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# EXPERIMENT 2 IDENTIFICATION OF CHICKEN BREEDS

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## 2.1 INTRODUCTION

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During the past two decades, more than 300 pure breeds and varieties have been developed in the world. However, few have survived commercialization and therefore are used by modern breeders. Many of the earlier breeds are kept for exhibition purpose only, some have been lost forever and others are maintained by private or government breeding farms so that they will be available to breeders, if necessary.

### Objective

After performing this experiment, you will be able to:

- identify different breeds of chicken based on their physical characteristics

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## 2.2 EXPERIMENT

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### 2.2.1 Principle

Knowledge of breeds will help us in the selection of the birds as well in the management of the birds. It also helps us to know whether the birds of a particular breed are performing as per their standards. Selection of birds for a particular type of rearing i.e. egg or meat purpose is also possible by knowing the characteristics of different breeds and varieties.

### 2.2.2 Requirements

- Live birds of different breeds of poultry such as White Leghorn (for eggs) and Broilers (for meat).

### 2.2.3 Procedure

- 1) Visit a poultry farm.
- 2) Identify any given breed of poultry based on the physical characteristics like body shape, plumage colour, comb shape, colour of ear lobe, skin and shank, whether shank feathered or not and shape of neck and shank.



**Fig. 2.1: Rhode Island Red**

**Fig. 2.2: White Plymouth Rock**



**Fig. 2.3: New Hampshire**

**Fig. 2.4: Australorp**



**Fig. 2.5: Female layer bird**



**Fig. 2.6: Male and female broiler birds**

## **2.2.4 Observations**

Observe for the following body parts and note it down:

- i) Body shape .....
- ii) Plumage colour .....
- iii) Comb shape .....

- iv) Colour of earlobe, skin and shank .....
- v) Shank feathered or not .....
- vi) Shape of neck and shank .....

### 2.2.5 Results

The given bird belongs to ..... breed.

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## 2.3 PRECAUTIONS

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- Bird should be handled very carefully, otherwise it may get nervous and feel uncomfortable at the time of handling.