



POULTRY

BREEDS OF KERALA

In Kerala, poultry rearing has largely remained as a backyard venture. Owing to the high demand for chicken meat and egg, commercial poultry rearing is also catching up in the state recently. Indigenous chicken breeds of the state are highly suitable for the ranging type of poultry rearing. Kuttanad ducks having high adaptability are reared by farmers in symbiosis with paddy cultivation.

Tellichery Chicken

The breed derives its name from the name of a place - Tellicheri also known as Thalassery in Kannur district of Kerala. Presently, these birds are found mainly in Kozhikode district. Few are available in surrounding areas in Kannur and

Malappuram districts of Kerala and Mahe of Pondichery. Body conformation is similar to Red jungle fowl but it is slightly bulkier. Plumage colour is black with shining bluish tinge on hackle, back and tail feathers. Few birds have golden mixed with bluish feathers on neck. Pattern is solid. Skin is grayish in color. Comb is red, single and large in size. It is erect in cocks and drooping on the rear side in hens. Typical birds have blackish red comb. Wattles are red and medium in size. Ear lobe is mostly red with white markings in some birds. Sometimes it is creamy white. Eye ring is blackish. Beak is blackish in appearance.

Tellichery birds are reared mainly for meat. As per prevailing indigenous technical

knowledge, Tellichery birds are used in preparation of ayurvedic medicines for treatment of asthma and worm infestation. Birds are kept in the free range system. Birds roam freely and eat whatever is available in the form of grains, seeds, vegetation, insects, etc. Commercial poultry feed is not fed usually. Shelter is provided in wooden houses raised 2-3 feet above the ground. Brooding is a usual practice. Mortality is very low.

Naked Neck

Naked neck is relatively larger in built with long cylindrical neck. As the name indicates, neck of the birds is fully naked or only a tuft of feathers is seen on the front of the neck above crop. The

naked neck has a bare neck due to a thermoregulatory gene which helps it to cope with heat stress. This gene has been introduced in the white leghorn in the US. The developed breed can adapt quickly to heat. Trivandrum region of kerala is considered to be the homeland of naked neck. Body weight at 20 weeks is 1005g. Average egg weight is 54g and annual egg production is 99 numbers. Fertility percentage is 66 and Hatchability FES(Fertile Egg Set) is 71%.

Kuttanad Duck

Paddy cultivation and duck farming have always been closely interlinked in the kuttanad area of Kerala. Herds of the native Kuttanad duck breeds are released on paddy fields after harvest. They feed on leftover rice grains and in the process enhance soil fertility through their droppings. The kuttanadu ducks have specific physical characters .Grey, brown, bronze, white, black colours and spots are common. Generally the ducks are referred to as Chara and Chembally, Thoovella, Pulli, Pandi depending on color and spots. These breeds require less management, have high adaptability and are suitable for the travelling type of duck farming practiced in many parts of the state. They lay an average of 200 eggs per annum and average egg weight is 70 g. Age at first egg laying is 129 days, Kuttanad ducks attain more than 2.2 kg at 8 weeks of age.



Tellichery Chicken



Naked Neck



Kuttanad Duck



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