

## ECONOMICS OF BACKYARD POULTRY UNITS

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### ABSTRACT

A study was conducted in Ratnagiri and Raigad district on konkan region of Maharashtra state. Backyard poultry unit is low cost technology with good income source to small farmers with direct and indirect benefit. Mortality of chicks, no vaccination programme at village level and natural enemies of chicks were the main constraints in these backyard poultry units. Arrangement of vaccination programme at village level at proper stage, availability of dispensary at village level and arrangement of training of poultry management were major suggestion from farmer.

**Key words :** Backyard poultry unit, Economic viability

### INTRODUCTION :

Backyard poultry units are generally of local poultry birds or domestic fowl (*Gallus domesticus*) grown in backyard of the farmers house or on farm house. It has income and employment generating potential for rural people, landless labourers, small and marginal farmers and more youths. It has become a vital component of farm economy as it provides additional income to the weaker sections of the society. This poultry unit plays a vital role of welfare economics. This is traditional farming system. This units not only directly add benefits to the farmers in terms of income but also give poultry litters as organic fertilizer to the crop. Eggs and meat fulfill the household requirements with nutritive value. Poultry birds keep the backyard worm free. Looking to the importance of the backyard poultry units. The study was conducted with the specific following objectives.

1. To study the economic viability of the backyard poultry units.
2. To know the constraints faced by the respondents in growing backyard poultry units.
3. To study the suggestions obtained by the farmers to overcome their problems in poultry management.

### METHODOLOGY :

The study was conducted in Ratnagiri and Raigad districts of Konkan region in the jurisdiction of the Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli. From each district two tahsils were selected. From each tahsil four villages were selected and from each village 6-7 farmers were selected randomly. Thus total sample comprised of 100 poultry growers having minimum 20 birds. The data were collected with the help of specially designed interview schedule. The data were analyzed with the suitable statistical techniques and methods. Economic variability of backyards was worked out by calculating the variable and fixed cost.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION :

**1. Economic viability of the backyard poultry units**—The economic viability of the backyard poultry units was worked out and it is presented in table 1. As indicated earlier poultry comprises of local birds, the returns from the same are also expected to be low. Of the total cost (Rs. 1361.15/-), variable cost accounted more than 95% in this domestic poultry units. The variable cost was Rs. 1306.23/- and fixed cost was Rs. 54.92/- The profit over variable cost was Rs. 802.31/- and net profit was Rs. 747.39/-. From this, it indicated that with low cost technology poultry growers were getting quite good income with direct and indirect benefits. each farmer had on an average 25 poultry birds.

**Table 1. Cost and return on local birds**

Total birds: 2527 No. of farmers : 100 Average birds /farmer : 25		
Sr. No.	Items	No. of respondent (n=100 )
<b>A.</b>	<b>Variable cost</b>	
1.	Cost of chicks	205 (15.05)
2.	Feed cost	256.89 (18.86)
3.	Labour cost	630.41 (46.27)
4.	Medicine and veterinary cost	27 (1.98)
5.	Miscellaneous cost (electricity, litter etc.)	36.66 (2.69)
6.	Interest on working capital (13%)	150.27 (11.03)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1306.23 (95.88)</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Fixed cost</b>	
1.	Depreciation on cages baskets, building and equipments (10%)	29.94 (2.29)
2.	Interest on land etc. (1/10th )	-
3.	Interest on fixed capital (10%)	24.98 (1.83)
	<b>Total cost</b>	<b>1361.15 (100.00)</b>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Item of returns</b>	
1.	Value of sold eggs	534.34
2.	Value of sold birds	1574.20
	Total return	2108.54
	Profit at cost ' A'	802.31
	Net profit	747.39

(Figures in parentheses indicate percentages)

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**2. Constraints faced by the respondents in growing backyard poultry units**—The constraints faced by the poultry farmers are given in table 2. From table it is observed that the major problems faced by the poultry farmers were ‘mortality of chicks is more’ (82.00 per cent), ‘no vaccination programme at proper time at the village’ (71.00 per cent), ‘picking of chicks and birds by it’s natural enemies like crow, kite, mungoos and snake. (60.00 per cent),’lack of technical knowledge of poultry management’ (59.00 per cent),’low market price to poultry birds and eggs (54.00 per cent) and ‘lack of finance to commercial poultry farming’ (51.00 per cent).

**Table 2. Constraints faced by the poultry farmers in backyard poultry units**

Sr. No.	Constraints	Percentages of respondents
1.	Mortality of the chicks is more	82.00
2.	No vaccination programme at proper time at the village and nearby.	71.00
3.	Picking of chicks and birds by it’s natural enemies like crow, kite, mungoos and snake.	60.00
4.	Lack of technical knowledge of poultry business	59.00
5.	Low market price to poultry birds and eggs	54.00
6.	Lack of finance for commercial poultry managemnet	51.00
7.	Sometime birds damage the standing crops in search of food	29.00
8.	Government veterinary doctor/ dispensary is not nearby villages	28.00

The other minor constraints were ‘sometime birds damage the standing crops in search of food’ (29.00 per cent) and ‘Government doctor / dispensary is not nearby village’ (28.00 per cent).

**3. Suggestions to overcome the problems faced by the poultry farmers**—From table 3 it is seen that the major suggestions to overcome these problems faced by the poultry farmers were ‘vaccination programme may be done at proper stage’ (64.00 per cent),’ dispensary should be near the village with sufficient staff and medicine’ (56.00 per cent),’training may be given by government department on poultry management’ (52.00 per cent) and ‘proper market prices for the poultry product may be decided by the government’ (29.00 per cent).

**Table 3. Suggestions to overcome the constraints faced by the poultry farmers**

Sr. No.	Suggestions	No. of respondents (%)
1.	Vaccination programme may be done at proper time	64.00
2.	Dispensary may be near the village with sufficient staff and with proper medical stock	56.00
3.	Trainingon poultry management may be given by governmental departments	52.00
4.	Proper market prices for the poultry products may be provided by the government.	29.00

**CONCLUSION :**

There is great scope for improvement in backyard poultry units as it is good profitable and supporting to field crops. The government departments, agencies agricultural universities, bazar samities etc. may take into consideration the problems reported by the poultry growers and suggestions offered by them and try to mitigate in a definite period.

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