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Backyard poultry farming in Ganderbal district of Kashmir, India

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This study is based on the premise that promotion poultry farming can help the state to bridge the gap between demand and supply of eggs and poultry meat as well as generate self employment to reduce poverty and empower rural women. Since time immemorial backyard poultry farming has played an important role to meet the domestic as well as socio-cultural needs of the rural people. However, the traditional poultry farming in villages has suffered in the wake of commercialization in the recent years. Thus, the present study had been conceptualized with the overall objective to search out the existing status of backyard poultry farming and identify the constraints perceived by poultry owners in Ganderbal district of Kashmir, India. The study was conducted in randomly selected fifteen villages of three sub-regions of Ganderbal district of Kashmir. Data were collected through a structured interview schedule from 240 respondents i.e., 80 each from the three sub-regions. The analysis of data revealed that respondents were predominantly young had low level of education belonged to Muslim religion and were from the general caste category with medium sized nuclear family. Agricultural labor was the major occupation; they had marginal land and medium livestock holding with more than 7 years of poultry farming experience. The average flock size was 8 birds and they reared birds in free-range/backyard system with little supplementary feeding. The production level was very low. Natural hatching was the main source of chicks. No systematic care was taken with regard to the diseases and vaccination of the birds was also not carried out in any of the villages surveyed. Direct marketing was prevalent in the study area although middlemen also existed. The major constraints identified were high incidence of poultry diseases, lack of suitable germ-plasm and attack by predators.

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Evaluation of whole sugarcane based ration in lactating crossbred cows

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The study was undertaken to evaluate the effect of feeding whole sugarcane based ration on the performance of lactating crossbred cows. Twenty lactating cows of average 370 kg body weight were divided in four similar groups viz. T₀, T₁, T₂ and T₃. Control group (T₀) was fed on concentrate and green maize as roughage. Animals in groups T₁, T₂ and T₃ groups were fed with concentrate and green chopped whole sugarcane @ 50%, 75% and 100% of total roughage dry matter requirement respectively and remaining roughage DM was provided through jowar kadbi. Experimental feeding was carried out for 180 days. A digestion trial was conducted at the end of experimental feeding. Dry matter digestibility was higher in animals fed solely on whole sugarcane as roughage portion of the diet. Digestibility of crude protein was significantly higher in animals fed 100% whole sugarcane than other groups as well as animals fed jowar kadbi along with whole sugarcane in their ration showed significantly higher CP digestibility when compared to control ration. The DCP and TDN contents were 7.98, 7.57, 7.87, 8.10 and 65.84, 62.67, 65.67, 68.16% in the T₀, T₁, T₂ and T₃ diets respectively. There was no adverse effect on nutrient intake and utilization even when 100% whole sugarcane was used in the ration. There was no adverse effect on reproductive performance of crossbred cows. It is therefore concluded that whole sugarcane can be fed solely to lactating cows as source of roughage without adverse effect on production, reproduction performance and nutrient utilization.

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