



Performance potential of Himsamridhi birds

Economic traits	Performance	
	Farm level	Farmer's Flock
Day old chick weight (g)	35-39	---
Body weight at 8 weeks (g)	400-550	350-450
BW (20 weeks) male (g)	1750-1900	1400-1700
BW(20 weeks) female (g)	1400-1550	1250-1400
Age at first egg (days)	130-140	170-190
Age at 50% egg prod. (days)	155-190	200-220
Egg weight at 40 weeks (g)	52-55	50-53
Annual Egg Production (No.)	150-180	130-150



Source of Himsamridhi gremplasm:

The day old chicks, growing stock and fertile eggs of Himsamridhi birds are available at All India Coordinated Research Project on Poultry Breeding (Rural Poultry Unit), Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, CSKHPKV Palampur-176062 (H.P.) as per requirements. 6-8 weeks old grower chicks are also available specifically for tribal areas of Chamba, Kinnaur and Lahaul & Spiti districts.



For Further queries please visit university website www.hiillagric.ac.in/AGB

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HIMSAMRIDHI

A location specific dual purpose chicken variety suitable for rural backyard poultry production in hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh



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Native chicken, popular for their coloured plumage are also reputed for several characteristics like being good foragers, good mothering instincts and requiring minimal care and maintenance in rearing. These birds are better suited for raising under village conditions. Although, poultry farming in rural areas of Himachal Pradesh is comparatively less prevalent, but contributes immensely as a source of quality protein for family consumption to village people, landless and marginal farmers apart from supplementing their household income through sale of eggs and poultry meat.

The people of the state traditionally practice cattle, sheep and goat rearing along with few chicken as a source of supplementary income. Village poultry farming is the cornerstone of poultry farming in the state but its growth is limited due to high seasonal mortality, low productivity and sub-optimal management.

Keeping in view the agro-climatic conditions of the state, it was felt that the local chicken germplasm should be used as a base in any breeding programme for sustainable chicken production. To achieve these objectives, necessity was felt of developing a location specific variety under the aegis of All India Coordinated Research Project on Poultry Breeding (Rural Poultry Unit), Department of Animal Genetics and Breeding, College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, CSKHPKV, Palampur- 176062 (H P). Thus, the dual purpose egg type chicken variety named "*Himsamridhi*" incorporating Dahlem Red and Native chicken germplasm was developed. The salient features of this variety are:

- Coloured plumage: The developed variety has attractive multicolour plumage which is most sought characteristics among consumers of rural poultry.
- It has better egg production and growth potential as compared to native (desi) birds.
- Well adapted to local agro-ecosystem and accepted by farmers involved in village level poultry farming.
- Performs satisfactorily on low plane of nutrition and has low cost of production.
- Eggs are brown-shelled fetching premium prices.

Management of *Himsamridhi* birds

Brooding: Brooding (up to 4-6 weeks) is essential to provide comfortable temperature, relative humidity and protection. Before procurement of chicks, prepare for brooding using appropriate brooder (special fabricated wooden brooder, cost effective for village farming can be used). Spread 2-3" thick layer of litter material like saw-dust, husk and cover it properly with newspaper. In winters, especially in higher hills of state, source of heat (Bukhari) should be arranged. Ensure proper disinfection of chick feeders and waterers (plastics/steel utensils/fabricated bamboo feeders etc.) by commonly available disinfectants.



Feeding management:

After collection of chicks from hatchery, offer Jaggary (10% gur solution) within 30 minutes of arrival at farm. Daliya or crushed maize should be offered for initial 2-3 days. Thereafter, for better performance balanced fortified starter feed should be offered up to 6 weeks of age. During grower stage, foraging, kitchen waste can be offered in combination with grains/ supplementary feeds. During laying period, calcium supplementation is essential for production of eggs with good quality along with layer ration and foraging etc.



Health care: The "*Himsamridhi*" birds have shown better immunity under free range management at farmer's flock. The following vaccination schedule is however suggested .

Vaccine	Strain	Age	Dose and route
Marek's disease	HVT	1 day	At Hatchery, 0.2 ml S/C
New Castle disease	Lasota	5 days	One drop, intraocular
Infectious Bursal disease	Georgia	14 days	One drop, oral
New Castle disease	R2B	9 weeks	0.5 ml S/C
Fowl Pox	Pox	12 weeks	0.2 ml S/C

Deworming using Albendazole/Piperazine is recommended initially at 4 weeks of age and then after every 6 months interval, since parasitic load is major problem in free range scavenging.

Performance of *Himsamridhi* birds (Field units)



Birds are managed under rural poultry farming system at farmer's flock. After brooding, birds are left to develop scavenging behaviour and can be easily maintained by providing free range scavenging along with leftover kitchen waste and supplementary feeding. Supplementary feeding with available grains such as maize, wheat, barley and broken rice ensure for maximising the gains through sustained production.