

PART- 4: Empowerment of farmwomen through backyard poultry

Low cost indigenous mother unit for rearing chicks

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Backyard poultry is an age old practice in rural India. It generates additional income for the resource poor farmwomen. But due to lack of technical knowhow, skill training, exposure and extension service, sustainability of day old chicks is a big challenge for them as mortality rate is very high during first 30 days. It occurs due to:

- ♦ Various viral diseases like Ranikhet and fowl pox
- ♦ More vulnerable to predators in free range condition
- ♦ Lack of maintenance of proper temperature
- ♦ Lack of vaccination
- ♦ No proper brooding house
- ♦ Improper cleaning and sanitation
- ♦ Non-provision of balanced feed

Keeping this in view, the Multi Agency Participatory Extension Model (MAPEM) project under ICAR-CIWA has developed a low cost chick rearing centre named as 'MOTHER UNIT' which is designed with all basic facilities for rearing of day old chicks up to 30 days. Two Youth Core Group (YCG) members consisting of one female and one male from the same village were identified to take care of the birds as well as the mother unit.

Features of Mother Unit:

- ♦ Comfortable and protection from outside predators
- ♦ Constructed with low cost locally available materials such as bamboo, wire net, bricks, etc.
- ♦ About 0.6 sq ft space per bird (600 sq ft/1000 birds) required
- ♦ One ft high of brick wall over which wire mesh up to 5 feet on sides with asbestos roofing
- ♦ Concrete dry floor with wood saw powder/ paddy husk as cover to prevent moisture.
- ♦ Daily floor cleaning and treatment with lime and bleaching powder.

Light and Temperature:

- ♦ One 200 watt eclectic bulb/two 100 watt bulbs at 1.5 to 2 feet above the floor with reflector.
- ♦ Requirement per chick is 2 watt in winter and 1 watt in summer.

Feed and drinking water:

- a. Provision of feed and water utensils in the mother unit
- b. Adding of glucose water for the chicks to keep them fresh and active.
- c. Providing of 2-3 times feed and water per day for the birds.
- d. Arrangement of feed (23 % protein) up to 20 days with gradual reduction in quantity.
- e. Outside feed as boiled rice, puffed rice, bookend rice, maize and wheat etc.
- f. Outside movement after 20 days and able to move freely outside and collect their food.
- g. Household food, vegetable peel, green leaf etc. as supplements.

Protection of bird:

Construct the poultry sheds 2ft above the ground to keep away the rat and snakes. Be vigilant in initial stage as in village area cat, jackal, fox are the main enemy of the poultry.

Poultry breeds suitable for backyard:

Banaraja, R.I.R, CARI Debendra, CARI Nirbheek, Grampriya and Kalingabrown

Vaccination/de worming (up to 30 days):-

Sl. No.	Age of the bird	Name of the vaccine	Mode of vaccination	Dose
1.	1 st day	Marex disease	Injection below neck skin	0.2 ml
2.	5-7 days	New castle or Ranikhet disease	Eye or nose by dropper	1-2 drop
3.	14-18 days	I.B.D or Gumboro	Eye or nose by dropper	1-2 drop
4.	21-28 days	Newcastle or Ranikhet disease Lassota (buster vaccine)	In drinking water mix milk powder and ice	1 dose/one bird

Source: CPDO, Bhubaneswar 'Management Guide'

Income from Mother Unit/year with capacity of 200 birds

Investment	Cost (Rs)
Day old chicks along with transportation	3200
Feed@0.75kg/bird@Rs30/kg.	4500
Medicine and vaccine	200
Other cost	500
Total investment	8400
Income (Total 190 birds with 5% mortality)	
Sale price Rs/chick	60
Total sale	11400
Profit per batch	3000
Profit per year (in 8 batches)	24000

The Youth Core Group should be vigilance during the whole month on following points

- ♦ Cleaning
- ♦ Maintaining temperature
- ♦ Disease inspection and vaccination of birds
- ♦ Feeding and drinking

The Mother Unit for backyard poultry can be taken up as a service unit for creating livelihood opportunity for the rural Youth by adopting it as an enterprise.

