The AJAS
THE ASIAN JOURNAL OF ANIMAL SCIENCE
Volume 7 | Issue 1 | June, 2012 : 65-68

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Effect of herbal growth promoters on performance and economics of rearing broiler chicken

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ABSTRACT - An experiment was conducted at poultry farm during 2009-2010 in C.S.A. University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur to evaluate the effect of herbal growth promoters on performance and economics of rearing broilers chicks. Day old broilers chicks (DOC) were taken and divided into 3 groups (G_1, G_2, G_3) having 10 birds in each group. The G_1 group was fed simply starter and finisher ration that was control group and in G_2 and G_3 group chicks were fed along with the control ration with herbal growth promoters zeetress 0.05 g and superliv 0.1 ml, respectively. After 6 weeks the average body weight (g) were 1309.34, 1460.63,and 1559.88 in G_1, G_2 and G_3, respectively and the mean of FCR were 2.29, 2.05, and 2.10 in G_1, G_2, and G_3 groups, respectively. The results of the study revealed that the body weight and F.C.R were higher in groups fed herbal growth promoters.

KEY WORDS - Herbal growth promoter, Performance, Economics, Broiler

HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE - Yadav, Sandhya, Singh, S.P., Singh, Vijay and Prakash, H.G. (2012). Effect of herbal growth promoters on performance and economics of rearing broiler chicken. *Asian J. Animal Sci.,* **7**(1): 65-68 .

ARTICLE CHRONICLE - Received : *20.04.2012;* Sent for revision : *16.05.2012;* Accepted : *29.05.2012*

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INTRODUCTION.....

India is the fifth largest producer of eggs, ninth largest producer of poultry meat in the world, producing over 34 billion eggs and about 600,000 tons of poultry meat in 2004.In the overall market for poultry products ,India was positioned 17th in World poultry production. There are 115 layers and 280 broilers hatcheries producing 1.3 million layer parents and 280 million broilers parents. They in turn supply 95 million hybrid layers, 275 million broilers day-old chicks.

Poultry industry is a very fast growing segment of agriculture sector. A major proportion of expenditure in poultry production is on feed, amounting to about 60-70 per cent of total cost of production. The paucity of feeds and fodder is one of the major constraints in livestock and poultry production. Although the crop residues and agricultural by-products are utilized in livestock and poultry feeds, a shortage of feeds and fodders continues to exist. Increasing feed resources for the livestock and poultry by providing additional land and other resources is costly preposition because of the increased need for cereal grains by the growing human population.

RESEARCH METHODS.....

Day old broiler chicks procured from a single hatch were individually weighed and allotted randomly into three groups with 10 birds in each group. The birds were offered basal diet both starter ration for 0-3 weeks and finisher ration for 4-6 weeks (Table A and B) . One group was maintained as control (G_1) and while the chicks of rest two groups (G_2 and G_3) were offered the same base diet as in G_1 along with herbal growth promoters zeetress @ 0.05 g (G_2) per bird/day and superliv @ 0.1ml (G_3). Feed and water were offered ad libitium throughout the experimental period of six weeks .Weekly growth and daily feed consumption in each group was recorded up to six week period. FCR was calculated as the ratio between unit feed consumed to unit body weight gain .The cost per kg feed in control and different treated groups as well as the cost of the day old chicks and management cost was calculated . After