**Message from Dr. S. D. Chowdhury, Professor, Department of Poultry Science, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymesingh 2202, Bangladesh, e-mail: drsdchow@gmail.com**

In response a message received from **Dr. Bagnol Brigitte, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Population Health, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, USA** and a Visiting Senior Lecturer, Department of Anthropology. The Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg, South Africa and also a Researcher associated with the International Rural Poultry Centre (IRPC), KYEEMA Foundation, Australia, I would like to express my view in relation to the topic 3 Competing or complementing commercial poultry production systems and to policy issues.

Confining indigenous chickens in a house at night and in a fenced area during the day is possible. The indigenous chickens can also be raised in total confinement (intensive system). This is true that feeding them with a balanced diet either home-made or industrial feed will be needed in such a situation if we want to maximize production either meat or egg. I am currently involved in a research project entitled “Development of indigenous (*desi*) chicken as a meat type bird through improved nutrition and management” funded by the Ministry of Education, Bangladesh. We have already completed the first phase of our work by raising chicken in intensive system by providing diets of different nutrient densities. Since demand for indigenous chicks for meat purpose is between 750 to 950g and they usually priced higher (slightly higher than double the broiler), we had our target weight of 750g and 850g in two separate trials. While all birds were on similar plane of nutrition for the first 3 weeks, they were fed different treatment diets (diets of different nutrient densities) up to target weights. We have been able to achieve 740g against 750g target at 11 weeks with a FCR of 3.46 calculated on weight gain during 4 to 11 weeks by feeding 2800 kcal ME/kg and 23% CP. In a different flock, we achieved 849.8g, our expected target in 12 weeks with a FCR of 4.26 calculated on weight gain basis during 4 to 12 weeks by feeding the same diet. Our next experiment with a separate flock is in progress and the target is now to achieve 950g. Depending on our findings, we will test our results at farmers’ households by rearing birds under both extensive and intensive conditions, in the next phase of our project. Different levels of supplementation with home-made balanced feed for scavenging birds will also be examined in addition to cost benefit analysis of such efforts.

I am pleased to let the participants know that Dr. M. A. Saleque of International Network for Family Poultry Development visited our flocks at project site when he came to Bangladesh Agricultural University.

Like the situation in Swaziland, we would like to conserve native germ plasm to create an asset of our own for which there is already a special market. We have also our target to train up farmers so that they can apply our research findings in due course. I also agree with Dr. Bagnol Brigitte that there should be multiplication centre from where farmers are able to purchase chicks after 3 weeks of age. It may be mentioned here that one of my research projects with scavenging indigenous ducks of Bangladesh is nearing completion, the results of which are very much encouraging and could be shared with participants in future, if necessary.

I would like to see family poultry production as a complementary to commercial/industrial production and policy makers should adopt policies accordingly.

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