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Guidelines for Rural Poultry Production

A.K. Panda

Guidelines for

RURAL POULTRY PRODUCTION

A.K. Panda



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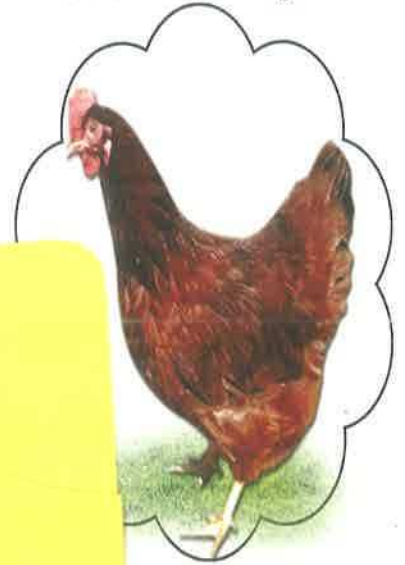
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Preface

Poultry egg and meat are one of the cheapest sources of high quality animal protein sources and essential in providing balanced diets for nutrition and health. Although rural poultry sector contributes to 21% of the total egg production in India, is the most neglected one. In the present scenario, most of the commercial poultry activity is concentrating in and around urban and peri-urban areas of the country. Presently, 70% of the poultry products like eggs and meat are consumed in urban and semi-urban areas and their consumption in rural areas is very low due to limited availability. Poultry production programme in rural areas utilizing low input technology can be an important tool not only to increase the availability of the poultry products but also to boost the nutritional standards and health of the rural people. Small scale poultry farming has found special interest among rural people because of its simplicity of operation, minimum initial investment and ability to provide supplementary income in the shortest possible time. It also provides employment opportunities to rural youth including women to bring socio-economic changes in rural areas which are essential for rural development. Family poultry is the small-scale poultry keeping by households using family labour and wherever possible, locally available feed resources. Rural women traditionally play an important role in family poultry farming and are often in control of the whole process. Promoting family poultry production system in rural sector is the need of the hour to alleviate poverty and malnutrition, promote gender equity and women empowerment in India. Considering the importance of rural poultry in this country, various attempts are being made by the government sectors for its improvement since last 15 years.

An attempt has been made in this book to bring update and relevant information on different aspects of rural poultry production especially the varieties of rural poultry, rural poultry production systems, breeding strategies, housing and management, nutrition, health coverage and cost economics. It is expected that the compilation will be of much helpful and a valuable source of reference to the students, researchers and all those who are interested in rural poultry farming activities.

Dr. A.K. Panda



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