

## Original Research Article

# Impact of Rearing Rajashri Birds on Improving the Livelihood of Farmers

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## ABSTRACT

Raising of local poultry breeds in backyard farming is an important source of livelihood for the rural people. KVK Yagantipalle is promoting rearing of Rajashri birds by supplying chicks to farmers on cost basis. Day old chicks were brought and kept for rearing for 4 weeks and proper vaccination is given and supplied to farmers. The present study was conducted to know the impact of rearing Rajashri birds which were supplied to farmers during the years 2017 and 2018. Economic analysis indicated that net returns per bird was 221.02 and 207.67 for the birds supplied during 2017 and 2018 respectively. The weekly egg production was resulted as 3.61 and 3.52, sale price of eggs was Rs. 5.86 and Rs. 5.64 respectively during 2017 and 2018. Similarly, sale price of female birds were resulted as Rs. 169.80 and Rs. 165.20 and the average expenditure per bird resulted as Rs. 76.88 and Rs. 77.24 respectively for birds supplied during 2017 and 2018 respectively.

### Keywords

Rajashri birds,  
livelihood,  
backyard farming  
and Economic  
analysis

## Introduction

Agriculture farming is not remunerative in the current scenario due to constant droughts, pests and vagaries in marketing. There is a great distress among people in rural areas in recent times. Therefore, supplementing the rural families with subsidiary income by rearing livestock which doesn't require expensive inputs would improve the economic status of distress families. Thus promoting backyard poultry farming with improved chicken varieties are expected to result in increased income and also providing balanced food to the less privileged rural

population. Backyard poultry farming is a potential tool to alleviate rural unemployment besides providing balanced food (egg and chicken meat) by utilizing the natural food base available in rural backyard. "Rajashri" a dual purpose bird, developed for backyard farming has a great potential due to its versatile capacity to adapt in various climatic conditions. These birds are exclusively raised in the backyards, spread across all categories of households. KVK Yagantipalle is promoting rearing of Rajashri birds by supplying chicks to farmers on cost basis. Day old chicks were brought and kept for rearing for 4 weeks and proper vaccination is

also given. Keeping this in view, the study was conducted with the following objectives to know the impact of rearing these Rajashri birds on livelihood of farmers.

### **Objectives**

To know the adaptability of Rajashri birds supplied by KVK

To identify the economic impact of Rajashri birds

To get the feedback for improvement

### **Materials and Methods**

The study was carried out during 2019-20 using Ex-post-facto research design. A sample of 50 beneficiaries were selected for the study to whom Rajashri birds were supplied during 2017-18 and 2018-19. Frequency and percentage were the statistical tools used for the study.

### **Results and Discussion**

#### **Adaptability of Rajashri birds**

From Table 1 it was observed that out of 3176 birds supplied during the year 2018 almost 57 per cent of the Rajashri birds were sold by the farmers, 27.64 per cent of them are alive and 15.62 per cent of the birds were dead. Among the birds supplied during the year 2017 64.01 per cent were sold and 35.99 per cent of the birds were dead. Whereas, none of them were alive.

#### **Economic Impact of Rajashri Chicks**

The average sale price of male birds were Rs. 174.70 and 176.40 for the birds supplied during 2017 and 2018 respectively. The weekly egg production was resulted as 3.61

and 3.52, sale price of eggs was Rs. 5.86 and Rs. 5.64 respectively during 2017 and 2018. Similarly, sale price of female birds were resulted as Rs. 169.80 and Rs. 165.20 and the average expenditure per bird resulted as Rs. 76.88 and Rs. 77.24 respectively for birds supplied during 2017 and 2018 respectively. The net returns per bird was 221.02 and 207.67 for the birds supplied during 2017 and 2018 respectively.

The average annual consumption of eggs per family increased from 100 eggs/annum to 600 eggs/annum. The number of hens per unit household is the best indicator to measure the impact of poultry development in villages (Kornel, 2006). Rearing of Rajashri birds reveals a significant increase in egg production with high increase in subsidiary income (Naga Raja Kumari and Subrahmanyeswari, 2014). It was concluded that synthetic cross bred high yielding birds are suitable in backyard system of rearing and profit making (Padhi *et al.*, 2003). Similarly findings were observed by Chatterji *et al.*, (2002) and Bhattacharya *et al.*, (2005).

#### **Feedback for improvement**

Table 3 shows that 64.00 per cent of the respondents expressed that mortality of birds due to disease attack followed by problem of wild cats and dogs (58%), due to cannibalism (48%), problem of labour for maintenance (24%) and high temperatures led to mortality of birds (12%).

From the present study, it can be concluded that Rajashri bird performs better in terms of productivity and provides subsidiary income to the family. Taking the constraints into consideration the Government should treat poultry farming par with agriculture and may extend all the benefits to poultry farmers as provided to agriculturists.

**Table.1** Present status of Rajashri Chicks

(N=50)

S.No.	Technology		2018 (n=25)				2017 (n=25)			
			No. of distributed	No. of alive	No. of dead	No. of sold	No. of distributed	No. of alive	No. of dead	No. of sold
1	Rajashri Chicks	Frequency	3176	878	496	1802	1845	0	664	1181
		Percentage	100	27.64	15.62	56.74	100	0.00	35.99	64.01

**Table.2** Economic Impact of Rajashri Chicks

(N=50)

	Male	Female	Total	Sale price of male bird (Average)	Weekly Egg production (Average)	No. of weeks (Average)	sale price of Eggs (Average)	Sale of female (Average)	Expenditure per bird
<b>2017</b>	709	472	1181	Rs. 174.7	3.61	15.09	Rs. 5.86	Rs. 169.8	Rs. 76.88
<b>2018</b>	1608	1072	2680	Rs. 176.4	3.52	14.23	Rs. 5.64	Rs. 165.2	Rs. 77.24

**Table.3** Income obtained

	2018	2017
Sale of male birds (Rs.)	283651.20	123862.30
Sale of eggs (Rs.)	302815.33	150630.42
Sale of hens (Rs.)	177094.40	77313.60
Total Income (Rs.)	763560.93	351806.32
Total Expenditure (Rs.)	207000.00	90800.00
Gross Returns (Rs.)	556560.93	261006.32
Income from each Bird (Rs.)	207.67	221.02

**Table.4** Constraints faced by the farmers

(N=50)

S.No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage
1	Disease attack	32	64.00
2	Problem of wild cats and dogs	29	58.00
3	Due to cannibalism	24	48.00
4	Labour problem	12	24.00
5	Mortality due to high temperatures	6	12.00

The backyard chicken and egg produced with low input can be sold at a higher price compared to commercial birds, thus ensuring a wider scope for commercial exploitation.

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