

Promotion of Indigenous, native bird based Poultry under the Integrated Village Development Project

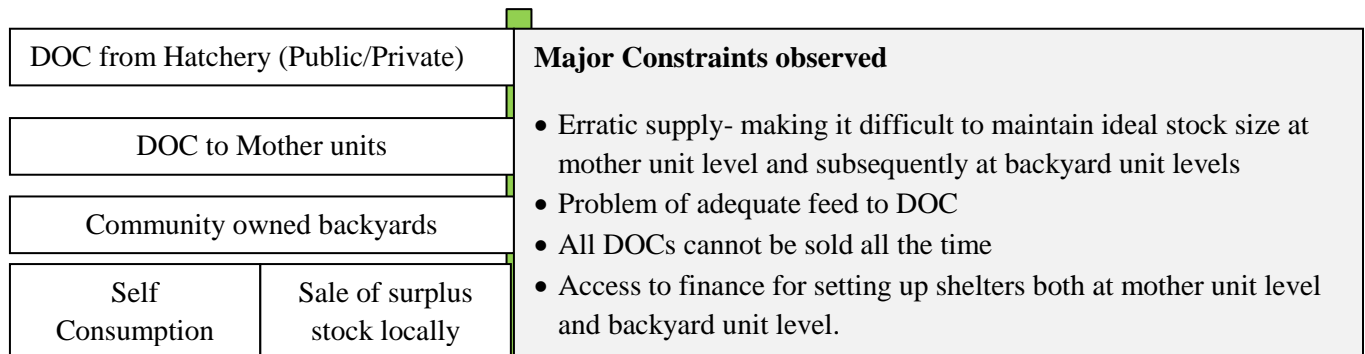
Introduction:

The use of native birds for rural backyard poultry production has been practices in Uttarakhand since ages, however the genetic potential has not been fully utilized. Indigenous breeds are well known for their adaptability and disease resistance, while their plumage color helps in protecting themselves against predators. In India a good number of breeds/varieties have been documented some of these include Aseel, Ankaleshwar, Busra Chitagong, Daothigir, Denki, Ghagus, Haringhatta black, Kadaknath, Kalasthi, Kashmir Faverolla, etc, apart from these a good number are nondescript desi birds are also reported.



In Uttarakhand, poultry has traditionally been reared in the backyards. The activity has been carried out for domestic consumption as well as catering to the local demand of egg and meat. Despite the increasing presence of broilers and Kuroiler even in the hills, the demand for local birds and eggs is still widespread and also fetches good value. The availability of local poultry birds and eggs has also shown a sharp decline over the years. The reasons for the same are many, prominent amongst these include the economics of scale. Over the years extensive research and development has been carried out towards commercialization of poultry. The interventions include development of such species in which broodiness is not achieved. However on the other hand broodiness is considered as an ideal characteristic for the propagation of species in wild conditions.

Himmothan Society is making efforts to revive the indigenous poultry system in few of its clusters. The main focus of the initiative is to cap the key constraints that are identified in the broiler and Kuroiler supply chains.



Key constraints with local fowl

- A. Produces roughly 40 eggs in its 18 month cycle
- B. Weight gain of around (1 Kg) takes 18-20 weeks

Interventions made

- A. Identifying local birds (Indigenous) that have the least possibility of cross breeding (Either through Kuroiler or other exotic poultry bird species).
- B. Establishing a mother stock of the local birds and allowing them to acclimatize as per the local surroundings
- C. Free range system adopted for mother stock
- D. Allowing the mother stock to start laying eggs unit sufficient quantity of eggs is available.
- E. Countering erratic supply of DOC through establishing a mini hatchery unit close to the community practicing poultry.
- F: A brooder unit has been established at village Almas. The capacity of the brooder is to raise 400-600 DOC. Apart from the conventional brooder, an extension of wire mesh has been added to the brooder which allows the birds to roam in the open yet remains free from being attacked by animals. Apart from the wire mesh extension the birds also go for scavenging.



Impact: The promotion of local bird based poultry not only helps in spreading the benefits to a large section of the community. 13 backyards, 2 mother units, 1 brooder unit and 1 hatchery unit is 17 families directly, each unit has its own share of profit margins. The 13 families associated with the backyards are making income through sale of eggs locally and also to the brooder along with the sale of chickens to the local market. These chickens are fetching a price of Rs. 350-400 per bird, on an average a family is supplementing Rs. 3000/- from the intervention, the same is the case of families maintaining the mother units. The brooder is selling 21 day chicks at the rate of Rs. 75 per chick. The brooder is not only supplying chicks locally but also fulfilling the demand of nearby districts. The brooder unit average income has remained between 5000 Rs to 12000 Rs. Per month.