**COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE GROWTH PERFORMANCE OF NON-DESCRIPTIVE NATIVE, IMPROVED NATIVE, HILLY AND NAKED NECK CHICKEN OF BANGLADESH UNDER FREE-RANGE REARING**

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**Background:** Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) has conducted continuous research for a long period with local chicken genotypes namely non-descriptive indigenous, Hilly and Naked neck to improve their growth performance. How the improved genotypes perform in rural farmer’s homesteads under free-range rearing remains unclear.

**Objectives:** The experiment was conducted to compare growth performance among four genotypes of indigenous chicken in Bangladesh namely non-descriptive native, improved native, Hilly and Naked necked.

**Materials and methods:** A total of 288 DOC from four genotypes were divided into 4 treatments having 72 birds/treatment. Each treatment again had 8 replications. The study was conducted for a period of 12 weeks under free range rearing system at farmer’s level. The weekly body weight, body weight gain, feed consumption, FCR, livability, different meat yield characteristics of four genotypes were considered.

**Results:** The highest body weight 1110.759g/bird was attained in BLRI improved Hilly bird, followed by BLRI improved native (900.63g) and Naked Neck (831.13g) at 12 weeks of age. The lowest body weight (734.13g) however was found in non-descriptive native chicken. During the entire study period, BLRI improved Hilly group consumed the highest amount of feed (2697.02g/bird) with an average FCR (3.06) while the lowest feed consumption (2666.13g/bird) with the highest FCR (4.90) was observed in non-descriptive native chicken.

**Conclusion:** The BLRI improved Hilly chicken is superior to other genotypes of indigenous chicken.