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IMPORTANCE OF NIGHT SHELTER AND VACCINATION IN BACKYARD DESI CHICKEN REARING IN TRIBAL VILLAGES OF KOLLI HILLS, NAMAKKAL DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU

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The ICAR Tribal Sub Plan scheme for Kolli Hills of Namakkal district envisaged to train tribal people for scientific desi chicken rearing with creation of infrastructure facilities for rearing birds and marketing of their farm produce. A total of 71 tribal households belonging to Kolli hills were selected as beneficiaries for this project to receive the inputs The selected beneficiaries were given two trainings *viz.*, scientific rearing and disease management of backyard birds. The impact was assessed after 6 months of implementation through survey from the beneficiaries who received the inputs and trainings. The results indicated that majority (83.33 per cent) of the beneficiaries felt that cage provided was useful for rearing the backyard poultry and required some modifications. Around 50 per cent of the beneficiaries were in possession of birds with the flock size ranging from 4 birds to above 10 birds. The 48 per cent of people expressed their battle against regular mortality and the major reason for mortality in the beneficiaries flock was Newcastle disease, followed with other reasons *i.e.* keeping improved desi bird varieties in a confined farm premises and predators. And concluded that, Imparting scientific chicken rearing training along with free supply of inputs like bird, shelter and feed to tribal people will enhance their livelihood, care of health cover will ensure more production of desi bird at tribal household, continuous monitoring is essential to encourage the tribal household to keep and propagate scientific poultry rearing and provision of shelter to the birds should be modified to accommodate more number of chicken and to protect from predators.