

BACKYARD DUCKERY FARMING

EMPOWERING FARM WOMEN THROUGH BACKYARD DUCKERY FARMING

DETAILS OF BENEFICIARY FARMERS:

Jacqueline Fernandez (Owner-What's the duck farm), House number- 100, Ward no. 03, Tamsoda, Dharbandora, South Goa, Goa, 403406,

PROBLEMS/CONSTRAINTS

A benchmark survey was carried out in an institute project named “Augmenting backyard poultry production through technological interventions in breeding, feeding and management aspects in west coast”. After detailed interaction with the farm women, the constraints were categorized as follows:

1. The high cost of feed increasing the cost of production
2. The hot and humid climate of Goa affecting the efficiency of production and flock health
3. The problem in procuring suitable germplasm of ducks and further propagation to produce replacement stock

INTERVENTIONS

The farmer was trained for preparing feed by using locally available feed ingredients. She has started her Azolla unit for feeding ducks to reduce the feed cost. The bio-waste of the farm is being utilized for rearing Black soldier fly larvae which in turn fed as an alternate source of protein for adult ducks.

The hot and humid climate favours fungal growth in feed which hampers the productivity of ducks since ducks are highly susceptible to aflatoxin. Hence, the farmer has been trained to select quality ingredients, store feed properly, and alleviate toxicity through different measures. ICAR-CCARI introduced the farmer to scientific management of duckery farm and breeding strategies for the propagation of flock.



IMPACT

Farmer has been following a semi intensive deep litter system of rearing and letting the birds scavenge in the daytime in the land. Practising alternate feeding practices has reduced the feed cost from 80% to 60%. Solid waste materials of her farm are used as an organic fertilizer for the fields. She goes for slaughtering and dressing of the birds, which fetch more price in the market. Now she earns more than 3.5 Lakhs from the sale of ducks per year. She initiated rearing Kuttanad ducks by procuring from our institute recently. At present, she has 300 White Pekin ducks with three sets.



Authors : Dr Nibedita Nayak, Scientist (Poultry Science)