



हर कदम, हर डगर
किसानों का हमसाफर
प्रगति कृषि अनुसंधान प्रतिष्ठान

AgriSearch with a human touch



Kadaknath

.....Black Gold



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Kadaknath –Black Gold

Backyard poultry rearing is nothing new to farmers. They have been doing it for many years. The birds grow by scavenging on kitchen and other waste, generate some revenue, and also take care of the nutritional need of the farmer. The last two decades have seen the poultry sector



focusing more on commercial poultry rearing like broilers for meat and eggs. As a result many indigenous species have completely become extinct or are on the verge of extinction. Nativity One such breed is the Kalamasi or Kadaknath fowl breed that is native of Bhil and Bhila tribal regions in Madhya Pradesh.

The birds are jet black in colour and reared mainly for their meat, which is also black in colour but softer than that of other desi birds. ". The birds are robust by nature and can tolerate extremes of climate.They can be reared quite easily and there is no need for any special attention or round the clock care for them. They thrive well in a minimal management system and are good scavengers. As a result, feed cost gets considerably reduced. They can be housed in large bamboo baskets or inside store rooms. Both the cockerels and hens grow quite fast and the hens start laying eggs from sixth month of age onwards. In a year a single hen lays 80-120 eggs. Kadaknath birds are poor brooders. They do not hatch their eggs. Therefore other desi hens can be used to hatch the eggs. The desi hen is placed on the eggs kept in a bamboo basket lined with dry straw or grass to provide a cushioning effect. This traditional practice is being encouraged to propagate this breed through natural means.

Good price "The birds command a good price in the market. A four month bird is sold for Rs, 800-1000 and a one year old bird above Rs. 600 (other desi varieties fetch Rs. 100-150).The eggs are sold at Rs.10-12. The dark black meat is considered a delicacy. Both the eggs and meat are a low source of fat (3-5 per cent) and high source of protein (25-40 per cent)," .The birds attain a body weight of 1.5 kg in 105- 120 days.

Characteristics:

- Day-old chicks are bluish to black with irregular dark stripes over the back.
- Adult plumage varies from silver and gold-spangled to bluish-black without any spangling.
- The skin, beak, shanks, toes and soles of feet are slate like in colour. The comb, wattles and tongue are purple. Most of the internal organs show intense black colouration, which is pronounced in trachea, thoracic and abdominal air-sacs, gonads and at the base of the heart and mesentery.
- The blood is darker than normal. The black pigment is the result of melanin deposition.



Comparison between Kadaknath and other Chicken Breeds

S.No	Properties	Kadaknath	Other Breed Chickens
1	Protein content	25%	18-20%
2	Fat content	0.73-1.03	13-25%
3	Linoleic Acid	24%	21%
4	Cholestrol	184.75mg/100g	218.12mg/100gm

Medicinal Properties:

- Kadaknath has special medicinal value in homeopathy and a particular nervous disorder. The tribal uses kadaknath blood in the treatment of chronic disease in human beings and its meat as aphrodisiac (Believed by tribals to infuse vigor in Maké). Experts says that Viagra or Sildenafil Citrate is basically a vasodilator designed for increasing blood flow to the heart and the melanin pigment in Kadaknath does the same.
- Kadaknath chicken has a peculiar effectiveness in treating women's discuss, sterility, Menoxenic (abnormal



menstruation), habitual abortion.

- Kadaknath meat has high levels of vitamins B1, B2, B6, B12, C and E, niacin, protein, fat, calcium, phosphorus, iron, nicotinic acid etc.
- High levels of 18 essential amino acids as well as hormones that are required by the human body.
- The Central Food and Research Institute, Mysore, studied its medicinal qualities and found it suitable for cardiac patients as it increases blood supply to the heart.

Eggs:

The eggs are also an ideal nutritive, especially for old people and high blood pressure victims, since the cholesterol content is lower rich in amino acids and higher than that of other kinds of birds. The eggs of kadaknath chickens can be used effectively to treat severe headaches, headaches after giving birth, faintness, asthma and nephritis (acute or chronic inflammation of the kidney).



Now days with use of growth promoter hormones in poultry industry the demand for local desi breeds have increased and people are ready to pay a handsome amount. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Reasi has taken the initiative for promotion of Kadaknath variety in Reasi & Udhampur. So that this chicken variety with so many medicinal values should be preserved and propagated in our hills and its health benefitted should be exploited. KVK, Reasi is also promoting other backyard poultry varieties with high egg laying ability among women farmers. So that a small but steady income comes in the hand rural women farmer round the year and it also helps in providing rich protein diet in form of eggs and meat to their family.



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