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**FACTORS LIMITING LOCAL CHICKEN PRODUCTION AND MARKETING IN
LWASSO SUB-COUNTY MBALE DISTRICT**

BY



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DECLARATION

I **Rukundo Monica**, declare that this dissertation is original. It has never been presented anywhere by any individual for any academic award in an institution of higher learning.

Signed.....*Rukundo Monica*.....Date *28/7/2015*.....

This dissertation has been submitted for examination with the approval of my supervisor

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my beloved parents Mr. and Mrs. Kanyomoozi Deogratias my brothers Kuteesa Nicholas, Mporampora Faustine, Sunday Ambröse, Kagweza Boniface, Kaijuka Robert and Turyasingura Godrick and my sister Tusingwire Irene for their pivotal role in my education.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.

- CIDI:** Community Integrated Development Initiation
- CIS:** Community Information System.
- CORET:** Consultant Researchers and Trainers
- FAO:** Food and Agricultural Organization
- ILRI:** International Livestock Research Institute
- MAAIF:** Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
- NAADS:** National Agriculture Advisory Services
- NCD:** New castle Disease.
- UBOS :** Uganda Bureau of Statistics

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Lwasso sub-county, Mbale district from March to April 2015 with the principle objective of determining the factors limiting local chicken production and marketing. The specific objectives were, to establish chicken management practices, to establish the different chicken types kept by farmers, and to determine constraints to chicken production. The target population was farmers who reared local chicken. A total of 100 households were randomly sampled and interviewed using questionnaire. Results of the study revealed that, most farmers practiced extensive management system (47%) and (02%) were not sure of the management system they were practicing. Local chicken were kept by 58% of the farmers, followed by exotic breeds (22%) and crosses (16%). Major challenges to local poultry production were: Poor housing for birds at night (96%), inadequate feeds and feeding (22%), limited space to increase on the stock of chicken (12%), low prices (55%), and limited market for eggs (22%), poor road network (14%) and bad weather (09%). Among diseases, Coccidiosis posed the biggest threat affecting (49%) of the poultry, followed by Newcastle disease (39%) and Fowl typhoid (12%). A number of measures were suggested to help farmers cope with the challenges. They constituted: distribution of chicken feeds (27%), farmer training (29%), drug distribution (23%) and spraying to kill parasites (11%). However the following recommendations can be followed to improve on production of local chicken in Lwasso sub-county. These include: A shift from extensive to intensive management so as to increase production of local chicken in Lwasso sub-county, great need for serious interventions in disease control to reduce losses. This could be through improvement of veterinary and advisory services and changes in management techniques including quantifying feeds and provision of balanced feeds, proper housing and appropriate health care.

CHAPTER ONE:

1.1. Background of the Study

Chicken production is an appropriate system that makes the best use of locally available resources (Kityali, 1998). Chicken account for 19.60 billion (Robinson *et al.*, 2014) in the whole world. Data on livestock populations in Africa show that chicken population is the highest (Gueye, 1998). In sub-Saharan Africa, 85% of all households keep chicken under free range/extensive system, with women owning 70% of chicken, providing scarce animal protein in the form of meat and eggs as well as being a reliable source of cash income (Sonaiya & Swan, 2004) In Uganda, Chicken production is estimated to be 37.4 million (UBOS 2009), with over 90% of chicken kept being local stock reared under free range system, (Olaboro, 1990), producing an average of 50 eggs per hen per year. The eggs are either for hatching chicks or used as table eggs. The village flocks consist of unimproved local chickens, typically 5-20 birds per family (Okot, 1990). In terms of regions ; atypical house hold amongst the chicken owning households in central region has the highest number average chicken flock size estimated to be 15 chicken, and western Uganda has the least average chicken flock size estimated to be 10 chicken (UBOS,2008)

Chicken production plays 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. In addition, 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). In Uganda, chicken is sold expensively compared to beef yet the reverse is true in developed countries. (Kigozi, 2004). This is attributed to low and irregular production that is brought about by the following; Mortalities due to disease and predation, feed shortage, poor health and housing management. (A. Kityali, *et al.*, 2006). Despite being disregarded through limited provision of shelter, feeds, limited protection against predators and against infectious and parasitic diseases which cause high mortalities, indigenous chickens have invaluable features that are not found in the exotic breeds (Msami *et al* 2001). These features are appropriate to the traditional low input/low output farming systems in Uganda (Kugonza, Kyarisiima, & Iisa, 2004). Indigenous chicken production depends mainly on traditional knowledge (Natukunda, Kugonza, & Kyarisiima, 2011). Well-organized marketing of

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