

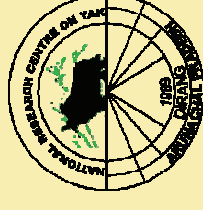
contain 1-2% mineral supplementation must be incorporated with calcium, phosphorus and sodium chloride. Fresh and clean drinking water should be provided and should be available round the clock particularly to a lactating doe. Always keep water pots clean and remove sediments daily. Water pots should be cleaned thoroughly every week.

Some important information on breeding management of rabbit

- Male rabbit: Buck
- Female rabbit: Doe
- Young rabbit: Kit
- Act of delivery: Kindling
- Breeding age: 5 – 7 months
- Gestation period: 30 days
- Weaning: 42 – 47 days
- Breeding of doe after weaning: 7 – 10 days
- Eyes of the kits opened at: 10 days
- Slaughtering age: 90 days
- Rabbits ready for slaughter after 90 days: Fryer
- Mating time after maturity: Any time
- Litter size: 5 -6



Broiler Rabbit and its farming practice



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Introduction

Rabbits are midway between ruminants and mono-gastric animals hence called as pseudo ruminant mainly rear for meat purpose. Majority of the population in north Eastern region is non-vegetarian and always persist a wide gap between demand and production of animal protein that may be due to increase human population and decrease land for agriculture. Dairy, piggery and poultry requires high input cost, labour intensive and land oriented. Therefore, rabbit farming is most viable option for small, marginal and landless labours with minimum input and maximum return to mitigate the demand of meat scarcity.

Advances of Rabbit farming

1. Rabbit can be reared anywhere at farm, backyard, on terrace or even at home with limited space.
2. Reared with low initial investment
3. Can be raised exclusively on roughages and it does not compete with human food.
4. No skilled labour is required to raise a unit.
5. Early return
6. Short generation interval
7. Induced ovulator
8. High feed conversion efficiency
9. Resistant to diseases
10. It fits very well in integrated farming system.
11. Source of meat, fur and manure
12. Less labour and management cost.
13. Useful by-products
14. Bearing high nutritive values of Rabbit meat (Protein-20.80%, fat-11.20%, moisture- 67.90%).

Housing of rabbit

There are three system generally adopted

A. cage System: In this system shed is generally constructed that may be permanent or semi-permanent. A number of racks are made inside the shed for keeping the cages. The cage is made with welded wire mesh (16-18 gauge) with a hole size of $\frac{3}{4}$ ". These cages are suitable for growers. The size of cage may be varied according to category of animal (For grower - 2' x 1.5', for kindling- 3' x 4'). The cages can also be kept in tier system for economic utilization of space. Proper drainage system should be maintained under each row of cage.

B. Hutch System:

The hutches are mainly for breeding and maternity purpose and can be made with iron or bamboo. Roofing can be either of CGI sheet or thatch grass and floor should be of wire mesh for easy cleaning. Partition can be done either with wire mesh or wooden plank or bamboo. This system is very much suitable for backyard rearing of Rabbit where size of each compartment of hutch should be 3 ½' x 3' x 1 ½'.

C. Floor System:

Floor system of rabbit farming is not suitable for North Eastern region of India due to high humidity and heavy rainfall and other managemental problems. Here in this system floor should be made of cement concrete. House must have a partition wall for different types of rabbit like grower, adult male and female. The space requirement for each rabbit is 4 sq. ft.

Feeding of Rabbit :

Feeding is very important factor for rabbit production. Feeding depends upon type and purpose of rabbit rearing. A practical combination of different types of feeds and regular timetable for feeding is advisable so that rabbits do not feel any stress due to changes in their daily routine. Fresh green plants like bean, alfalfa, berseem, grass, tender banana, cane and bamboo leaves, cutup pieces of the stalks of plants such as maize or banana, roots such as cassava, yams, carrots and inedible portions of cabbage and cauliflower etc. are the main food of rabbit.

If concentrate and hay are given, then concentrate should be offered preferably in the morning and hay in the afternoon. Rabbit feed ration should

