

Cultivation of Azolla for profitable Livestock and Poultry farming

Rationale

Profitable livestock farming largely depends on increasing production without escalation in feeding cost. In recent days, Azolla can be used as an ideal source of feed for cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, rabbits and fish as an alternate source to a concentrate / feed / fodder to improve the production status of the animals. Azolla contains 25-35% protein on dry weight basis and is rich in essential amino acids, minerals, vitamins and carotenoids. The shortage of fodder is, therefore, being compensated with commercial feed, resulting in increased cost of production of meat and milk.

KVK Intervention

- KVK imparted capacity building programmes to the selected farmers on importance of Azolla for livestock & Poultry and its cultivation methods.
- KVK provided technical and financial linkages to the livestock growers to establish Azolla units.
- KVK conducted field trails and demonstrations as part of technical programmes in the clusters
- KVK instructional farm and KVK promoted CMRCs act as functional models and resource centre for Azolla cultivation and also providing Azolla seeds & Azolla beds to the farmers.
- KVK developed IEC material on Azolla cultivation technology and its importance for the benefit of farmers.
- KVK designed IFS model with Azolla cultivation technology.

Year	KVK interventions	No. of farmers benefitted
2017-18	Training- 6; Method demonstrations- 8; Demo units established- 48	114
2018-19	Training – 8 ; Method demonstrations - 5 Demo units established- 36	132
2019-20	Training – 7; Method demonstrations – 4 Demo units established - 40	143

Outcome and Impact

- 124 Azolla units have been established in Erode district with the support of KVK
- Farmers felt that feeding 2-3 kg of Azolla along with dairy animal ration can increase milk yield upto 20 %
- 12 Azolla seed units established in DFI villages and CMRCs for the benefit of farmers.
- 6 Krishi Mitras trained on Azolla cultivation and providing extension support.
- Line departments identified KVK as a resource centre & Seed bank for Azolla.
- During the year 2017- 2020 KVK and KVK promoted institutions produced and sold 2450 Kgs of Azolla
- By adopting this Azolla cultivation, 20 % feed cost reduced for Backyard poultry production farmers.
- More than 1000 farmers visited the farm for updating their skill and knowledge on Azolla Cultivation.
- KVK published azolla feed production and supply related article in newspapers and popular magazines for wider outreach among the farming community

If possible split the units into block wise and also azolla production and no of farmers used (for graphical representations)

S.No	Block Name	Azolla units	Azolla production (Kgs)
1.	Sathy	26	4880
2.	TN Palayam	44	8920
3.	Anthiyur	18	4240
4.	Bhavani	14	3520
5.	Bhavani sagar	22	4560
Total		124	26120
