and breed might influence the sensitivity of the test, eliminating these factors might probably enhance the sensitivity of the test.

**Summary**

The values of sensitivity and specificity for PGIMFT were 73.68% and 50% in group I; and 85.71% and 50% in group II, respectively. It implied the percentage of animals responded to PGIMFT appeared to be dose dependent, since in group II which received higher dose of Prostaglandin F$_{2a}$ 600µg showed high sensitivity and specificity as against low dose in group I.

**References**


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**Women Empowerment through Participation in Backyard Poultry Rearing: A Case Study from Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu**

P.Mathialagan

Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension and Entrepreneurship, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

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**Abstract**

Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields. This paper presents a potentially effective empowerment strategy for women, using Backyard poultry as a case-study. The empowerment of women is the key issue in protecting women’s interests. The rural women folk were provided with desi poultry birds, inputs and capacity building to strengthen their livelihood and economic improvement. A unit of 1 male and 2 female desi chicken (8 weeks old) was supplied to the beneficiaries after deworming and vaccination against Ranikhet disease. The beneficiary was trained on package of practices related to backyard poultry-keeping. The economic analysis of a single case proved substantial income from the provided input.

**Key words:** Backyard poultry, Namakkal, women empowerment, desi poultry.

Backyard poultry-keeping is a significant livelihood activity for many poor rural families. Women are primarily responsible for the care and management of the bird under backyard poultry systems (Deka et al., 2014). May be it is the only resource which is completely owned and controlled by women from the moment
of selection of the bird to sales/purchase and control over the income earned from the birds (Ramdas, 2009 and Anthra and Deepika, 2000).

Materials and Methods
The Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University has implemented a poverty alleviation programme for the rural women folk by providing desi poultry birds, inputs and capacity building to strengthen their livelihood and economic improvement. A unit of 1 male and 2 female desi chicken (8 weeks old) was supplied to the beneficiaries after deworming and vaccination against Ranikhet disease.

The beneficiaries were trained on selection of eggs, pre-incubation storage method of eggs, candling of eggs, vaccination and deworming of birds. Iron pot, electrical set, bulb, bamboo cages and Jowar grains were distributed to women beneficiaries for supporting them to adopt the technologies advocated through the scheme.

Follow-up visits were regularly conducted to all the selected villages for offering technical advice. In this context, the present study was conducted to assess the impact of backyard poultry rearing of women SHG members.

Results and Discussion
Mrs. Jothi, a forward-looking beneficiary from Periyamanali village of Namakkal District was a beneficiary of the DBT-funded scheme and she was supplied one male and two female desi fowl chicks along with all the necessary inputs for rearing the birds. She followed natural incubation practice integrated with scientific techniques.

The birds laid 137 eggs in four clutches of 20+17+14+18 and 22+15+16+15, respectively. She selected 125 eggs out of 137 and stored them by the recommended technique and successfully hatched 125 chicks out of which 60 were female and 65 were male chicks. Only 4 chicks died by accidentally pecking the CO-3 grasses treated with pesticides. She reared the birds under backyard system supplemented them with broken rice and also adopted deworming and vaccination practices.

She observed that the female birds attained an average of 1.5 kg and males attained 2 Kg of body weight. Some of the male birds even attained 2.25 kg. Earlier before adopting the techniques intervened by the scheme, she was able to get only around 1 kg in case of female birds and 1.5 kg in case of male birds. She marketed the birds at the rate of Rs. 95/- per kg at around 6 months’ time. Previously she used to sell the birds only for Rs. 100/- per bird. She learned the art of selling by developing entrepreneurship qualities and thereby aware about market information through their monthly self-help group meetings and sold the birds by weighing and fixed the price at Rs. 95/kg body weight of the bird. The economics of her backyard poultry keeping is as follows:

Income through selling of female birds = Rs. 8550/-

Income through selling of male birds = Rs.12160/-

The cost of supplement (broken rice) = Rs. 900/-

Total income = Rs.19810/-

It was therefore recommended that if desi birds are made available to rural women and along with training, women will attain empowerment either today or tomorrow.

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References

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