare ground. Well and piped water supply served as drinking water source for village chicken , age at first laying of village chicken was 6.9 ± 1.17 months, weaning were practiced after nearly 9 months and when chicks were weaned, average weight of hens was 1.51 ± 2.31 kg and cock 2.1 ± 1.09 kg. Broody period is differed from D.S division to D.S division. Broody period depended on behavioral pattern of mother hens.

The average annual income for the village chicken production per year was unstable, because value of home consumption was high in the village chicken rearers farmers. The important limitation/constraints were scarcity of roaming area, theft of village chicken, civil war and displacement and disease during the dry season, particularly diarrhoea, Newcastle disease and fowl pox. Farmers common complain was the peak disease outbreak during April to August, 90% of village chicken rearers could not get medical advice from the regional veterinary surgeon. There was no organized marketing for village chickens and eggs. Chickens were sold alive to meet family needs and most sales take place at the home.

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