

## **Women Empowerment through Backyard Poultry Farming: A Success Story**

Mrs. Thezano is educated, unemployed women from Sethikema-A village, Dimapur district, Nagaland. She is a traditional farmer engaged in animal husbandry and could not succeed due to lack of scientific knowledge. She underwent three days training on scientific poultry rearing in ICAR Research Complex, Nagaland Centre, and started a small semi-intensive poultry unit comprises of 400 Vanaraja birds with the technical help of ICAR. Locally available bamboo and thatch grass were used for constructing shed and paddy husk as litter material. Ninety eight percent birds were survived during the period of six months of rearing. The average body weight of Vanaraja birds were recorded periodically from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> week of age. The birds gained an average body weight of 25 g per day and the average body weight reached 2.5 kg at 16 weeks age. She sold 456 kg live weight from 198 birds at ₹ 150 per kg in local market and neighbouring villages. The remaining 185 birds were sold after 45 days, at an average body weight of 3.25 kg at ₹150 per kg. The gross total income was ₹1,58,240 and the expenditure was ₹1,18,770 including chicks cost, feed, transport, depreciation cost of housing, etc. Eggs produced in the farm were used for home consumption and the family labour was utilized for day-to-day activities in the farm. Thereby, she earned a net benefit of ₹39,470 from 400 birds. The scientific knowledge learned from ICAR, the experience gained from her own farm, and realizing the benefit, she has extended the poultry unit for maintaining a stock of 1000 birds all the time. Her success motivated the women SHGs for initiating backyard poultry farming with improved Vanaraja birds and made them self sustainable.



Mrs. Thezano in her poultry shed