



THE ROLE OF CHICKEN IN THE LIVELIHOODS OF FARMERS IN KATAKWI SUB
COUNTY, KATAKWI DISTRICT

BY

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DECLARATION

I, **KOLUO JOHN MICHAEL**, declare that this study is original and has not been submitted to another University or other institution of learning for the award of degree.

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DEDICATION

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ACRONYMS

NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NUSAF	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
NLR	National Livestock Report
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
CDD	Community Demand Driven
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistic
LG	Local Government
S/C	Sub-county
UNCST	Uganda National Centre for Science and Technology
DR	Doctor

ABSTRACT

This research study was conducted to determine the role of chicken in the livelihoods of farmers in Katakwi Sub County, Katakwi district. Questionnaires, interview schedules and personal observations were the tools used for data collection. One hundred and forty four poultry farmers were selected by simple random sampling. The study revealed that indigenous chicken were the predominant type of poultry (74.8%) kept for their attributes that they are easy to handle & meat is tastier. Indigenous chickens were mainly for sale so as to raise income for the household and were also used as a source of food (95.8%). Eggs were for consumption, income and hatching and number of chicken raised per household ranged between 5-35 birds (27.3%). The results from the survey showed that the annual income from sale of chicken and their products was \geq 100,000 with income from poultry constituting a quarter (1/4) of most (53.5%) famers' total income. The main source of household income was income from the sale of chickens, crop produce and daily casual labor (42.3%) ranked most important contributor to household income. However, other sources included income from crop farming, other livestock, and non-farm sources (remittances, salary, trading, etc.). The findings also indicate that farmers in the study area do not regularly slaughter their chicken for food. When asked how most frequently chicken and their products were eaten at home the most common responses were; chicken 55.6% of the interviewees eat chicken fortnightly, eggs 40.1% of the farmers acknowledged that children are often given to eat eggs weekly. However, the study revealed that 81.4% of respondents buy fish/meat after selling chicken. This indicates that income from the sale of chicken and their products plays role in improving household nutritional status. It was further established that low market prices offered (44.8%), and cheating from poultry agents (middle men), lack of poultry marketing associations, were the main challenges facing chicken farmers in marketing poultry and their products. Chicken farmers should form groups and cooperatives to get some form of non formal education from agricultural extension services and other development organizations to improve upon their business educational status, poultry production, value addition and marketing, through higher level farmer organization formation. It will also help farmers to have better bargaining power so that they can bargain good prices with poultry buyers, by the creation of poultry value-chain so that poultry farmers can get better prices for their birds.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Back ground statement

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 rural Africa, about 80 to 90% of the households keep poultry (Kitalyi 1998), and the population estimated at 1068 million (Gueye1998). In Ugandan, Livestock production contributes 9% of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Byarugaba, 2007, Busuulwa, 2009). The poultry industry in the country is currently composed of almost 40 million birds, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS, 2010), majority (87.7%) of which, are indigenous chickens. The Eastern Region had the highest share of nearly 7.4 million birds (37.3%) MAAIF, (2006), (National livestock report, 2008), indicated that Katakwi had the largest population constituting 54% of the livestock population (286,230) meaning that almost every household kept poultry.

Several reasons make chicken attractive for poverty reduction and improvement of family food security and livelihood. They include, requiring modest starting capital which is easily acquired by the poor, their small size and fast reproduction compared to most other livestock besides fitting in well 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. Poultry production is considered a buffer to crop failure and yet income and food insecurity is experienced by farmers in the area. Although Chicken production is the major focus for the study, there are as yet other types of poultry production in Uganda; turkeys, guinea fowls, ducks, pigeons, geese and ostriches which also contribute to poultry meat and household incomes. Poultry production is conveniently categorized into two; commercial or subsistence and the difference exists mainly in terms of numbers, types of birds, bio-security and management. Intensive, semi-intensive and extensive or free-ranging system is another broad categorization in which intensive system is based on specialized breeds and types and constitutes less than 20% of the total poultry and is mainly found in urban areas, where there are markets for eggs and chicken meat (Guèye, 2000a, Gausi, et al., 2004). Today owing to demand for indigenous

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