

THE IMPACT OF BACKYARD POULTRY ON HOUSE HOLD INCOM AND EGG CONSUMPTION IN TALAWA BLOCK OF MAHA WELI SYSTEM H

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Backyard poultry has recognized and plays a vital role in household economy as it assures the availability of food to rural families. One of the common types of poultry rearing systems found in Talawa block, Mahaweli system H is backyard poultry. This study looked the impact of backyard poultry on household income and egg consumption in Talawa block of Mahaweli system H. A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect data from a sample of 60 families which are not rearing backyard poultry and another sample of 60 families which are rearing backyard poultry by adopting the snowball sampling method. The data were analyzed by comparing means of two categories. The findings of the survey revealed that families that are rearing backyard poultry had consumed higher number of eggs per month (44 ± 12 eggs month

¹ and had earned higher income from selling of eggs (784 ± 473 Rs month⁻¹) than not rearing backyard poultry. The families that are not having backyard poultry had incurred high expenditure on eggs consumption (224 ± 52 Rs month⁻¹). However, the families which own backyard poultry had earned high income from other agricultural activities (16633 ± 3248 Rs month⁻¹) such as agricultural crops and livestock farming other than poultry. Therefore, it can be concluded that backyard poultry management has a considerable contribution to household income and egg consumption in Talawa block of Mahaweli system H.

Key words: Backyard poultry, Egg consumption, Household income