
✓ **Backyard Poultry Farming with Vanaraja: A tool for Doubling Farmers Income of Arunachal Pradesh**

DONI. JINI, H. KALITA, R. A. ALONE, A. TASUNG, M. KANWAT, T. BORAH, B. YOMGAM, T. RINA, P. OPPO AND T. W. SALINGPA.

ICAR Research Complex For NEH Region, A.P. Centre, Basar, West Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh

ABSTRACT

In order to uplift the socio economic status of the poultry farmers in terms of nutritional and financial security supply of inputs in terms of quality (improved) chicks along with improved package of GMPs is required. To change them from self sustaining to production mode and to further in an entrepreneurship mode a technology should be selected that is simple, reliable, easily acceptable among the tribal population that are engaged in poultry rearing. Thus, a dual purpose poultry variety called Vanaraja developed by DPR, Rajendra nagar was chosen to be implemented. It resembles *desi*/local birds in terms of plumage colour, egg shell, hardiness and tastes similar to that of *desi* birds and its meat or eggs will fetch the same price as that of

local birds. High egg laying capacity and higher weight gain of Vanaraja over the local birds with minimum feed supplementation of locally available ingredients makes it more suitable for the farmers. Thus, Vanaraja poultry birds were reared for 1.5 months at the ICAR, Basar poultry unit and distributed to the farmers @20 birds (15 female + 5 male)/ farmers along with some feed and medicine for adapting in the farmers field. Low cost poultry shed were constructed with area LXBXH (11ft X 6ft X 3 feet) with provision of 4 nos of hanging feeder and waterer. Feeds like crushed maize & broken rice were provided @70gms/ birds. During pre and post monsoon for preventive measure antiparasitic drugs were administered as per the recommended doses. At the time of egg production i.e around 23 week onward extra feed supplement like calcium based formulation were provided for a week and then repeated after 1 months to reduce cannibalism (vent peaking). During winter season artificial heat source like 50 watt bulb/10 chicks were provided. Time to time vaccination of bird particularly for RD (F1, R2B), and fowl pox was done as per schedule. Brooding during winter (Nov -Jan) in mid altitude and (sep-jan) high altitude were avoided to reduce the mortality and hatchability. It was observed that following this package of practice there was higher production and less incidence of diseases. The performance parameters of Vanaraja i.e., Age at marketing (weeks), Age at sexual maturity (weeks), Age at first egg production (weeks), Average egg weight (gm), Annual egg production (AEP) were 13 ± 1.12 , 23 ± 0.45 , 23.42 ± 0.33 , 51.33 ± 0.63 , 110.24 ± 1.23 and for local birds were 48 ± 1.36 , 21 ± 0.68 , 22.57 ± 0.11 , 48 ± 0.32 , 55.15 ± 1.41 respectively. While Economic Returns of the technology (20 birds); i.e., Net annual income, Income per bird and C: B Ratio of Vanaraja were Rs. 7053.67, Rs352.33 and 1:1.36 and for local birds were Rs. 3662, Rs 276.33 and 1:0.62 respectively. Thus, it was found that Vanaraja birds were beneficial for doubling farmers Income compared to non descript indigeneous birds.