

Andamani Duck: A Newly Registered Breed

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Abstract

The world of poultry has recently welcomed a new addition to its ranks – the Andamani Duck. This unique breed, native to the Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal, has officially been recognized and registered, making it a valuable addition to the diverse array of duck breeds globally.

Introduction

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are known for their unique biodiversity, including various indigenous poultry breeds. Andamani duck is a dual-purpose breed, mainly distributed in North and Middle Andaman. They are medium-sized ducks with features such as a comparatively longer neck, a yellowish bill with a black tip, black skin, a white band around the neck, and a shorter shank as compared to other indigenous ducks (*Anonymous news,2023*). Their plumage is a rich, iridescent green, with a distinctive bronze sheen on the neck and head. The males, or drakes, often sport a vibrant, emerald-green head, while the females, or ducks, have a more subdued brown coloration. Recently NBAGR has recognised new 8 breeds of livestock, Andamani is one of them with assesion number INDIA_DUCK_3300_ANDAMANI_11003(*Anonymous,2023*).

Origin

The Andamani Duck is believed to have descended from the wild ducks found in the mangrove swamps and coastal regions of the Andaman Islands. These ducks have adapted to the island's tropical climate and have developed distinctive physical characteristics over generations of natural selection.



Characteristics

Appearance: Sturdy, compact body with a broad breast and a relatively upright stance.

Breeding tract: Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Utility: Dual purpose with Average adult body weight for drake is 1406 gm. Average annual egg production is 266 eggs. (*Anonymous,2023*)

Conservation and Breeding

For years, the Andamani Duck remained relatively unknown to the outside world, thriving in its natural habitat on the remote islands. However, recent efforts by local communities and conservation organizations have brought this unique breed to the forefront, recognizing its importance as a part of the region's biodiversity. Thanks to the dedicated work of breeders and conservationists, the Andamani Duck has now been officially registered as a standardized breed. This recognition not only helps to preserve the genetic diversity of the breed but also opens up opportunities for further breeding and potential commercial production.

Potential Applications

While the Andamani Duck is still relatively new to the poultry world, its unique characteristics and adaptations hold promise for various applications. These ducks are known for their hardiness and ability to thrive in tropical and coastal environments, making them well-suited for sustainable agriculture practices in similar climates. Furthermore, the breed's compact size and efficient feed conversion rate make it an attractive option for small-scale poultry farming or backyard poultry enthusiasts. Their iridescent plumage and distinctive appearance may also appeal to ornamental poultry fanciers and hobbyists.

Conclusion

Negligence has brought this breed on the edge of extinction necessitating immediate conservation efforts. The breed's compact size and efficient feed conversion rate make it an attractive option for small-scale poultry farming or backyard poultry enthusiasts. Domestic ducks are very hardy, need nominal care and management and can sustain in almost any type of environmental conditions (*De AK et al,2021*). Conservation of these indigenous breeds is very crucial for maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and effective conservation of any breed rely upon proper recognition through genomic characterization.

References:

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