



**BUSITEMA  
UNIVERSITY**  
*Pursuing Excellence*

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF INDIGENOUS CHICKEN TO HOUSEHOLD INCOME  
AMONG RURAL FARMERS IN ARAPAI SUB-COUNTY**



**BY**

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**DECLARATION**

I MUGUME ELIAS, declare that this dissertation is original and has not previously been submitted to another university or any higher institution of learning for the award of any degree.

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my parents Mr. Suraiman & Mrs. Safinah who endeavored to sacrifice the little they had to enable me study up to this level.

I also dedicate to it my brothers, sisters, my wife to be Nancha Madinah, relatives and friends.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CIAS:	Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems
MAAIF:	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
LIFDC:	Low Income Food-Deficient Countries
GDP:	Growth Domestic Product
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization
UBOS :	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
NGOs:	Non Governmental organisation
%:	percent
LC:	Local council
E:	East
N:	North

## ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Arapai Sub County, Soroti District to assess the contribution of indigenous chicken to household income among the rural farmers. 100 respondents were randomly selected from 20 villages in four parishes. Data was collected through face to face interviews of the respondents using an open and closed questionnaire. The data collected was analyzed using SPSS version 16 and presented using tables, pie charts and graphs. The results of the study revealed that the main source of income for the respondents was from sale of the poultry products (67%). The farmers were keeping mainly the indigenous chicken (89%) with average flock size 17 chickens per household. Poultry contribute a quarter to the total annual income of the majority of the respondents (78%). The majority of the farmers 30% market their products to the local traders and in town. The main challenge faced in marketing the chicken is death of birds and lack of organized markets (22%). The study revealed that 34% of the respondents faced a challenge of diseases and predators. From the results of the study, it can be concluded that the majority of the respondents obtained their income from sale of poultry products, kept chicken for sale and home consumption and that poultry contribute a quarter of the total annual income. It is also concluded that most of the respondents faced a challenge of death of birds in the way and lack of organized market, lack of proper means of transport and low premium costs. It can there for be recommended that both farmers and extension staffs should be trained on focusing on disease control, improved housing, feeding and market entrepreneurship in order to increase productivity and profitability of chicken through joint input purchase and collective marketing of chicken.

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

The estimated world poultry population is about 16.2 billion, with 71.6 % in developing countries, producing 67, 718,544 metric tons of chicken meat and 57,861,747 metric tons of hen eggs (Guèye, 2005). In Ugandan, Livestock production, as one component of agriculture contributes 17% of AGDP, representing about 9% of total GDP (Byarugaba. 2007, Busuulwa. 2009). The poultry industry in the country is currently composed of almost 40 million birds (UBOS 2010), majority (87.7%) of which, are indigenous chickens.

The Eastern Region has the highest share of nearly 7.4 million birds (37.3%) MAAIF, (2006), (National livestock report, 2008), indicated that Poultry had the largest population constituting 54% of the livestock population (286,230) meaning that almost every household keeps poultry (Kugonza *et al*, 2008) .Poultry is a big resource in Uganda and includes chicken, ducks, turkeys, and geese and, recently guinea fowls have traditionally been part of rural households' coping strategies because they can easily be converted to cash and local chicken is estimated to constitute a majority (Byarugaba D.K., 2007).

Depending on the locality or region where the chickens happen to exist, chickens are called Nedi, Nsoga, Nyoro, Nganda and Teso chicken (Ssewanyana *et.al*, 2004). Several reasons make chicken attractive for poverty reduction .They include requiring modest starting capital which is easily acquired by the poor, their small size and fast reproduction compared to most other livestock and its well fitness with the concept of small-scale agricultural development. Moreover, it goes eco friendly and does not compete for scarce land resources, easily attended by weak, women and children, providing valuable nutrients and cholesterol free meat for the growing population. Under improved management, their reproduction and production is high enough to realize faster income generation. (Mukiibi-Mukai and kirunda, 2006)

Apart from Chicken production being the major area of focus for the study, the other type of poultry production in Uganda include; turkeys, guinea fowls, ducks, pigeons, geese and ostriches are also kept. In Uganda poultry production is one of the important areas in the national economy and performs a major role in improving income for smallholder farmers and landless

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