

## EVALUATION OF TWO POULTRY FEED RATIONS FOR LAYERS

M.A.S. Chandrasena and K.K. Pathirana  
Dept. of Animal Science,  
Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna

A test ration for layers which was low in cost and nutritionally balanced (TR) was compared with a commercial ration (CR). A completely randomized design with three replicates was used with sixty 21 week old Hy-line layers weighing  $1.29 \pm 0.04$  kg. divided into six uniform groups. Duration of feeding was 12 weeks and data collected during the last 8 weeks after the point of lay (50% lay) at 25 weeks. TR vs CR feed intake of  $118 \pm 12$ g vs  $133 \pm 12$ g/bird/day ( $P < 0.05$ ), percentage lay  $85 \pm 8$  vs  $82 \pm 6$  ( $P > 0.05$ ), feed conversion ratio (f.c.r)  $1.664 \pm 0.07$  vs  $1.933 \pm 0.04$  kg feed/dozen eggs ( $P < 0.05$ ) and the weight of eggs  $53 \pm 2$  vs  $51 \pm 2$ g/egg ( $P > 0.05$ ), respectively. The performance data on TR were nearly identical to the standards specified for the variety in the United States. The cost/kg of TR was Rs. 4.55 which was 55 cents less than the retail price of Rs. 5.10/kg of CR. The nutritional superiority of TR was evident in its better f.c.r., which together with its lower cost resulted in a feed cost/egg of 63 cents compared to 83 cents with CR. A 20 cents lowering of the cost of feed/egg amounts to approximately a doubling of the expected profits to a farmer on the sale of eggs at the present wholesale price of eggs.

A-14 : 10th Dec. 1987 (Thursday) 09.15 a.m. - 09.30 a.m.  
A-15 : 10th Dec. 1987 (Thursday) 09.30 a.m. - 09.45 a.m.