

CLIMATE-RESILIENT SRINIDHI BIRDS ENHANCING BACKYARD POULTRY PRODUCTIVITY AND FARMER INCOME

TRANSFORMING LIVELIHOODS: THE SUCCESS STORY OF A POULTRY FARMER

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PROBLEMS/CONSTRAINTS

Mr. Anish G. Karbotkar, a farmer from Mayem village, faced several challenges in backyard poultry farming, as he predominantly reared traditional desi birds, which are subject to multiple production constraints. These birds showed low egg productivity, laid small eggs, grew slowly, and suffered high mortality due to heat stress, disease, and predator attacks. He earned poor returns and found it more difficult to continue his backyard poultry farming.

INTERVENTIONS

Mr. Anish G. Karbotkar has approached ICAR-KVK, CCARI, North Goa. Experts visited his field, assessed the challenges farmers faced, and addressed them. ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, North Goa, introduced the climate-resilient Srinidhi bird under the Technology Demonstration Component (TDC) of the NICRA project in Mayem village. Mr. Anish G. Karbotkar has shown keen interest in adopting and improving backyard poultry farming to overcome his challenges. He attended hands-on training on scientific backyard poultry management practices, delivered by a KVK specialist, and received technical guidance. ICAR-KVK, CCARI, North Goa adopted his farm for demonstration and distributed 20 healthy, vaccinated, 2-month-old Srinidhi birds, comprising 4 males and 16 females, suitable for backyard and semi-intensive rearing systems. Regular monitoring and advisory support were provided to assess the performance of Srinidhi birds under backyard conditions and to compare them with the traditionally reared desi birds.

IMPACT

The adoption of Srinidhi birds resulted in substantial improvements in productivity, survivability, and income from backyard poultry farming for Mr Anish G. Karbotkar. Srinidhi birds attained sexual maturity at around 6 months of age, 30-40 days earlier than local desi birds. Mortality was drastically reduced to 5-7%, owing to better disease resistance, adaptability to backyard scavenging conditions, and timely vaccination. The survivability of Srinidhi birds remained around 95% with minimal supplementary feeding. The birds exhibited excellent growth performance, with adult males attaining 2.0-2.2 kg and females 1.8-2.0 kg, thereby fetching higher market prices, particularly during festival seasons. Egg production also increased markedly, 3 times as compared to local birds, ensuring household nutritional security along with a regular marketable surplus. He obtained 300 kg of nutrient-rich manure, which was effectively utilised in vegetable and chilli cultivation, resulting in improved soil fertility and crop productivity. He earned a net profit of ₹1,500-1,600 per bird per cycle, compared to ₹600-650 earned earlier from desi birds. The backyard poultry unit was actively managed by the farmer's mother, contributing to women's participation, income stability, and improved family nutrition through regular availability of eggs and meat. Encouraged by the success of this intervention, eight farmers from Mayem village adopted Srinidhi birds, demonstrating the replicability and climate resilience of this backyard poultry technology.



Srinidhi birds at farmer field