

# Indigenous Chicken Breeds

**Gallus gallus**

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# Indian Poultry breeds

- Poultry farming of “**country chicken**” or “**Desi hen**” farming is been in practice since decades in India.
- The biggest scope of country chicken is the low initial investment and high economic returns.
- The per capita protein consumption has been a subject of concern since quite some time in India.
- Eggs and poultry meat are the cheapest and most easily available option for this.



# Indigenous or Local Breeds

- Generally indigenous or local breeds are poor producers of both eggs and meat.
- But the improved strains have been developed that are easily adaptable and hardy in nature.
- They have a good mothering and brooding capacity
- They are easily adaptable and more sturdy and also less likely to develop diseases and infections.
- They are quick and alert and hence can escape from predators.



# Indigenous or Local breeds

- There are only four pure Indian breeds of chicken available. Such as

1. Aseel

2. Chittagong

3. Kadaknath

4. Busra



# Aseel

- The Asil or Aseel is an Indian breed or group of breeds of game chicken.
- This bird is originated from Punjab/Sins area of India and Pakisthan.
- It is distributed in much of India, particularly in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Chhattisgarh.



# Aseel

## Characters:

- Face is long and slender bearing small pea comb on their head
- Their meat is tasty, delicious with pleasant flavour.
- Asil or Aseel are famous for cock fight, so they are called fighting cocks
- These are poor layers yielding 6-40 per year based on variety.
- They are excellent sitters for brooding.
- Cock weighs 4.1 kg and Hen 3.6 kg.



# Aseel

**Hen**



**Cock**





# Chittagong

- It is also known as Malay.
- It is native to Chittagong and largely distributed in West Bengal.
- Dual-purpose bird.
- The popular varieties are buff, white, black, dark brown and grey
- Pea comb, red ear lobes, over-hanging prominent eyebrows, feather-less shank.
- These are good layers
- Cock weighs 4.5 kg and Hen 3.4 kg.



# Chittagong

Cock



Hen





# Kadaknath

- Kadaknath, also called **Kali Masi** ("fowl having black flesh")
- They originated from **Dhar and Jhabua** of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- There are three varieties: **Jet black**, **Golden** and **Pencilled**
- The skin, beak, shanks, toes and soles of feet are **slate-like in colour**
- Comb, wattles and **tongue are purple**.
- Most of the **internal organs** show **intense black colouration**
- Cock weighs 1.8kg - 2kg and Hen 1.2kg - 1.4kg



# Kadaknath

**Cock**



**Hen**





# Busra

- Busra is one of the 18 chicken breeds of India
- Not much is known about this breed except that it is a layer type small to medium sized bird and found in small numbers in some parts of Maharashtra and Gujarat
- Busra breed of chicken is reared by tribal people living all along on either side of boundary line of Maharashtra and Gujarat



# Busra

- Busra birds are small in size and have wide variation in body colour.
- Plumage colour is mostly white mixed with black feathers on neck, back, tail, and reddish brown feathers on shoulders and wings.
- Skin is pinkish in colour.
- Comb is red, single, small to medium in size and stands erect.
- Eye ring is red. Earlobe is white or brown depending upon plumage colour.
- Beak is yellow.
- Weight of Cock ranges from 0.85 to 1.25 kg and Hen from 0.8 to 1.2 kg
- Annual egg production ranges from 40 to 55.







# Advantages of Country Chicken Farming

- *Low initial investments clubbed with higher economic returns.*
- Country chicken farm can be started with just two birds and gradually increased to a flock.
- The feed cost is negligible.
- There is no labour cost because of the practical involvement of the family members.



