Estimation of feeding cost for different levels of *Asparagus racemosus* (Shatavari) and *Withania somnifera* (Ashwagandha) for broilers

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Feed is a major component affecting net return from the poultry business, because 80 per cent of the total expenditure in terms of cash is spent on feed purchase. To ensure more net return and to minimize high expenditure on feed are the main challenges for which many research strategies such as introducing feed supplements and feed additives have been practiced. An experiment was conducted on 240 commercial broiler chicks i.e. day old (Ven Cobb Strain). The chicks were divided into four groups, each of three replicates of 20 chicks each. The chicks were kept in floor pens, water and feed were provided *ad libitum* throughout the experimental period of 42 days. Four experimental diets were prepared, without any supplementation (T<sub>1</sub>) control, with supplementation of Ashwagandha powder @ 5 kg/t of feed (T<sub>2</sub>), with supplementation of Shatavari powder @ 10kg/t of feed (T<sub>3</sub>) and with supplementation of Ashwagandha and Shatavari @10kg/t of feed (T<sub>4</sub>). The cost of feed required to produce a kg live weight was lowest (Rs.36.11) for the control (T<sub>1</sub>) group as compared to (T<sub>2</sub>) group (Rs.38.31), (T<sub>3</sub>) group (Rs.37.01) and (T<sub>4</sub>) group (Rs 39.16). Net profit per bird for control T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> treatment groups were Rs.33.35, Rs.29.09, Rs.34.2 and Rs. 27.5 respectively. It was concluded that supplementation of Shatavari powder @ 10 kg/t and Ashwagandha 5 kg/t of feed was costly compared to control group.

Biography
Ritesh Nikam has completed his MSc (Agri.) in discipline of Animal Husbandry from Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani. Now he is pursuing his PhD (Agri.) from Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (Maharashtra).