

Group – III

Issues for Policy Advocacy

Backyard Poultry-

Desi birds are kept by women of under-privileged HHs with multi purpose objectives- social, economical, religious etc. It is a low external input system with women and children providing labour. The birds scavenge for insects, worms and kitchen waste and are supplied with a handful of grains as supplementary feed once a day. Usually flock size of 4-25 is maintained through auto-generation by the hens at HH level. Little or no infrastructure is available in form of health and extension services. Marketing is done from home and is NOT a problem and these birds fetch premium price compared with Broiler or improved birds.

What characterizes Backyard Poultry

1. Flock size upto about 25
2. Basically managed by scavenging; supplementary feed upto about 30%
3. No dedicated labour
4. Only night shelter & no separate housing

Public investments are mainly available at present:

1. Development of breeds
2. State hatcheries supplying chicks
3. Free vaccines
4. Training of beneficiaries (only those who takes 'new' chicks through govt schemes)

Public investments must be made available for:

1. Investment on door-step service delivery- prophylactic and health care services – link workers / para-worker models be tried, preferentially women

2. Investment in developing capacities of vaccinators or link workers
3. The link-workers be anchored in a community based organization – either SHGs/ Panchayats or others under supervision of veterinary department
4. Legal framework must be developed for the linkworkers
5. Vaccine availability, access and storage facilities (cold chain) be ensured at mandal / block level
6. Provide vaccines in smaller doses
7. Research on developing thermo stable vaccines
8. Invest on capacity building of rearers in management and also, on link workers- particularly women
9. Reorient the veterinary staff towards livelihoods approach
10. **Area based programs** to be developed on the basis of study of existing systems/situation analysis, understanding perceptions/ requirements of women. This forms the basis of deciding interventions Promote strategic nutrient supplementation by identifying limiting nutrients.
11. Limit introduction of new breeds for BYP in indigenous breeding tracts
12. Support chick rearing units on a revolving fund basis – promoting them as business enterprises of women
13. Low cost feed formulations and its on-farm and on-field experimentation using locally available unconventional feed material... (for supply to chick rearing centers) – this can be developed as an enterprise
14. Insurance products for calamities may be developed
15. Credit requirement during endemic outbreaks
16. Small decentralized hatcheries