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Original Article



Backyard Poultry Farming: A Source of Income and Employment Generation

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Enterprise: Poultry

Name of the Farmer(s)- Shri Meghraj Singh Chadrawat

Address- Gram & Post- Talidana, Tahseel- Piploda, District- Ratlam (M.P.)-457340

Mobile No- 8959439898



Brief Description of the Farm / Enterprise :-

Sh. Meghraj Singh Chadrawat is an educated farmer resident of a village Talidana, block Piploda, district Ratlam of Madhya Pradesh. He is a progressive agriculturist involved in multifarious farming activities, including rearing a few desi birds for some time. After acquaintance with the Veterinary Science scientist of Krishi Vigyan kendra Jaora, Ratlam, during a village visit, he expressed keen interest in including backyard poultry farming in his farming portfolio. During subsequent interactions, he disclosed that he is interested in adopting backyard poultry farming on a regular basis, a lack of good-quality chicks and institutional support impeded his initiative in this direction. After regular interaction with Krishi Vigyan kendra Scientist, he was coopted as a field unit for evaluation of the new location-specific poultry variety. Being of farming community, it was

decided to include him as a beneficiary under the Front Line Demonstration program (Fig.-1 & 2) and provided input support along with chicks to start with the occupation in September 2023.

Sh. Meghraj Singh Chadrawat was extended technical advice from time to time, including preventive measures against prevalent poultry diseases. The growth performance of the chicks was periodically monitored. Owing to his previous experience of village-level poultry farming, mortality in his flock was very low (<5%) during chick and growing phases. The egg-laying in his flock started, at 5-6 months of age. He sold male birds at 5-6 months of age after attaining marketable weight (1.0–1.5 kg) at an attractive price of Rs. 750 per male. This earned him a good income of about Rs 15000/from the sale of 20 kadaknath. The egg production of female birds was around 17–21 eggs per day during peak production in the winter months. During this period, he was able to sell eggs at Rs. 18-20 per egg, making a total sale proceeds of Rs 9180-12600/month. At present, he is getting about 10-12 eggs daily, giving him an income of Rs. 180-240 per day. He practiced a mixed system of scavenging with grain feeding for rearing birds at bare minimum input cost. He also practices supplementation with vitamins, minerals, and calcium from time to time. Realizing that the level of profit from the small unit of 50 birds that he made. Thus, with a small flock of around 50 birds, Sh. Meghraj Singh Chadrawat earned handsome returns. This provided evidence that raising chickens in one's backyard in conjunction with other farming pursuits can be a financially sustainable agricultural diversification strategy for generating income and a means of subsistence in a hill farming system.



Figure 1:- Distribution of Kadaknath Chicks to Farmers under Front Line Demonstration Program



Figure 2:- Backyard Poultry Farming at Farmer Feild