

**ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING INDIGENOUS
CHICKEN BREEDS TO FARMERS LIVELIHOODS IN ASAMUK
SUB COUNTY, AMURIA DISTRICT.**

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DECLARATION.

I, Etibu Emmanuel, declare that all the contents of this report are a product of my findings and investigations in areas where data has collected. Some additional information used from other people has been acknowledged. This research work has never been produced or presented by any other individual or institution for any award.

Name of Researcher.

ETIBU EMMANUEL

Signature

Date.....

APPROVAL

I hereby certify that, this research entitled **Assessment of the importance of indigenous chicken production to farmer's livelihoods in Asamuk Sub County Amuria District** has been done under my supervision and its now due for submission.

Name of supervisor MR OGUZU EVANS

Signature.....

Date

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research work to my dear parents Ocen Aloysius, AmuronImelda, my brothers, sisters for the financial support and all my friends for the guidance rendered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I give glory and praises to the almighty God for the gift of life and the knowledge He granted me to produce this master piece.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBO Community based organization

NGO Non-Government organization

NCD New Castle Disease

IBD Infectious bronchitis disease

KIIs. Key informants

FGD. Focus group discussion

GVT. Government

ABSTRACT.

This study's main objective is to assess the importance of indigenous chicken production on farmer's livelihood in Asamuk sub county, Amuria District. This study will use a cross-sectional design to collect data from rural households and communities using survey and ethnographic study approaches. While the survey component was crucial in gaining a deeper understanding of the extent of contribution of indigenous birds to farmer's livelihoods. A Total of 104 household's members will be interviewed and one respondent represented each household. In addition, 03 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted, including several key informant interviews.

The results indicate that indigenous poultry is a major component of rural livelihoods in Amuria district, Asamuk sub County where at least each homestead keeps indigenous chicken. A large percentage of poultry farmers are women since men usually leave poultry farming to women and children because of the perception that poultry farming is a minor and not benefitting men's efforts. This implies that women play a significant role in poultry keeping and as a result, poultry contribute directly to household food security and the wellbeing of children.

In all areas villages visited, Household interviews show that majority of respondents obtained food, household items and consumables, such as source pans, paraffin, etc. from selling poultry. In some instances, respondents reported converting poultry into other large domestic animals, such as exchanging chicken for goats. Based on findings from this study, we suggest some policy recommendations.

First, we recommend policy interventions in the indigenous poultry sector in Asamuk Sub County in order to enhance the benefits of indigenous poultry in farmer's livelihoods. There should be public information and education programs on indigenous poultry production. There is need to form indigenous poultry clubs and associations for formal institutional set ups, such as task forces to fight disease outbreaks but should also use informal institutions, such as village community organizations to spread the message. Here, the important message is that it is easier to manage groups than scattered individual farmers.

Finally, there should be an increased investment in research and development through introduction of multi-disciplinary approach to research about the role of indigenous poultry in farmer's livelihoods.

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

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. Over 70% of the poultry products and 20% of animal protein in Uganda comes from this sector.

Indigenous chicken is 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.*, 2001).

The poultry industry 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 (MukiibiMuka1992). Uganda's chicken population has in the meantime increased from 23.5 million in 2005 to 37.4 million in 2008. of the current chicken population over 80% are indigenous to Uganda (MAAIF 2008).

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).

1.1 Background

According to the records in the District Veterinary Officer's office, information on poultry is scarce and as such poultry production in Asamuk Sub County is not considered as source of livelihood to farmers. It is on the basis of such information that investigating the contributions of indigenous chicken on farmer's livelihoods in the sub county is the core area of study in this investigation.

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