**RABBIT FARMING**

**Benefits**

- With available small investment and in a small place rabbit farming gives more income
- Rabbits eat ordinary feed and convert them into a protein rich high quality meat
- Apart from meat production they can also be reared for hide and fur

The project can be implemented by For landless farmers, uneducated youth and women, rabbit farming gives an additional income as a part time job

**Advantages**

- By rabbit rearing one can produce a quality protein rich meat for his own family
- Rabbits can be fed with easily available leaves, waste vegetables, grains available in the home
- Growth rate in broiler rabbits is very high. They attain 2 kgs at the age of three months
- Litter size (Number of young ones born/ kindling) in rabbits is high (around 8-12)
- When compared to the other meats rabbit meat contain high protein (21%) and less fat (8%). So this meat is suitable for all age groups from adults to children

**BREEDS**

**Heavy weight breeds (4-6 kg )**

- White giant
- Grey giant
- Flemish giant

**Medium weight breeds (3-4 kg)**

- Newzealand white
- Newzealand red
- Californian

**Light weight breeds (2-3 kg)**

- Soviet chinchilla
- Dutch
Rabbits can be reared at the backyard with a small shed which can be constructed with a small investment. To protect rabbits from the climatic conditions such as in hot summer, rain and to protect them from dogs, cats construction of shed is necessary.

**Financial assistance available from banks / NABARD for Rabbit farming**

NABARD is an apex institution for all matters relating to policy, planning, and operations in the field of agriculture credit. It serves as refinance agency for the ground level institutions / banks providing investment and production credit for various activities under agriculture and allied sectors for ensuring integrated rural development. It co-ordinates the development activities through a well organized Technical Services Department at the head office and Technical cells at each of the regional offices.

For undertaking the rabbit farming on scientific lines, loan from banks with refinance facility from NABARD is available. For obtaining bank loan the farmers / entrepreneurs should apply to the nearest branch of a Commercial, Co-operative or Regional Rural Banks in the prescribed application form, which is available in the branches of financing bank. Necessary help or guidance can be obtained from the technical officer attached to or the manager of the bank in preparing the project report, which is a prerequisite for sanction of the loan.

For Rabbitry schemes with very large outlays, detailed project reports will have to be prepared. The items such as land development, construction of sheds and other civil structures, purchase of the breeding stock, equipment, feed cost up to the point of income generation are normally considered under bank loan. Other items of investment will be considered on need basis after providing the satisfactory information justifying the need for such items. The cost of land is not considered for loan. However, if land is purchased for setting up the Rabbit farm exclusively, it can be considered as beneficiaries margin money up to a maximum of 10% of the investment cost.

**REQUIREMENTS - Requirements of a good project**

The scheme so formulated should be submitted to the nearest branch of bank. The bank’s officers can assist in preparation of the scheme or filling in the prescribed application form. The bank will then examine the scheme for its technical feasibility and economic viability.

A Technical Feasibility - This would briefly include:

a) Nearness of the selected area to veterinary hospitals, breeding centers, marketing outlets for wool and other products and the financing bank's branch.

b) Availability of good quality breeding stock from nearby breeding farms.

c) Source and availability of training facilities.
d) Availability of concentrate feeds and kitchen garden/ vegetable market waste.
e) Availability of medicines, vaccines and veterinary services etc.
f) Reasonability of various production and reproduction parameters.

B) Economic Viability - This would briefly include:
a) Unit cost - The average cost of breeding stock relevant to the area
b) Input cost for feeds, veterinary aid, insurance, labour charges, etc.
c) Output costs i.e. sale price of wool, wool producers of different age groups and culled animals
d) Income-expenditure statement and annual gross surplus.
e) Cash flow analysis.

C. Bankability:
Repayment schedule (i.e. repayment of principal loan amount and interest.)
Other documents such as loan application forms, security aspects, margin money requirements etc. are also examined. A field visit to the scheme area is undertaken for conducting a techno-economic feasibility study for appraisal of the scheme.

For Technical Help and project report, please contact Agroguide