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## Effect of Varied Levels of Dietary Crude Protein and Metabolizable Energy on Growth Performance in Giriraja Chicken

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### Abstract

A study was conducted for 56 days to observe the effect of varied levels of dietary crude protein and metabolizable energy on growth performance in 720 day-old Giriraja chicks, which were divided equally into nine groups of 80 birds each. Nine different experimental diets were formulated with three levels 2700, 2800, and 2900 kcal of metabolizable energy (ME/kg), each with three levels of protein (CP), viz., 19%, 20%, and 21%, respectively and Group T<sub>5</sub> served as control fed with 20% protein and 2800 kcal energy as per BIS (2007) requirements. Feed consumption, body weight gain, and feed conversion ratio (FCR) were analysed up to 56 days. The results of the study indicated that diet containing 20% CP with 2900 kcal ME/kg showed enhanced growth performance in Giriraja chicks.

**Keywords:** Body weight gain, Metabolizable energy, Protein, Giriraja.

### Introduction

Backyard poultry farming by and large was a low input venture. Besides income generation, backyard poultry farming helps in alleviation of malnutrition of the rural people through the production of valuable animal protein and empowers rural women (Besbes *et al.*, 2012). The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore released the first improved coloured bird suitable for backyard rearing 'Giriraja' in 1989. Giriraja is a pioneer bird and blazed to strengthen the economy of the rural poor by producing good number of eggs (75-180/yr) as well as good quantity/quality meat (3-6 kg body weight) under rural conditions (Reddy and Rajendiran, 2002). Though it is widely accepted by poultry farmers all over the state for rural poultry farming, scientific studies on different aspects of production in these birds are scanty especially with respect to nutrients, hence an experiment is designed to study the effect of varied levels of dietary crude protein and metabolizable energy on growth performance in Giriraja birds.

### Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted to investigate the effect of varied levels of dietary crude protein and metabolizable energy on growth performance in Giriraja chicken at the Department of Poultry Science, Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Hebbal, Bangalore. Feed ingredients were procured and

proximate analysis was determined before compounding experimental diets, and feed formulation was done as per BIS (2007).

A total of 720 day-old chicks of Giriraja were procured from the Poultry Department, individually weighed and distributed into nine groups having 80 birds in each. Each group was further subdivided into four replicates having 20 birds in each. Nine different experimental diets (T<sub>1</sub> to T<sub>9</sub>) were formulated with three levels of energy 2700, 2800, and 2900 kcal metabolizable energy (kcal/kg), each with three levels of protein, viz., 19%, 20%, and 21%, respectively. Group T<sub>5</sub> served as control fed with 20% protein and 2800 kcal energy as per BIS (2007) requirements. Feed consumption, body weight gain and feed conversion ratio (FCR) were analysed up to 56 days.

Data were analyzed as per standard procedures described by Snedecor and Cochran (1994) and by using SPSS software version 20.0.

## Results and Discussion

Data on different parameters such as feed consumption, bodyweight gain, and FCR are presented in table 1.

### Feed consumption

The effect of different dietary levels of protein and energy on feed intake showed a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) effect among the different treatment groups (Table-1). Feed intake during the entire experimental period, ranged from 2923.12 g (T<sub>7</sub>) to 3512.52 g (T<sub>2</sub>), which was influenced by level of protein and energy in the diet. Giriraja chicken reared on 19% crude protein (CP) with 2900 kcal ME/kg showed lower feed intake significantly different from T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub>, and T<sub>5</sub> groups, but comparable with T<sub>4</sub>, T<sub>6</sub>, T<sub>8</sub>, and T<sub>9</sub>.

**Table-1: Effect of varied levels of dietary crude protein and metabolizable energy on average feed intake (g/bird), average bodyweight gain (g/bird) and FCR at 8<sup>th</sup> week in Girirajachicks**

	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7	T8	T9
CP %	19	20	21	19	20	21	19	20	21
ME (Kcal/kg)	2700	2700	2700	2800	2800	2800	2900	2900	2900
Feed consumption (g/bird)	3511.46 <sup>b</sup> ±24.83	3512.52 <sup>b</sup> ±35.64	3502.80 <sup>b</sup> ±95.23	3273.71 <sup>ab</sup> ±72.17	3316.19 <sup>b</sup> ±87.80	3289.11 <sup>ab</sup> ±11.24	2923.12 <sup>a</sup> ±122.82	3144.07 <sup>ab</sup> ±87.85	3193.31 <sup>ab</sup> ±87.10
Body Weight Gain(g/bird)	1505.53 <sup>b</sup> ±13.72	1520.39 <sup>bc</sup> ±12.02	1540.28 <sup>bc</sup> ±15.94	1556.08 <sup>bc</sup> ±18.49	1557.64 <sup>bc</sup> ±16.46	1514.58 <sup>b</sup> ±16.23	1407.64 <sup>a</sup> ±17.15	1591.87 <sup>c</sup> ±22.44	1564.58 <sup>bc</sup> ±18.89
FCR(kg/kg)	2.34 <sup>b</sup> ±0.04	2.32 <sup>b</sup> ±0.04	2.29 <sup>ab</sup> ±2.11	2.11 <sup>ab</sup> ±0.05	2.13 <sup>ab</sup> ±0.11	2.18 <sup>ab</sup> ±0.05	2.08 <sup>ab</sup> ±0.10	1.98 <sup>a</sup> ±0.04	2.04 <sup>ab</sup> ±0.04

Means bearing different superscript in the same row differs significantly ( $P < 0.05$ )

### Body weight gain and FCR

The body weight gain and FCR in birds was found to be highly significant ( $p < 0.05$ ), where it was found that moderate protein and higher energy level has a positive effect on body weight gain.

Highest body weight gain of 1591.87 g was found in T<sub>8</sub> group which was significantly different from T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>6</sub>, and T<sub>7</sub> groups, but it was comparable with T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub>, T<sub>4</sub>, T<sub>5</sub> and T<sub>9</sub> group. Lowest body weight gain of 1407.67g was observed in T<sub>7</sub> group.

During the entire experimental period, the FCR was significantly influenced by the level of protein

and energy. It was observed that the FCR value (1.98) was lowest in T<sub>8</sub> group (2900 kcal/kg energy and 20% CP) and significantly greater than T<sub>1</sub> and T<sub>2</sub> diet having 19% and 20% protein with 2700 kcal energy, respectively and FCR was not significantly different among T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub>, T<sub>4</sub>, T<sub>5</sub>, T<sub>6</sub>, T<sub>7</sub> and T<sub>9</sub>.

The above results indicated that chicken reared on a higher level of protein and energy consumed less feed than the diet having lower level protein and energy, which affects the feed intake. This result is on agreement with observation that feed efficiency improved and feed intake reduced with increasing dietary concentrations of these nutrients. Thus, a proper calorie protein ratio is needed in the ration for optimum intake of nutrient through feed consumption (Rao *et al.*, 2005).

The body weight gain indicated that ration containing 20% and 21% CP at higher energy gained maximum growth. The results are in agreement with Bamgbose (1999) findings as high energy and high protein had a positive effect on growth rate and vanaraja chicks fed diet with 19% and 21% CP and 3000 kcal ME/kg utilized feed more efficiently than the lower level of protein and energy in the diet (Perween *et al.*, 2016). As reported by Haunshi *et al.* (2012) that different ME levels had a significant effect on body weight gain, feed intake, and FCR. However, feeding the 19.64% CP diet was adequate, above which no significance improvement in performance was achieved in broiler chicken (Miah *et al.*, 2014).

Banerjee *et al.* (2013) investigated the effect of feeding different levels of CP, but similar levels of energy on Koekoek chickens (dual purpose breed) and found that increasing in the level of protein in the diets did not influence the overall body weight gain and final live weight of chickens. However, the FCR improved numerically with increasing levels of protein in the diet. But there is a threshold above and below which the protein concentration as a nutrient is not justifiable (Si *et al.*, 2001).

Hence, the results of this study indicated that diet containing 20% CP with 2900 kcal ME/kg is beneficial in improving the growth performance in Giriraja chicks.

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