

# Sustainable livelihood through high-value *Kadakhnath* poultry farming

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*Kadakhnath* poultry was recommended to the native farmers of Kasdol block under the Farmer FIRST Programme. Around 6,000 *Kadakhnath* chicks were procured and provided to 120 farm families. Fifty *Kadakhnath* chicks (25-30 days old) were provided to each beneficiary. Various capacity building programmes regarding the scientific methods of production, vaccination schedule and marketing were provided. Steps were also taken to train the beneficiaries in the management of hatchery units. Farmers were highly benefitted through the project by earning considerable income and became financially stable.

**Key words:** Chhattisgarh, FFP, *Kadakhnath*, Poultry farming, Tribal farmers

**A**N Indian poultry breed, *Kadakhnath*, is native to Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh. It is famous for its black meat known for its quality, texture and flavour. This species is known to have special medicinal value in homoeopathy and in curing a particular nervous disorder. The bird is high in iron and amino acids and low in fat and cholesterol. The breed is disease-resistant and is valued for the quality and flavour of its black meat. *Kadakhnath* chicken contains many kinds of amino acids (18 kinds of amino acids including the 8 essential amino acids for the human body), Vitamins B1, B2, B6, B12, C and E, niacin, protein, fat, calcium, phosphorus, iron, nicotinic acid, etc.

**Focus area:** Small, marginal, landless farmers, farm women and resource-poor tribal farmers.

**Challenges:** Resource-poor and subsistence farming, migration to other states and places due to lack of alternative livelihood options, lack of suitable poultry breed, monoculture cropping system (rice), lack of irrigation resources and low awareness level.

## Extension activity adopted

Based on the farmer's situation, available resources and socio-economic status, *Kadakhnath* poultry was provided to the farmers under the Farmer FIRST Programme (FFP). Initially, 6 farming groups were created. Around 6,000 *Kadakhnath* chicks were procured from KVK, Kanker C.G. and provided to 120 farm families. 50 *Kadakhnath* chicks (25-30 days old) were provided to each beneficiary (Fig.1). The farmers were advocated on the technologies for scientific poultry production, balance feeding, handling of feeder and drinkers, health management and marketing. Timely vaccination was also carried out for the control of *ranikhet* (F1/B1, lasota and R2B) and *gumboro* diseases. Deworming was performed at 55 days age. The beneficiaries were trained in managing the production of *Kadakhnath* in a better way. They were using low-cost poultry feed comprising of grain and bran. Hence for increased commercial production, a low-cost poultry shade and azolla production unit was established under the FFP. Periodical training

was given to the beneficiaries.

To ensure the availability of new chicks, 4 *Kadakhnath* farming cum hatchery units at FFP villages were established, which operated and maintained by the *Kadakhnath* farming group. Automatic egg hatchery units with the inverter were also set up under the programme. The beneficiaries were then provided training to operate and maintain the hatchery units and manage new chicks at the different brooding stages (Fig.2).

## Impact and lessons learnt:

Farmers of the tribal areas have been highly benefitted by the *Kadakhnath* farming group. The birds gained the acceptable saleable weight of 1.10 kg in 105-120 days. The farmers sold the poultry at ₹ 700 to 800/kg body weight. In this way, each beneficiary was able to generate a net income of ₹ 80,000-90,000 per year. It also helped reduce migration as many farmers have started opting for poultry farming as a source of their livelihood.

**Economics:** For 500 chicks, the average mortality rate was @10% = 50 chicks, 450 chicken × ₹ 750 =



Fig.1. High value Kadaknath poultry



Fig. 2. Automatic egg hatchery units with the inverter and management of new chicks

**Table 1.** Performance indicators

a. Technical Observation	Before	After
<b>Yield</b>		Full grown chicken
b. Economic indicators		
i. Cost of production (for 450 chicks)	First time introduced	94,500
ii. Net income		243,000
iii. B:C ratio		2.57
c. <b>Farmers reaction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best alternative livelihood option for the tribal area</li> <li>• Kadaknath is high value chicken with medicinal property, getting high price</li> <li>• Helpful to improve economic condition of resource poor and land less tribal farmers</li> </ul>	

337,500–94,500 (cost of production) therefore net income is ₹ 243,000. Then ₹ 243,000/10 family = ₹ 24,300 income generated per farm family in four months.

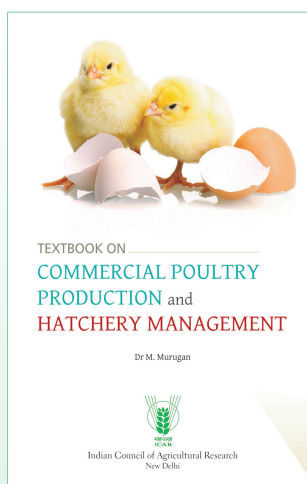
### SUMMARY

Poultry farming using high value Kadaknath poultry helped tribal farmers in the area to have consistent income and fetched high price for the

meat quality. Farmer FIRST Programme has helped in improving the financial status of the farmers and to hold up some migration in the tribal villages by providing the timely assistance in the form of inputs and capacity building programmes.

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### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

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