

Success story

Inclusion of alternate feeds to reduce feed cost in backyard poultry

1	Background of farmer	:	Th. Sheik Mohammed S/o, Ali Akbar, 3/479, Melatheru, Mannargudi. 9940723046 Land holding : 76 Acres Source of Irrigation : single submersible bore well and Canal water Details : He initially had only dry land based Integrated Farming System that comprises of ten numbers of cattle, 35 numbers of goat and few country chicks, guinea fowl, turkey and goose. The manure obtained from the animal's dung is used for the production fodder crops and Azolla.
2	Intervention Process	:	Trainings and repeated diagnostic visit to the farm.
3	Intervention technology	:	Inclusion of alternate feeds to reduce feed cost in backyard poultry.
4	Impact Horizontal spread	:	ICAR-KVK, Thiruvapur introduced 150 numbers of NAMAKKAL-1 country chicks to the farm. It is advised to raise the birds with concentrate commercial feed only for first two weeks old and following that the concentrate feed is gradually replaced by alternate feed sources like Azolla, Agathi, and finely chopped CO-4 fodder grass mixed with one-fourth (25g/day) instead of the recommended quantity of concentrate feed (100g/day).
5	Impact economic gains	:	The Namakkal- 1 country chicks gained 1.4 -1.6 kg within 12 weeks and ready for sale and the eggs produced weigh more than 60 g and were given to hatchery to obtain chicks. Technically 4.8 Kg of commercial concentrate feed is required to achieve this weight that costs Rs.30/Kg of feed; hence the cost of production per bird along with vaccines will be Rs.150. But by introduction of alternate low cost feeds sources the quantity has been reduced to one-third that is with 1.5-1.8kg of feed and cost of production came down to Rs.75 per bird with inclusion of production of green fodder.
6	Impact on employment generation	:	Now he strongly feels that replacing the commercial feed with nutritious, easily available alternate feeds can fetch more revenue. The farmers visiting ICAR-KVK, Thiruvapur for technical inputs about rearing desi fowl in their backyard are directed to SAK farm for hands on information. The manager of the farm explains the activities and teaches them how to reduce feed cost by the alternate feeding practices adopted by them. The backyard poultry farmers after seeing their practise, procured azolla seeds from SAK farm and started producing in their own farm to feed the birds, in turn to reduce the feed cost.