



Kadaknath: The Black Gold

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Kadaknath is one of the rarest dual purpose poultry breeds of India. The origin of this chicken is from Dhar and Jhabua in MP and Chhattisgarh. Also, it is majorly found in some districts of Gujarat and Rajasthan. The demand for Kadaknath arose these days in Jhabua to a great extent these days. Basically, Kadaknath breed is popular for its black meat and known as black meat chicken or Kalamasi. Kadaknath chicken breed is famous for its meat quality, texture and taste. It's single breed; there are further three varieties available with Kadaknath that are jet black, penciled, and golden. The Indian government has given the meat of Kadaknath a geographical indication tag as per norms set on 30 July 2018. Kadaknath Murga is the most popular for its adjustment with adaptability. It is lumps of grey-black meat with infuse vigor. This black and grey shade is due to melanin present in it. It is the rarest breed in India but in high demand. The demand for Kadaknath chicken is growing day by day and spread across most of the Indian states due to their excellent medicinal values. Especially these birds bear great medicinal value in homeopathy and useful in treating a particular nervous disorder. Basically, Kadaknath chickens are mainly reared by tribal communities in Bhil in the districts Jhabua and Dhar in the state of Madhya Pradesh (MP). The commercial scale of Kadaknath chicken raising especially in the states Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu. Kadaknath chicken meat is in black colour and eggs are in brown color. The new Kadaknath production technology has reduced the mortality rate from greater than 50 per cent. Now you can expect to 10 to 12 per cent of mortality, this enhanced the survival percentage and overall profits in Kadaknath chicken farming, because of high feed conversion ratio. Singh *et al.* (2007) reported average 40-week body weight of Kadaknath was 1.4 kg. Kadaknath chickens can be reared similar to country chicken or free-range chicken. However, It may require little more care initially to grow in controlled environment. Later they can be left freely in open field. One can grow these birds in back yards. In fact, Kadaknath chickens are best suited for back yard farming rather growing on commercial scales.

Characteristics of Kadaknath bird

The color features of Kadaknath are black with a tone of grey in it. Also, it possesses gold plumage with some green effects on the body. The black-grey shade is on the legs and the toenails in the lower body. The upper body has a black tone of tongue, beak, comb, and wattles. The inner organs, bones, and meat have a grayish tone.



Day-old chicks are bluish to black with irregular dark stripes over the back. The blood is darker than normal. The black pigment is the result of melanin deposition. Average egg production of kadaknath is 100-110 egg/year/bird. Average adult body weight of Cock and Hen 1.5-2.0 kg and 1.0-1.5 kg, respectively. Average egg weight of kadaknath is 47 gm.

There are 3 different breeds of Black Meat Chicken is available in the world

- Kadaknath – Native to Madhya Pradesh, India.
- Silkie – Native to China.
- Ayyam Cemani – Native to Indonesia.

Medicinal Properties of Kadaknath bird

- 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 to infuse vigour in Make).
- 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.



Benefits of Kadaknath bird

- Kadaknath chicken meat is textured and flavoured.
- This black meat has good medicinal values.
- Kadaknath chicken breeds are adaptable to any kind of environment.
- Kadaknath chicken meat and their eggs are sold for high price in the market.
- This bird meat contains many kinds of amino acids, and vitamins.
- This meat helps to increase blood cells and haemoglobin.
- Kadaknath chicken is said to be aids in curing pulmonary problems.
- The Kadaknath birds convert feed quickly into the meat (feed conversion ratio is high).
- The Kadaknath chicken eggs are used to treat headaches, post delivery problems, asthma and nephritis.
- Kadaknath chicken is said to be good for women health as well.
- The tribal community in MP uses Kadaknath chicken blood in the treatment of chronic disease.
- The Kadaknath chicken eggs are also have good nutrition values and good for old people.
- Kadaknath black meat contains vitamins B1, B2, B6, B12, C and E, niacin, protein, fat, calcium, phosphorus, iron, and nicotinic acid
- The Kadaknath breed is hardy and highly resistant for diseases.
- Unlike broiler chicken, these can survive even on kitchen waste.
- The best advantage is, these birds meat has more protein, less fat, and low cholesterol when compared to similar kind of poultry breeds.
- Kadaknath chicken weighs about 1.5 Kg after growing 6 to 7 months.

- Kadaknath is one of the rarest birds available in the world.
- Commercial scale farming of Kadaknath chicken defiantly fetchs good profits if proper marketing channel is established.

Benefits of Kadaknath meat

- Kadaknath chicken contains 25 to 27% of the protein in comparison with other breeds of chickens that contain 18% protein. It is known for its high iron content. (Mohan *et al.*, 2008).
- Kadaknath has fat and cholesterol content lower compared with other chicken breeds. Due to these particular characteristics, Kadaknath chicken's chicks and eggs are sold at a much higher rate than other varieties of chicken. This Kadaknath chicken breed is very popular among local tribal people mostly due to its adaptability to the local environment, disease resistance, meat quality, texture, and flavor. (Panda and Mahapatra, 1989)
- Kadaknath black chicken has lower cholesterol (0.73-1.05 per cent) than white chicken (13-25 per cent).
- Kadaknath black meat contains vitamins B1, B2, B6, B12, C and E, niacin, protein, fat, calcium, phosphorus, iron, and nicotinic acid etc.
- This chicken has high levels of 18 essential amino acids as well as hormones that are required by the human body.
- The amount of fat deposited in the body of a Kadaknath breed chicken is itself very negligible.
- It has great importance in Siddha and homeopathy medicines for treating the nervous disorder.

Benefits of Kadaknath egg

- The Kadaknath eggs are an ideal nutritive and used 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 poultry birds.
- Kadaknath breed eggs help to meet the day-to-day protein requirement of growing children.
- Eggs of Kadaknath can be used capably to treat severe headaches, faintness, asthma, and nephritis (acute or chronic in kidney).

Conclusion

The Kadaknath bird a dual-purpose strain performs better than other Indian bird. Better adaptability and protected well from predator of Kadaknath bird, it is well adopted by the poultry farmers of the india. The income of small, marginal and landless farmers was increased due to rearing of Kadaknath birds under backyard poultry farming through low input and high output venture within a very short span of time and overall profits in Kadaknath chicken farming, because of high feed conversion ratio. Kadaknath has fat and cholesterol content lower compared with other chicken breeds.

References

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