



## KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA REASI

### Backyard Poultry

A source of sustainable  
income among rural farm women



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In the North West hilly areas of Jammu region agriculture is the main occupation and way of life for the poor farmers. Decreasing size of land holdings per family (77.97 per cent of farmers have less than 1 hectare of land) and increasing intensity of drought situations for the last few years has resulted in crop failures putting enormous economic pressure on these small farmers. So there is a need of alternative approach for sustainable development in these hilly areas. One of the best option seems to be revival of backyard poultry farming specially with improved breeds like vanraja, RIR. Total number of Laying Birds (Hens +Ducks) of the State was 35.161 lakhs out of which 83.23% (29.264 lakhs) are of desi category while as 16.77% (5.897 lakhs) are of improved stock as per ISS estimates for the year 2010-11. Estimated total egg production of the



State for the year 2010-11 was 6209.333 lakhs out of which 5874.271 lakhs (94.60%) were laid by Hens and 335.062 lakhs (5.40%) by Ducks as per the latest Integrated Sample Survey Report (ISS), 2010-11. Total estimated meat production of State was worked out to be 308.986 lakh Kg consisting of 80.30% of (248.105 lakh Kg) red meat and 19.70% (60.881 lakh Kg) of white meat. The Jammu region accounted for 51.45% (158.978 lakh Kg), Kashmir region accounted for 41.55% (128.368 lakh Kg) while as Ladakh Region accounted for 7.00% (21.641 lakh Kg) of total

meat production. Total eggs availability per person was worked out to be 53 (number) per year for the State as a whole as per the ISS report 2010-11. Growth in this sector has been mainly driven by large-scale commercial farms while small and landless farmers have been neglected.

Migrant, landless and marginal farmers of Reasi and Udhampur district are having a low source of income as they are having no or marginal agricultural land for farming purpose. They mainly work as farm labours in local farmer's field. Women either remain at home or accompany men to farmer's field. Thus in order to provide these farmer's with specialized farming which does not require land and also generates good source of income for Improving their livelihood security.

KrishiVigyan Kendra, Reasi made an attempt to improve socio-economic status of these migrant landless women with following objectives in mind.

- / To encourage these farmers especially women to contribute to families income.
- / To provide these women with small, steady and sustainable source of income round the year.
- / To improve nutritional requirement of their family

