ASSESSMENT OF THE BEST AND AFFORDABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES USED TO COMBAT ENDOPARASITES AFFECTING INDIGENOUS POULTRY IN RUBONGI SUB-COUNTY, TORORO DISTRICT-UGANDA.

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ABSTRACT

Backyard poultry rearing is an important venture and integral part of mixed farming in most of the developing countries in the world. In Uganda poultry production plays an important role in the socioeconomic development of the country. However, the sector in the country is adversely affected by a variety of constraints including endoparasites. There is limited information on the management practices that can be used to combat endoparasites affecting indigenous poultry in the country. Therefore in this study, I intend to document the best and affordable management practices that can be used to reduce the effect of endoparasites on poultry. A cross sectional survey research was conducted in Rubongi sub-county-Tororo District that enabled me collect data concerning this study. Faecal samples of indigenous poultry were collected from different households in the five selected villages of Rubongi sub-county and then analyzed for the presence of endoparasites. This study is unique in its nature as it intends to provide valuable information regarding the prevalence of various species of endoparasites based on faecal examinations of indigenous poultry. This information will essentially be helpful to other researchers, Veterinarians and other stake holders to develop policies and strategies for both treatment and control of these endoparasites affecting poultry.

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CHAPTER ONE. INTRODUCTION.

1.1 BACKGROUND.

Poultry are one of the most reared domesticated species; Poultry farms are farms that raise chickens, ducks, turkeys, and other birds for egg and meat production. In the past, poultry farming involved raising chickens in the backyard for daily egg production and family consumption. However, poultry farming today is a huge business that is split into several operations including hatcheries, pullet farms for meat production, or farms for egg production.(Hamra, 2010).Besides providing a valuable source of protein, these products can generate income, particularly for the rural women who are the principal beneficiaries and supervisors of poultry production. The commercial production systems have also experienced a continuing growth during the last 20-30 years. Therefore, it is one of the largest and fastest growing sectors of agriculture in most of the developing economies in the world.

Uganda's agricultural sector employs 80 percent of the country's labor force and provides potential for improving the living standards of most Ugandans. Through the plan for modernization of agriculture (PMA), the government has initiated programs to boost agricultural production and marketing and processing of agricultural goods. All these programmes aim to alleviate poverty through transforming subsistence agriculture into commercial agriculture.

Poultry is an emerging industry in the Uganda's livestock sector. Livestock contributes 7.5% of the total national GDP and 17% to the agricultural GDP. Between 2013 and 2017, the poultry population in Uganda grew by 9.6% and egg production grew by 9% with chicken being predominant. Uganda has about 47.6 million birds (Indigenous-41.7 m, Exotic-5.58 m) (UBOS, 2018). (MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, 2019)

A paper by Byarugaba (2007) provides a comprehensive analysis of the poultry sector, and the distribution of poultry throughout the country and by type of farming system.

This analysis showed that free-range farming systems are common, especially in rural areas, but there is some close-range farming, mainly in urban areas where most exotic birds are reared.

The central region had the most exotic types, because it is predominantly urban, and the eastern region has the most local breeds.

The high growth rate of the Ugandan population and increase in urban migration has increased demand for food. These factors have put pressure on land and other resources for

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