## B-23: Effect of supplemental light on growth of broiler chicken

E R K Perera[1], A N F Perera[1], T M I R Sahama[2]

*([1]Dept of Animal Science, Faculty of Agric Univ of Peradeniya, [2]Affiliated Univ College, Makandura, Kurunegala)*

This study examines the effect of provision of supplemental light on body weight gain and feed conversion efficiency of broiler chicken. Eighty commercial broiler chicks (source: Lan Lib farm), were used. At the end of 21 day brooding period, 40 chicks were subjected to natural day light + 4 h supplemental light, while the rest of the group with similar number of chicks was exposed to natural day light only, for a period of 25 days. Except for the light treatment, rest of the management practices were identical for both groups. Group feed intake was recorded daily, while, individual body weight of the chicks were obtained twice a week. The results of this study revealed that provision of supplemental light improved ($P \leq 0.05$) body weight gain, final body weight, carcass weight and feed conversion efficiency of commercial broiler chicken. As additional incurred cost in providing 4 h of supplemental light per day is estimated to be less than Rs. 1.00 for a batch of 500 chicks,. These results suggest that provision of supplemental light is economical and can be used to improve growth performance and feed efficiency of broiler chicks.