3.4 NATURAL HERBAL PRODUCTS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO ANTIBIOTIC FEED SUPPLEMENTS TO AUGMENT PRODUCTION AND HEALTH STATUS IN POULTRY

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Antibiotics are commonly incorporated in livestock and poultry feed to prevent the outbreak of diseases. Traces of antibiotics have been found in egg, meat and milk. Continuous intake of animal and poultry products having traces of antibiotics results in drug resistance. Hence, in many developing nations, the use of antibiotics is banned. While it is not possible in India to completely ban the incorporation of drugs due to varied husbandry practices, medicinal plants provide an alternative. Antibacterial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant activities of medicinal plants have been well documented in our Ancient writings. *Allium sativum* has antibacterial, antifungal, anti-cholesterol activities and boost the immune status of poultry. Antibacterial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and antifungal activities of *Curcuma longa* have been reported in poultry. *Phyllanthus niruri* has got hepatoprotective effect on poultry. *Ocimum sanctum* has proven antibacterial and antioxidant activity in poultry. Combination of *Cissus quadrangularis* and *Terminalia arjuna* used as hepatoprotective agent increased egg production in poultry.