



## FFS Key messages on Poultry Rearing

Using the experience gained from some five years' experience of implementing Farmer Field Schools under the Blue Gold Program, five booklets were prepared in August 2018 covering: nutrition, homestead gardening (vegetables and fruits), **poultry**, fish and beef fattening. The purpose of these booklets was to ensure that all FFS participants had a reference containing the key messages (in Bangla) for their own use, as a recap for what they had learnt, but also as a tool for sharing their learnings with neighbours and friends. The importance of passing on messages to neighbours and friends was actively promoted during the FFS sessions as a contribution to Blue Gold's horizontal learning ambition.

This note provides a translation in English of the key messages from the **poultry** rearing booklet used in the homestead Farmer Field School (FFS) interventions<sup>1</sup> by the Blue Gold Program.

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<sup>1</sup> Trainers, please note that there are separate Blue Gold FFS [training modules](#) (in Bangla) covering Homestead Vegetable Gardening, Poultry Rearing, Homestead Fruit Farming, Beef Fattening, Fisheries and Market Orientation and Value Chain Development (MOVDC). These may be obtained from the file library through the wiki Lessons Learnt Report of the Blue Gold Program via the URL: [Blue Gold Program Wiki \(bluegoldwiki.com\)](#). Specifically the poultry FFS training module is available via: [File:TM poultry FFS nov 18 opt-compressed-v2.pdf - Blue Gold Program Wiki \(bluegoldwiki.com\)](#)

## Messages to share with your neighbours and friends

### Introduction

In the FFS poultry module the most important topics you learned were:

- 1) Housing
- 2) Separating chicks
- 3) Hajol
- 4) Vaccination
- 5) Egg candling
- 6) Feeding
- 7) Record keeping
- 8) Networking

This booklet contains the key messages from the Poultry FFS.

Please share these messages with your neighbours and friends.

### Use proper housing for your chicken and chicks

A henhouse should provide shelter from rain and protection against predators.

It should provide a healthy living environment for the birds, so it should have enough ventilation for fresh air. You can make doors or windows covered with wire mesh.

For hygiene, it is also important that the henhouse should be easy to clean.

Place the henhouse under some shade to protect it from full sunlight.

If you prepare a two storied henhouse you can keep more birds on a smaller space. Each story should be at least 2.75 feet high.

Divide each story in 2 or more rooms so that you can keep adult chickens and chicks separate.

The size of the henhouse depends on the number of birds.

For 15-20 chicken and 40-50 chicks the measurement of two storied henhouse could be:

- Length: 6 ft
- Width: 4 ft
- Height of each story: 2.75 ft

### Separate the chicks from mother hen after 1 week

While the mother hen is taking care of chicks she will not start laying eggs.

Keep the chicks with the mother hen for just 1 week and then separate them. The mother hen will then start laying new eggs much sooner.

Put the chicks apart in a henhouse where they are protected from predators.

If you separate chicks from mother hen after 1 week, you will have more cycles in a year and higher production of eggs and chicks.

## Use a hajol for your brooding hen

Brooding hens are often reluctant to leave the eggs. They will not eat and drink and will often lose a lot of weight.

If you use a hajol, the brooding hen can eat and drink without leaving the eggs.

The hajol helps the hen remaining stronger and healthier and she will take better care of her chicks.



## Vaccinate your poultry

There are several diseases that can make your animals sick. These diseases can cause high mortality especially of your chicks.

Important diseases are: Newcastle Disease (Ranikhet), Fowl Pox and Fowl Cholera.

Proper vaccination protects your chicken and chicks from these diseases.

If you vaccinate your animals timely they will be healthier and there will be less mortality.

Find a Community Poultry Worker in your area who can provide vaccination services.

## Candle your eggs after 5 days

Not all eggs are fertile and can produce chicks.

You can check which eggs are fertile by “candling” them with a strong torch.

If you candle your eggs after 5 days you will know which eggs are fertilized and which are not.

After candling, leave the fertilized eggs with the brooding hen to get new chicks. Eat or sell the infertile eggs.

## Use balanced feed for your chickens and chicks

Chicken and chicks grow better and stay healthier if they get balanced feed.

Provide 50-60 gm balanced feed to each chicken per day. Chicks need feed as much as they require.



