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KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES RELATED TO INDIGENOUS
CHICKEN PRODUCTION IN BUDUDA

BY

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A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL
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SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A BACHELOR'S
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DECLARATION

I, NamataRitah, declare to the best of my knowledge and believe that the work herein is my own and has never been submitted to any university or institution for the award of any degree. I therefore, present it in partial fulfillment for the award of a Bachelor of Animal Production and Management at Busitema University

Sign.....

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Date.....28th - July - 2018.....

This dissertation has been submitted for examination with approval from the university supervisor.

Sign.....

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DEDICATION

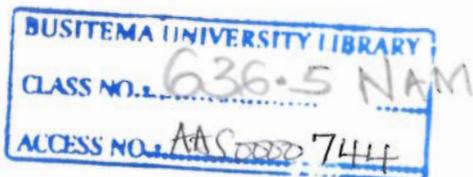
This work is dedicated to my supervisor, my entire family for their patience and encouragement. Thanks for your prayers and endurance, may God reward you abundantly

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May God bless you.



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List of abbreviations

- KAPKnowledge, Attitude and Practices
- FAOFood and Agricultural Organisation
- UBOSUganda Bureau of Statistics

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to assess the training needs of indigenous chicken farmers in Bududa district. This was done by determining their knowledge, attitudes and practices in the areas of chicken housing, feeding and disease management.

Respondents (385) were purposively selected and interviewed by using questionnaires. Females were more involved in the study.

Respondents (75%) were aged below 40 years of age. Only 8% of the respondents had never attained any formal education. More than 70% had never attained any poultry training. Respondents owned only the indigenous chicken. The flock sizes ranged from 1-50 chicken and the majority owned less than 15 birds. Generally the respondents were knowledgeable about chicken housing, feeding and disease management. Respondents (81%) had excellent knowledge on chicken housing (6-8 points) and 79% had excellent knowledge on feeding (11-15 points). Regarding disease management, respondents (75%) were more knowledgeable about factors helpful for disease management, followed by risk factors for disease development (74%), and followed by ways in which diseases spread (72%), followed by identification of signs of disease (71%) and less knowledgeable about causes of disease (66%). The most mentioned signs of illness are cough and diarrhea which are associated with Newcastle disease. Generally, respondents have good attitude towards chicken practices. 80%, 82% and 61% of the respondents have favorable attitude towards housing, feeding and disease management respectively. Generally, the farmers' practice of chicken activities is positive. Respondents (52%) have separate chicken houses, 81% clean chicken dwellings daily, 88% provide extra feed to supplement scavenging, 56% have ever called a vet to treat the birds and 74% have ever vaccinated their birds.

From the findings, it is concluded that farmers have less training needs, but despite this, they should be trained on the dangers of sharing houses with chicken, formulating feeds from locally available materials, using traditional medicines to manage diseases and trained on biosecurity. It is recommended that farmers should be trained and demonstrated on the advantages of cultivating indigenous plants and integrating medicinal plants into existing

farming systems and the government should also organize seminars, conferences and workshops concerning indigenous chicken production for the rural

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Introduction

Village poultry production is widely practiced in Africa especially among rural communities. The village poultry production systems of Africa are mainly based on the scavenging indigenous chicken found in virtually all villages and households (Otim, Kabagambe, Mukiibi, Christensen, & Bisgaard, 2007). These systems are characterized by a minimal or no incoming supply in terms of feed and medication with low productivity.

Nevertheless, over 70 percent of the poultry products and 20 percent of animal protein intake in most African countries come from village poultry (Kitalyi, 1998). Therefore, increasing rural poultry production would result in a positive impact on household food security both in increased dietary intake and income generation (Awuni, Coleman, & Sedor 2006). This would help to improve the welfare of society.

Poultry production in Uganda is one of the areas of importance in the national economy and performs a major role in improving the nutritional status and income for many small holder farmers and landless communities through provision of eggs and meat for home consumption as well as surplus for the market (Sonaiya, 2014). Indigenous chicken are kept for meat, eggs, income and socio-cultural roles.

In spite of the current level of introduction of exotic chickens in Uganda, local chickens have continued to be sold well in urban areas and demand for them still exceeds supply. Indigenous chickens are preferred to exotic ones because of their pigmentation, organoleptic qualities (taste and flavor), leanness and suitability for special dishes (Ssewanyana *et al.*, 2008).

Poultry rearing in Uganda is mainly based on free-range (scavenging) indigenous chickens which are kept at the subsistence level and are found in almost all households (Mukiibi-Muka, 1992).

Despite the introduction of exotic chicken breeds, the indigenous chickens still dominate in Uganda. Elsewhere, Guèye (1998) and Sonaiya *et al.*, (1999) observed that village poultry represent an important component of rural household livelihood as a source of income, nutrition and as gifts to strengthen social relationships.

Traditionally, indigenous chickens are mainly sold when there is a need for money by a farmer. In some places, the chickens are sold in indigenous markets to hawkers or middlemen who subsequently assemble and transport them to urban traders (Okot, 1990).

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