1. **The contribution of research to the development of family poultry production systems**

**There is no denying the fact that research with family poultry, although scanty, is contributing to the development of family poultry production systems. But before undertaking research activities, we the researchers must make sure what is meant by family poultry? Is it the local bird only or commercial strain or both? I think both but in small number to ensure nutrition, self employment and income generation. If this is so, all research efforts should take account of it. Eventually, the contribution of research to the development of family poultry will be large. Since local birds or indigenous stock constitutes the major parts of family poultry in many developing countries, improvement of their production system by means of research is necessary for productivity enhancement and mortality reduction. This does not mean that we will alter their genetics leading to extinction. Research with indigenous duck resources in coastal areas of Bangladesh showed that supplementation of home-made balanced feed @ 50% of the total requirements of laying ducks improved egg production significantly as compared to those reared solely on SFRB. In this study, the nutritional requirements were also investigated. A separate trial on supplementation level during scarcity of SFRB is in progress. Similarly, the nutritional requirements of common indigenous chicken up to a target weight of 850g at 12 weeks in confinement were determined. This will be tested under scavenging condition shortly. Hopefully, generation of adequate data will aid in the development of family poultry in Bangladesh under varied systems of rearing.**

1. **The development for livelihoods through family poultry - cost and opportunities.**

**The contribution of research should pave way towards livelihood improvement. So, the production needs to be cost effective and should help in livelihood improvement.**

**Any intervention to augment production even under existing husbandry practices will involve cost. The costs per kg meat or egg yield and sale price are important. Income generation is the key to livelihood development. Income generation is possible through improvement of production systems which will aid in livelihood development.**

**Dr. S. D. Chowdhury  
Department of Poultry Science**

**Bangladesh Agricultural University**

**Mymensingh 2202**

**Bangladesh**