
**CONSTRAINTS TO INDIGENOUS CHICKEN PRODUCTION IN NTENJERU
SUBCOUNTY, MUKONO DISTRICT**



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**A REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE
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DECLARATION

I **Asiimwe Francis** declare that this piece of work is of my initiative and it has never been submitted to any institution of higher learning for the award of any academic paper.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this piece of work to my Aunt Ms. Nassande rose for the tireless, unending efforts she has rendered towards my education. Without her this piece of work would not have been a reality.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE.....	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 BACKGROUND.....	1
1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT.....	1
1.3 OBJECTIVES.....	2
1.3.1 Overall objective.....	2
1.3.1 Specific objective.....	2
1.4 Research questions.....	2
1.5 SIGNIFICANCE.....	2
1.6 JUSTIFICATION.....	3
1.7 SCOPE.....	3
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW.....	4
2.0 Introduction.....	4
2.1 poultry production.....	4
2.2 Types of chicken.....	4
2.4 Importance and use of local chicken.....	5
2.5 Management of chicken in different production systems.....	5
2.5.1 Extensive system (Free range scavenging system).....	5
2.5.2 Semi intensive (The backyard system).....	7
2.6.2 Intensive systems.....	8
2.7 ECONOMIC CONSTRAINTS.....	8
2.7.1 Diseases and parasites.....	8
2.7.2 Feeding.....	9
2.7.3 Housing.....	10
2.7.4 Capital.....	10
2.7.5 Breeding stock.....	10
2.8 SOCIAL CONSTRAINTS.....	11
2.8.1 Predation.....	11
2.8.2 Traditional belief.....	11
2.8.3 Climatic condition.....	11

3.1 Description of the study area:.....	12
3.2 Research approach.....	12
3.3 Sampling design.....	12
3.4 Operational design.....	12
3.6 Statistical Design.....	13
3.7 Data Presentation.....	13
3.8 Ethical Consideration.....	13
3.9 Environmental Concerns:.....	13
3.10 Limitations and some possible solutions	13
CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS	14
4.0 Introduction.....	14
4.1 Sex and mean Age of the respondents	14
4.2 Education and marital status of the respondent.....	14
4.3 Family size of the respondent.....	14
4.4 Animals reared	14
4.5 Experience of the farmers	15
4.6 Chicken flock size	15
4.7 Management systems used by farmers	15
4.8 Reasons for rearing chicken.....	16
4.9.1 Housing chicken at night.....	16
4.9.2 Cleaning of the chicken house.....	16
4.9.4 Watering of birds	18
4.9.6 Vaccination of birds.....	19
4.9.7 Disease management	19
4.9.8 Capital.....	20
4.10 Social constraints.....	20
5.0 Introductions	22
5.1 Gender of the respondent.....	22
5.2 Education level.....	22
5.3 Age and marital status of the respondents	22
5.4 Occupation of the farmer	22
5.5 Family size.....	23
5.6 Poultry and other livestock reared.....	23

5.7 Experience of the respondents.....	23
5.8 Flock size.....	23
5.9 Managements system used.....	24
5.10 Reasons for rearing.....	24
5.11 economic constraints	24
5.11.1 Housing of chicken	24
5.11.2 Routine cleaning of the chicken house.....	25
5.11.3 Supplementation of chicken	25
5.11.4 Watering of birds.....	25
5.11.5 Extension services	26
5.11.6 Vaccination of bird	26
5.11.7 Disease management.....	26
5.11.8 Capital constraints	27
5.12 Social constraints.....	27
5.12.1Crop damage	27
5.12.2 Predation	27
5.12.3 Endemic diseases.....	28
5.12.4 Social conflict and social crimes	28
5.12.5 Peer pressure and social beliefs.....	28
5.12.6 Coinciding with other programmes	29
CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	30
6.1Conclusions.....	30
6.2 Recommendations	30_Toc421867886
REFERENCE.....	31
APPENDICES	35
Appendix A: Questionnaire	35
Appendix B: A MAP OF MUKONO DISTRICT SHOWING NTENJERU SUBCOUNTY (THE STUDY AREA).....	39

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DOC	Day Old Chicks
EAAPP	East Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
LC	Local Council
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NAGRC&DB	National Animal Genetic Research Centre & Data Bank
NCD	Newcastle Disease
NLS	National Livestock Census
UBOS	Uganda National Bureau Of Statistics

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1:chicken flock size.....	15
Figure 2: management systems used.....	15
Figure 3:reasons for rearing.....	16
Figure 4:why farmers commonly use local materials for housing birds.....	17
Figure 5:why farmers rarely use commercial feeds to supplement chicken.....	17
Figure 6: why farmer rarely use chicken waterers.....	18
Figure 7: why farmers rarely seek extension services.....	18
Figure 8: why farmers rarely vaccinate.....	19
Figure 9: why farmers use local herbs instead of conventional drugs.....	19
Figure 10: why farmers cannot raise enough capital to invest in the chicken enterprise.....	20
Figure 11: social constraints indigenous farmers face.....	21
Figure 12: common predators that cause chicken loss.....	21

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: occupation of respondents.....	14
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ABSTRACT

A cross section survey was conducted in Ntenjeru subcounty, Mukono district in April 2015 with the objective of establishing the constraints faced by farmers rearing indigenous chicken. The study collected quantitative data using a structure questionnaire. By random sampling a sample size of 100 respondents was got using Powell (1998) formulae. Data was analysed using SPSS version 16 and results were presented as frequency-tables, pie charts and bar graphs. The study found out that (93%) of the farmers managed their birds extensively (free range) due to lack of input and finances needed in other management systems. Economical constraints were encountered in the fields of; housing where, (97%) used local materials for housing, (66%) claimed lack of funds and (26%) expensive building materials. (97%) could not afford commercial feeds to supplement their chicken due to lack of funds for commercial feeds (63%). only 3% afforded to use plastic waterers while (97%) cited lack of funds for waterers, complained that drinkers were expensive and since they had few birds plastic waterers were un economical. (70%) of the farmers could not afford extension services due to lack of funds, (18%) consulted only when a problem arose because extension services were expensive for a regular use. (66%) lacked funds to vaccinate their birds and (18%) complained about inaccessible extensionists to vaccinate the birds. In case of disease outbreak, (87%) of the farmers opted for ethno veterinary medicines and pointed out lack of money for conventional drugs and unaffordable extension services as hindrances to use conventional drugs. Only (4%) could afford to raise enough capital to invest in the enterprise while (96%) couldn't due to meager earnings (70%) and lack of access to financial institutions (20%). Social constraints of important concerns to farmers were; crop damages, endemic diseases and predation at (70%) peer pressure and social beliefs at (15%), social conflicts and social crimes at (12%) and coinciding with other more important programmes at (3%). The study concluded that the major economical constraint faced by farmers such as lack of finances, lack of technical knowledge and lack of enough access to extension services together with the cardinal social constraints such as predation, endemic diseases, crop damages, peer pressure and social conflicts were responsible for failing farmers to take up indigenous chicken seriously as an enterprise hence the poor management of indigenous chicken in the subcounty. It was there for recommended that the district local government of Mukono through its production department package extension messages that shall help to refocus farmers for indigenous chicken as a potential enterprise to pull farmers from poverty.

CHAPTER ONE:

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter indicates statistics about the topic of study; the problem to be solved by the research the objectives of the study, the scope of the study the justification and significance of the study and the expected hindrances in conducting the study.

1.1 BACKGROUND

Uganda's economy is predominantly agrarian, 22.5% of the GDP, 81% of the employed labour force, and 31% of export earnings are derived from the agricultural sector. (Mudi, 2014)

The agricultural sector is greatly boosted by the poultry industry with chicken dominating in over 50.1% of the households compared to other livestock. This makes the national chicken flock stand at 37.4 million birds; out of which 32.8 million (87.7%) are indigenous predominantly reared in rural areas (NLS, 2008) under the Backyard system (Olaboro', 1990). Chicken produce an average of 50 eggs per hen per year. These eggs are either for hatching chicks (reproductive purposes) or used as table eggs.

Gueye (2000a) and Gausi *et al.*, (2004) state that, chicken are a priority to many rural dwellers for income generation, boosting family nutrition and food security, strengthens socio-cultural relations, they requires modest initial capital and have high reproductive potential. They are also eco-friendly since they do not create competition for the scarce resources and are easily attended to by women and children who contribute the highest percentage of the agricultural labour force. Chicken are a good buffer to crop failures, provides a highly nutritive cholesterol free meat for the elderly population, it's small in size thus requiring less space, this makes it affordable even to the landless, it's highly acceptable in various cultures across Africa and is used in many socio-cultural ceremonies across Uganda.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Although chicken has varied attributes ranging from nutrition, income source and social-cultural accomplishments, chicken however are not reared in big numbers enough to help alleviate poverty at household levels. According to NLSC (2008) a typical chicken owning household in central region had 15 chickens on average. This has significantly contributed to escalating poverty levels among small scale agriculturists which UBOS, (2005) estimated it at 80%. This

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