

**BUSITEMA
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Pursuing Excellence

CONTRIBUTION OF LOCAL CHICKEN TOWARDS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN
GWERI SUBCOUNTY, SOROTI DISTRICT

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DECLARATION

I GWOKYALA REHEMAH hereby declare that this dissertation is out of my original concept and has never been submitted to any University or institute of higher learning for any academic award.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this piece of work to my beloved dad Mr. Lutaaya Muhammad, mom Ms. Kiwanuka prossy and Mr. Abusufian Mubuuke

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I take this opportunity to utter my gratitude to the Almighty God for the gift of life all through.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

FAO food and agriculture organisation

GDP gross domestic product

IFAD international fund for agricultural development

ILO international labor organization

MAAIF ministry of agriculture, animal industry and fisheries

NEPAD New Economic Programme for African Development

NGO non government organization

UBOS Uganda bureau of statistics

UN united nations

ABSTRACT

Local chicken production presents an avenue to empower women socio- economically, culturally and nutritionally since women play a central role in the management, marketing and generate revenue from the sector. A study was hence conducted to determine the contribution of local chicken production to women empowerment in Gweri sub-county Soroti district from February to May with peculiar emphasis on the economic contribution of chicken towards women wellbeing and constraints faced by women involved in local chicken production.

During the study in data was collected at a single point and time with a purposive sampling procedure in which only 25 local chicken keeping women from each of the 4 sampled parishes of Gweri Sub County were interviewed. A structured questionnaire was used for collecting all relevant information related to the study. Data was analyzed using SPSS statistical package and chi tests at a 95% confidence level were performed on the data which was presented inform of tables, pie charts and bar graphs.

The study found out that most of the women involved in local chicken keeping in Gweri sub county had attained formal education (36%) and mainly farmers who earned above 200,000 ug shs per month (41%) mainly from other agricultural activities (66%) and 56% of the households kept less than 10 birds. Flock sizes significantly ($P<0.05$) affected the monthly incomes from chicken, education levels had a significant relationship ($P<0.05$) with the constraints faced during local chicken rearing and the challenges faced during marketing of local chicken were significantly affected ($P<0.05$) by who made the decisions regarding sales. Diseases (43%) and price fluctuation (37%) were the chief bottle necks in the rearing and marketing of the indigenous chicken.

The findings indicate that contribution of local chicken to the economies of women is insignificant, flock sizes are a big determinant of the revenue fetched from local chicken and education levels and decision making greatly implicates the challenges women face during rearing and marketing local chicken of which diseases and price fluctuation are of utmost concern. It was thus recommended that Education in all forms be provided to the local chicken keeping women in Gweri Sub County, markets be structured and restocking to increase flock sizes be emphasizes and done so that local chicken keeping women can reap big from the activity

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACK GROUND

The poultry industry is seemingly becoming an important enterprise mainly in rural areas where more than 70% of the population derives its livelihood from agriculture. For the past two decades in most African countries, indigenous chicken population accounted for more than 60% of the total national chicken population (Sonaiya 1990) and in Uganda specifically, these chickens constitute over 70% of the national flock (UBOS 2009).

Of the 50.1% households keeping chicken in Uganda, 99.2% keep indigenous chicken, and the eastern region is the leading producer for local chicken with an estimation of 10.7 million (28.6%) while the Western Region had the least number of chicken estimated to be 7.2 million (19.3%) of the total chicken flock which was estimated at 37.4 million.

The free range system characterized by subsistence keeping of birds that scavenge for their food, minimal provision of shelter and high disease incidences (Mukiibi., 2001; Bamusonighe.,1998) is the common rearing system in rural areas.

Local chicken are generally hardy, tolerant to diseases with impressive productive and reproductive abilities, are a rich source of protein and are thus a productive venture for the rural women to enrich their economies despite the challenges encountered in the production and management of local chicken disease more so Newcastle disease poor market structures, predators, poor productivity of the indigenous chicken, theft, poor chicken management regime in terms of feeding, housing and health and lack of planned breeding (Ojok, 1993; Halima (2007); Mukiibi-Muka, 1992) In many areas, women are the chief labour providers for many agricultural activities yet they are limited in their access to resources like land, extension services, education, livestock, new technologies, credit and other financial services, inadequate infrastructure and their contribution towards the society development is undermined (FAO,2011a). Contrary to Kitalyi (1998) who reported men's dominance in the selling and buying chickens in village markets the United Republic of Tanzania and Gueye, (2003)'s assertion that men controlled construction of chicken house and major decisions making issues such as sale of chicken and eggs and consumption of poultry products, Oluka et al (2005) pointed out that women had control over the management of small stock and the revenue accrued

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