Effect of supplementation of Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*) and Shatavari (*Asparagus racemosus*) on growth performance of broilers

A.G. MANE, A.N. KULKARNI, R.L. KORAKE AND S.S. BHUTKAR

**ABSTRACT:** The trial was conducted for a period of six weeks on 240 day old broiler chicks, uniformly distributed into four groups, three replicates of 20 chicks in each T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> groups. The chicks were fed with standard starter mash which contained crude protein 22.01 per cent and metabolizable energy 2985 Kcal / kg (calculated value) upto three weeks of age. For next 3 weeks i.e. from 4 to 6 weeks of age with finisher mash which contained crude protein 19.11 per cent and metabolizable energy 3030 Kcal / kg (calculated value). Group T<sub>1</sub> (control) received standard broiler diet without any supplementation, T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> received standard broiler diet with supplementation of Ashwagandha powder @ 5 kg/t, Shatavari powder @ 10 kg/t and Ashwagandha and Shatavari @ 10 kg/t of feed, respectively. The chicks were kept in floor pens, water and feed were provided *ad libitum* throughout the experimental period of 42 days. The supplementation of Shatavari powder to basal diet showed significant (P<0.05) effect on body weight, weekly gain in body weight and feed conversion ratio of broilers in group T<sub>3</sub> as compared to those in T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>4</sub> and control T<sub>1</sub> groups. The feed intake was significantly (P<0.05) higher in group T<sub>1</sub> than in T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> groups. The net profit per bird for group T<sub>3</sub> supplementation with Ashwagandha was higher i.e. Rs. 34.20 as compared to those obtained from T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> groups.

**KEY WORDS:** Broiler chicks, Ashwagandha, Shatavari, Performance