

31 st August 2009

## **The Top 10 ‘Devils’ of Swiftlet Farming**

**By Assoc. Professor Dr. Christopher Lim**

Being an impartial swiftlet farmer and a full time clinical and academic professional in the medical field, I have received numerous complaints in a few key areas in swiftlet farming for which I was asked my opinions. Below are the main complaints and questions that I have most often received :

### **A. I am being charged Rm200 - 250 per hour for over the coffee chat with a swiftlet farmer consultant/blogger/advisor**

*My answer :* Most that complained to me expressed shocked and dismayed that Rm200-250 invoice is handed to them after an hour of coffee chat session. To avoid any dispute of similar nature, do enquire before agreeing to have any kind of informal coffee chat sessions with any consultant, blogger/advisor. Better still, have that person agreed over sms or email that the session is FOC.

On second thoughts, perhaps I should give up my post as Assoc. Professor in Medicine and Consultant Kidney Specialist as this kind of hourly charging rate does seem more lucrative !! – I am just joking of coz .....

### **B. I am being sold useless swiftlet farming CDs from other consultant/blogger/advisor (which the seller claim is great)**

*My answer :* This neither will be the first nor the last complaint I will ever get. Good CDs are very difficult to get as they are unique and possess at least 5 must have characteristics of bird talkings. There are fewer than 5 people in Malaysia that can appreciate and differentiate these bird sounds. Most CDs in the market are either pirated form or cut and paste edition of great Sifu's hard work. For examples, pirated CDs from mine is actually being sold 2 – 3 times their original prices in the market. This is such a shame as pirated CDs always have inferior quality due to repetitive CD burning process.

### **C. Seminar that I attend do not address design of bird house / bird nest processing**

*My answer :* Try your best to get feedbacks from other ex participants first before signing up for seminars. Ask yourself what do your aims are before attending the seminar. There is no point joining seminar just for the sake of joining it. Alternatively you could also make enquiry to the organizer as to what topics will be cover and what knowledge you will gain after the seminar. Nevertheless a common recurring feature is that most seminars have multiple speakers and hence overlapping of topics are far too common, this lead to time wastage, participants dozing off, speakers leaving out crucial topics that are always not shared.

**D. Swiftlet farming is cruel**

*My answer :* Swiftlet farmers act as both bird lovers and bird guardians. We protect the birds from natural predators. We provide a safe environment for the bird to live and raise their hatchings. And most importantly we only harvest the nest only the young birds learnt how to fly and are no longer dependant on the nests to rest anymore (the nests are by products). Studies have shown that harvesting nests in this manner do not affect the bird behaviour or mating habit. In fact the bird population in Malaysia has grown, thanks to the concerted efforts of swiftlet farmers.

**E. I have tried site testing CD sold by XX, the test is deemed to be very positive, however after I built my farm, the amount of birds visiting is pathetically low.**

*My answer :* You are using bird fighting sound as your site testing music. This sound yield artifically high number of bird responding to the music. This CD is good for showmanship only. Furthermore, this sound is not specific to our swiftlets @ A. Fuciphagus only. End results – you build your farm at the wrong location. Sad, isn't it as hundred thousand of ringgit is poured down the drains.

**F. How do I check the credential of swiftlet farming consultant/blogger/advisor?**

*My answer :* There are 3 ways –

- A. Visiting his successful farm/successful project of his
  - B. By independent verification by another trustable farmer
  - C. By independent verification by independent and neutral news/magazine reporters.
- In my case, my successful farms are verified independantly by Mr Phang from Nestech Sdn Bhd and the news team from Star Newspaper.

**G. What is the cheapest way to own a swiftlet farm?**

*My answer :* Inherit from your parents ! Jokes aside, the cheapest way of course will be DIY method- provided you know what you are doing.

**H. What is the most tedious job of swiftlet farming?**

*My answer :* Cleaning the bird droppings !

**I. Can I appoint you as my swiftlet farming consultant?**

*My answer :* Not at present time. Sorry to disappoint you all.

**J. I heard that Dr. Christopher Lim is affiliated with developer XXX for swiftlet farming project/eco park**

*My answer :* Do not fall into the trap ! I am neutral and has no involvement in any of these commercial projects. From numerous emails that I received, apparently there have been consultants/developers that have been quoting my names inappropriately and misleadingly.

*Any questions about this article do email to me : [drchrislim@gmail.com](mailto:drchrislim@gmail.com)*