

ORNAMENTAL BIRD REARING – ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF INCOME GENERATION

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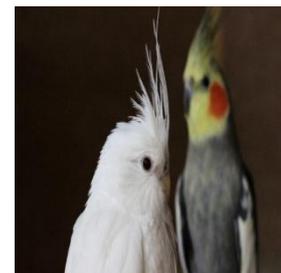
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Now a day the agro-ecological situation is characterized by a complex, diverse risk prone nature resulting in low production from monocropped agricultural land. In that case, an alternative income path can save the farmers' from loss. Animal husbandry is one of the ways in which a farmer can earn extra income. But most livestock needs green grass, which is not available most of the time, and the price of whole grains is very high. In this context, the cultivation of Ornamental Birds is very profitable, and the cost of food is very low.

Now a day the cultivation of ornamental birds like love birds, budgerigar, cockatiel, java, finch, etc., has become very popular in homestead (cage system) condition. Among them, the cultivation of budgerigar and finch birds is a safe and reliable way.

Monogamous means they spend their whole life with the same partner. Companions attract each other by feeding and tidying up. The upper part of their lips is red, and it covers the lower part. They are usually 4 – 6 inches long and weigh 20 – 25 grams. Naturally, the female lays one egg every two days. Usually, the female birds sit down over the eggs, and the male birds bring food for the female birds. The male bird eats himself and vomits the half-digested food in the bird's mouth. They need a lot of care after the baby is born. They remain blind after birth. In this condition, the mother feeds them and keeps the baby warm. After 10 days, their eyes open. After about 3 weeks, the real hair on the bird comes.

**Budgerigar****Love Birds****Finch****Cockatiel**

Nature of Ornamental Birds

The following written characters of birds are seen -

1. **Stretching** – They occasionally spread their wings. This improves their blood circulation.
2. **Beak Grinding** – They often make noises on their lips while sleeping.
3. **Preening** – To keep themselves tidy, the birds apply oil substances from the “Preen Gland” at the base of the tail all over the body, making it shiny and good.
4. **Fluffing** – They rub their lips inside the soft hairs while tidying themselves before going to bed or before intercourse.
5. **Hearing & Stredding** – The beaks of these birds are always growing, so they keep rubbing their lips on other things so that they do not grow too much.
6. **Napping** – They usually sleep once a day for 15 to 45 minutes.
7. **Yawning** – Many times, they make gape before or after sleep; it is normal for them.

Housing System

1. For 100 numbers of birds, a house of 15 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 6 feet high is required.
2. If there is no place to keep a separate birdhouse, then for those who have domestic chickens in their house,



birds can be kept on the second floor of the chicken house. Birdhouse can also be made attached to the living room. It also provides care and benefits.

3. You have to put straw on the roof of the house.
4. Darma ceiling should be given under the tent.
5. The mold of the tent of the house should be extended up to 3 feet so that rainwater does not enter it.
6. The boundary wall should be up to 1 feet height from the floor.
7. Wire mesh should be provided from 1 feet above the tent. It will be better ventilation.
8. The floor must be paved. When there is a soil floor, the birds start digging the soil floor.
9. The outside of the house should be surrounded by gunny 1 feet away. It will be used to prevent northern air.
10. Some sticks should be hung in the house so that the birds can sit.
11. To clean the house, 300 grams of lime should be spread 1 week before.
12. Phenyl water should be sprayed in the house every 15 days.
13. When keeping birds, if there are insects in the house, 3 ml Butox should be mixed with 2 litter water and sprinkled.

Clay Clown to Keep Birds

1. You have to pay 1 clown for each pair of birds.
2. A hole about 4 inches in diameter should be placed at the top of the belly of the clown.
3. The distance between the two clowns should be 1.5 to 2 feet.



Feeder and Waterer

1. The feeder or feed container should be heavy so that it does not overturn.
2. You have to pay 4 containers for every 100 birds; 500 grams of food should be given in each container.
3. For every 100 birds 2 waterers should be given, which contains a minimum 200 ml of water each.

Feed (For every 100 birds)

1. Every day 1 kg of grain food should be divided into two containers.
2. 50 grams of soaked raw gram should be given.
3. 200 grams of Hinchha or Kalmi or Thankuni vegetables should be given per week.
4. Adequate amount of Basil Leaves can be given daily.
5. One day in a week, 150 grams of soaked wheat should be boiled for 15-20 minutes before given.
6. One day in a week, 50 grams of Rice should be given and necessary medicines should be mixed with the Rice.
7. Spread 100 grams of Rock Salt on the floor every week.
8. Red Sand should be given in a container, which will help them in digestion.
9. One pot will contain 100-200 grams of lime.
10. They eat more food when there are chicks in the bird clown. So at this time you have to give more grain food.

Disease and Treatment

1. Lime Stool – (any one of the following drugs)
 - I. Meriquin Liquid – 5 ml once a day mixed with rice for 100 birds for 3 days.

- II. Terramycin Capsule (500 mg) – 1 capsule once a day mixed with rice for 100 birds for 3 days.
2. Boils under the skin – A lot of the time around the eyes, under the jaw, there is a pus-filled wound on the face, in which case the best way is to remove the pus.
3. Feather Cyst – it is usually seen on the wings, but can also be seen on other parts of the body. It can be caused by genes or by hair follicle injury. It can happen again and again if not eliminated properly.
4. Egg retention and egg peritonitis – If the egg gets stuck, the inside of the egg should be removed with a narrow needle. In that case only the shell will be stuck; in that case, if you put calcium in the mouth, it will come out in 2 – 3 days. A many cases, the eggs are stuck, and the oviduct comes out, and the bird dies after drying. A little hot toast is good.
5. Bumble Foot – Many times the soles of the feet become thin and red, this is what happens in bacterial infections. This disease is cured by giving antibiotics.
6. Scaly face and legs – This painful situation is caused by the attack of parasites. They make these fibers and then small holes in the lips. This disease is cured by giving Ivermectin.
7. Worm Infestation – Worms can cause various diseases to the birds, but it is not possible to give worm medicine in time.

Things to Know

1. Birds should be nurtured as female and male pairs.
2. When buying birds, you have to buy a healthy and strong baby less than 3 months old.
3. To identify males and females, at the age of 3 months, a pink tinge is seen on the lips near the head for females and a blue tinge is seen on the male birds.
4. Lays eggs from 3 months to 2 years of age.
5. Birds should not be kept in pairs after 2 years.
6. The bird lays eggs 3 times a year.

7. Birds can lay 6 – 8 eggs every time.
8. The baby hatches from the egg in 21 days.
9. If the child is 21 days old, it can be sold.
10. Large birds should be given large grains and small birds should be given small grains.
11. The blood pressure of birds is very high, so if any of their veins and sub-veins is cut, there is a lot of bleeding and it is dangerous. As a result, the blood must be stopped immediately.
12. Injuries can often cause air to build upon the skin beneath the air sac near the chest. In that case, the sir should be vented through a clean needle.
13. To avoid getting cold, 2 tips of Tetracycline Powder for 100 birds should be given mixed with rice 2 days a week.
14. Regularly mix calcium and vitamin together and give 5 ml for every 100 birds.
15. 5 grams of Electrolyte Powder should be given 3 days a week for 100 birds.
16. Liver tonic 3 ml per 100 birds should be given every 15 days interval of 3 days.
17. Albendazole Liquid (Dewormer) should be given 1 drop per bird every 2 months interval from the age of 2 months.

Conclusion

With the green revolution, now, the Agricultural scenario of India, as well as West Bengal, have achieved to their highest potentiality. Climatic aberrations are also paving its bad effects on the farmer's production and productivity. In these circumstances, alternative livelihood generation in an adoptable, profitable, suitable and sustainable manner through animal husbandry is really praiseworthy and became a hope to the farming fraternity. Appropriate scientific aptitude along with proper marketing may prove this farming to be a future attraction for the upgraded and updated farming community.