

# **Production and Reproduction Performance of Turkey in Ampara District of Sri Lanka**

**Subalini, E., David, L.S, Lavanya, S. and Mahusoon, M.M**

Turkey occupies an important position next to chicken as it significantly enrolls in augmenting the economic and nutritional status of varied population. This population is considered stagnated due to the absence of a comprehensive improvement and conservation strategy. In this context, a field investigation was carried out in different locations of Ampara district namely Sammanthurai, Ninthavur and Valathapitiya and Malwatta with the objective of evaluating the production and reproduction performance of turkey. A pre-tested structured questionnaire was administered to collect information for this study. A total of forty turkey rearing farms were randomly selected for field survey during the period from January, 2010 to May, 2010. The mean adult body weight was  $3.4 \pm 0.42$  Kg for males and  $2.3 \pm 0.37$  Kg for females. The results of the study further revealed that the mean monthly egg production and number of eggs per clutch were  $24.37 \pm 4.17$  and  $14.34 \pm 2.23$  respectively. The mean clutch interval was  $78.75 \pm 42.23$  days. Age at first laying was  $9.5 \pm 2.0$  months with the production period of  $22.5 \pm 6.69$  months. The mean egg weight recorded was  $65.64 \pm 4.21$  g. Mean hatchability observed was  $87.55 \pm 12.19$  percent while the egg fertility was  $93.33 \pm 10$  percent. The rainy season was the factor determining the success of hatchability and fertility. Farmers exhibited limited knowledge on Turkey farming and improved management through they have reared turkeys mainly for commercial purposes. Even though the farmers are having turkeys in small flocks, there is a great potential existing in these locations for Turkey production. Therefore, adequate government support and extension services should be provided to improve the turkey production in these locations.

**Key Words:** Nutritional Status, Conservation Strategy, Reproduction, Turkey.