DETERMINATION OF OPTIMUM DIETARY PROTEIN LEVELS AND FEEDING STAGES FOR SOME IMPROVED LOCAL STRAINS OF CHICKENS

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

CHAPTER I

1. INTRODUCTION

The importance of poultry in the production of human food and income is frequently overlooked by leaders and promoters of rural development. Poultry population can be increased more rapidly than the number of farm animals and, therefore, offers an opportunity for rapid development in countries where a higher standard of human nutrition is being encouraged. Any poultry improvement program should emphasize, in addition to disease control and proper management, improved feeding.

During the last few years, a considerable attention has been paid to rations for use in intensive poultry production where the food must be well balanced in all the essential nutrients needed by the bird if optimum productivity performance has to be achieved.

It is well known that proper nutrition reduces total costs of producing broilers or eggs. We can say that economy of feeding equals success, because it is largely reflected on allover the counts, therefore, will considerably improve the net profit for the producers.

Poultry would need relatively high amounts of dietary protein to face their requirements for maintenance, growth and egg production. Since protein has been considered as the most important and expensive part of the diet, its supplementation in poultry diets should be chosen carefully.

Since the dietary protein unit has a great nutritional and economical effect in poultry feeding, it is very important to study how much dietary protein level is needed to give the optimum economical growth and feed efficiency?

The dietary crude protein requirements for standard breeds, of both meat and egg production, were carefully determined under various conditions, while the exact requirements of dietary protein for local breeds and improved strains of chickens are still under investigation.

Moreover, the feeding stages for standard breeds were exactly established for broilers, breeders and commercial layers, but they are still under research trials for local breeds and improved strains of chickens.

The native breeds and strains of chickens are small in size and of medium growth rate and egg