

Performance analysis of village chicken production in Trincomalee district

M.M. Mahusoon, K.J. Nithaharan and S. Rauff

Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Chenkalady-30350

Abstract

A study was conducted to find out the productive performance and production patterns of village chicken in existing flock in the Trincomalee district. The study covered 150 farmers in 15 villages, from three veterinary ranges in the Trincomalee district during the period March to August 2007. Random Sampling method was used in this study and data were analysed using descriptive statistics.

Socio-economic profiles of farmers, village chicken, management practices, productivity parameters, disease occurrence, marketing, cost of production and constraints to productions were studied using a pre-tested questionnaire. The main source of income of chicken farmers (72%) was derived from crop production while village chicken supplied additional income. All the village chicken was managed by the family members. Farmers let the birds to roam in the day time and during night time shelters were provided. Night shelters were constructed generally by locally available materials. The average flock size in the district was 10 ± 4 birds. Most of the cockerels and the young hens were used for breeding. The common feeding method was by broadcasting grains on the bare ground. Supplementary feed such as rice, squeezed coconut scrap and vegetable wastes were provided during night time. Manure was left without proper management. Age at first laying of village chicken was 6.9 ± 1.17 months. The average weight of hen and cockerel were 1.51 ± 2.31 kg and 2.1 ± 1.09 kg, respectively. Brooding period differed on behavioral pattern of mother hens. The main reasons for keeping village chicken were family consumption and generation of income. The average price for adult male and female birds was Rs.400.00 \pm 50.92 and Rs.350 \pm 30.83, respectively. The average price for a dozen of eggs was Rs.120 \pm 5.16. The average annual income from village chicken production per year is unstable, due to the consumption pattern of the village chicken farmers. Diarrhoea, newcastle disease and fowl pox during dry season were the main disease of economic important of village chicken production. Scarcity of roaming area, theft of village chicken, civil war and displacement and lack of supportive services, were the major limitations that faced by the village chicken farmers in this district. The result revealed that, village chicken production is a part time livelihood industry for small farmers in Trincomalee district which improves the family nutrition and additional income.

Keywords: Performance, Socio-economic, Trincomalee district, Village chicken