

**Table 2. Vaccination programme for Ghagus chicken**

Age	Name of the vaccine	Strain	Dose	Route
<b>In the Hatchery</b>				
1st day	Marek's disease	HVT	0.20 ml	SC injection
<b>In the Nursery</b>				
5th day	Ranikhet (Newcastle) disease	Lasota	One drop	Eye
14th day	Infectious bursal disease	Georgia	One drop	Oral
21st day	Fowl pox	Fowl pox	0.20 ml	IM/SC injection
28th day	Ranikhet disease	Lasota	One drop	Eye
<b>In the field</b>				
9th week	Ranikhet (Newcastle) disease	R2B	0.50 ml	SC injection
12th week	Fowl pox	Fowl pox	0.20 ml	SC injection

**Supply**

**Fertile eggs:** Fertile eggs of Ghagus are available at Hatchery of this Directorate on payment basis. Eggs should be stored in cool place till they are set for hatching.

**Day old chicks:** Day old chicks of Ghagus are available at Hatchery on advance payment. The supply will be made only on receipt of advance payment through cash or Demand Draft (DD) drawn in favour of "ICAR Unit DPR" and should be sent to The Director, ICAR-Directorate of Poultry Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-30 (TS). Payment can also be made through RTGS / NEFT with the following details: Bank Name: SBI, NIRD X Road Branch, Account Holder Name: "ICAR Unit DPR", Account No: 52114970338, IFSC code: SBIN0020378. Please provide your contact address, telephone number and e-mail ID for correspondence.

**Contact for Booking and to know the Booking status:** Hatchery, Phone: 040-24018687. EPABX: 040-24015651, 24017000, Ext. 113, 114 (On working days). Email: pdpoult@nic.in, dprhatchery@gmail.com. Website: www.pdonpoultry.org



ICAR- DPR Mobile App



**ICAR-Directorate of Poultry Research**  
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030 (TS)  
ISO 9001-2015



# Ghagus

(Native Chicken)



**ICAR-Directorate of Poultry Research**  
ISO 9001-2015



Native chicken breeds gaining popularity across the country due to their unique characteristics like hardiness, desirable flavour of meat and eggs, coloured plumage and ability to thrive in low input system of rearing at free range, backyard and semi-intensive systems in rural, tribal and peri-urban areas. Further, there is a high demand for eggs and meat of native chicken as compared to the exotic ones due to their perceived better flavour and taste. Rearing of native chicken in and around the rural households as backyard farming provides livelihood security as it serves as subsidiary source of income to rural poor particularly for women and children who rear native chickens. In order to meet the demand for pure bred native chickens, ICAR-Directorate of Poultry Research, Hyderabad has initiated the program on collection, characterization, conservation and improvement of native chicken breeds. Under this program, different native chicken breeds were procured and reared under Institute farm. *Ghagus* is one of the important native chicken breeds of India. It is a medium sized bird with good mothering ability (broodiness) character. Male birds of this breed are morphologically characterized by the shining bluish black tail (sickles) feathers and presence of shining bluish black feathers at breast and wings and reddish brown feathers at neck (hackles) and in front of the tail (saddles). Female birds have mostly brown coloured plumage mixed with dark to light brown coloured feathers. Pea comb is predominantly observed but single comb is also noticed in some birds. Ear lobes are red while wattles are absent and skin is either yellow or white in colour. This breed was collected from its native breeding tract at Kolar district of Karnataka bordering Andhra Pradesh. Presently this breed is being conserved and characterized under intensive system at this Institute.

### Main advantage of rearing Ghagus chicken

It is a purebred native chicken. That means farmer can use the fertile eggs of Ghagus to produce the next generation of chicks through natural hatching. They need not have to come to hatchery again and again to procure fresh batch of chicks of this native chicken. Ghagus birds show high incidence of broodiness and therefore they can self propagate. That means hens of this breed can produce their progeny (chicks) on their own through natural hatching.

### Main features of Ghagus breed

- Attractive coloured feather pattern
- Moderate body weight
- Hardiness
- Longer shanks
- Produce medium sized brown shelled eggs
- Good mothering ability (broodiness) and hatch chicks on their own.
- Lean / low fat meat



**Table 1. Performance of Ghagus chicken**

Economic trait	Farm	Field*
<b>Body weight</b>		
8 weeks, g	400-450	-
20 weeks, kg	1.8 - 2.0 (Males)	-
	1.2 - 1.4 (Females)	-
40 weeks, kg	2.6 - 2.8 (Males)	2.0 - 2.1 (Males)
	1.4 - 1.6 (Females)	1.2 - 1.4 (Females)
Age at first egg, days	170 - 180	175 - 200
Egg production up to 72 weeks, Nos.	100 - 115	60 - 80
<b>Egg weight, g</b>		
40 weeks	42-46	40-42
72 weeks	46-48	-
Ready to cook meat yield, %	68-70	-
Fertility, %	85 - 92	-
Hatchability (Fertile eggs set), %	90.80	-
Survivability up to 20 weeks, %	85-90%	-

\* Reported

### Nursery Management

Brooding is essential for initial six weeks of age. Vaccination, health care and management practices during this period are similar to that of layer chicks of the same age.

**Feeding:** Feeding with balanced ration fortified with required minerals, vitamins, antimicrobials and anti-coccidial is to be done during nursery period. Feed can be prepared using locally available feed ingredients such as ground maize, bajra, jowar, ragi, broken rice, rice bran, sunflower cake, ground nut cake, etc., to achieve 2400 kcal ME (Energy)/kg, 18% crude protein, 0.85% lysine, 0.38% methionine, 0.7% calcium and 0.35% available phosphorous. Ensure easy and continuous access to feed and clean drinking water to all chicks.

**Health care:** Ghagus birds are hardy and as native chickens they might be relatively resistant to some of the bacterial and parasitic diseases. However, they need to be protected against commonly occurring viral diseases like Marek's, Newcastle and fowl pox diseases by vaccinating at right time (Please see Table 2 for vaccination schedule).

