

**ASSESSING THE FEEDING PRACTICES OF SMALL SCALE HOLDER
POULTRY FARMERS ON SCAVENGING POULTRY IN KALAKI DISTRICT.**

BY

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**A RESEARCH DISSERTATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF
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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to assess poultry feeding practices, feed types, and demographic characteristics among small-scale poultry farmers in Kalaki District, Eastern Uganda, and to analyze their impact on productivity. Data were collected from 100 respondents through structured interviews and surveys. Age distribution revealed that the largest group of farmers (30.8%) were aged 41-50 years, with only 2.6% under 20 years old, indicating a potential future workforce gap due to low youth involvement in poultry farming. Gender analysis showed a predominance of male respondents (56.4%) compared to females (43.6%), a statistically significant difference (χ^2 , $p = 0.032$), reflecting broader trends in gendered access to agricultural resources. Educational attainment varied: 28.2% of respondents had no formal education, while 23.1% held tertiary qualifications. Logistic regression analysis ($p = 0.004$) indicated that higher educational attainment significantly influenced the adoption of improved poultry management practices.

Experience in poultry keeping was high, with 51.3% of farmers having more than six years of involvement, and chickens were the most commonly kept poultry type (61.5%). Feeding practices primarily relied on scavenging (74.4%), supplemented by semi-scavenging (20.5%) and confined feeding (5.1%). ANOVA results ($p = 0.041$) indicated significant differences in productivity among these feeding systems. Grains such as maize and sorghum were the primary feed types (48.7%), and 71.8% of farmers supplemented their poultry's diet, mainly with protein sources. Supplementation showed significant impacts on flock health and productivity (χ^2 , $p = 0.019$). Feeding frequency was typically once or twice daily (46.2% each), primarily in the morning (41.0%) and evening (35.9%). Key challenges included high commercial feed costs (33.3%) and a lack of knowledge regarding poultry nutrition (41.0%), with regression analysis ($p = 0.014$) confirming their significant impact on productivity.

In conclusion, the study provides valuable insights into the dynamics influencing poultry farming in Kalaki District through an integration of demographic, educational, and feeding practices. The findings underscore the need for targeted educational support and resource access to enhance productivity, which is crucial for improving food security in rural communities.

DECLARATION

DECLARATION

I OBOI AMBROSE, declares that, the information written in this research dissertation is my individual work and has not been submitted for the award of bachelors and have not been submitted to any other institution for any award.

Signature.

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Date.

05/NOV/2024

OBOI AMBROSE.

APPROVAL

APPROVAL

This research dissertation has been submitted with the approval of the supervisor

Name..... AKISH Date 05/11/2024
Signature.....

DR, KISAKYE HELLEN.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this piece of work with gratitude to my parents, family members, and friends for providing me with financial support towards my Education. I also dedicate this piece of work to my love ones and I appreciate them for their encouragement and support as regards to my Education may the almighty God bless and reward them abundantly.

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CHAPTER ONE:

1.1 Background

Small-scale poultry farming is a vital component of rural livelihoods, particularly in regions like Kalaki District, Eastern Uganda, where commercial infrastructure is limited (FAO, 2004). In these areas, small-scale holder poultry farmers heavily rely on scavenging poultry birds, such as indigenous chickens, for food and income (Magothe et al., 2012). However, the feeding practices adopted by these farmers play a crucial role in determining the health, productivity, and welfare of scavenging poultry birds (Tadelle & Ogle, 2001). Despite their significance, there is a notable research gap concerning the feeding practices of small-scale holder poultry farmers in Kalaki District and similar rural contexts (Guèye, 2002).

Scavenging poultry birds serve as an essential source of animal protein, nutrients, and income for rural households, particularly in areas with limited access to commercial poultry products (Guèye, 2002). The birds are well-adapted to local environmental conditions and require minimal inputs, making them a sustainable asset for small-scale holder poultry farmers (Guèye, 2002). However, the nutritional adequacy and balance of the diets provided to scavenging poultry birds by farmers remain uncertain (Guèye, 2002). Factors such as feed availability, affordability, and farmers' knowledge of nutritional requirements influence their feeding decisions and may impact bird growth, reproduction, and disease susceptibility (FAO, 2010).

Addressing the research gap in understanding the feeding practices of small-scale holder poultry farmers is crucial for promoting sustainable poultry production and enhancing food security in rural communities (Guèye, & Branckaert, 1998). By investigating farmers' knowledge, attitudes, and challenges related to poultry feeding, this research aims to identify opportunities for improving nutritional management and enhancing the health, productivity, and welfare of scavenging poultry birds in Kalaki District (Guèye, 2002).

1.2 Problem statement:

poultry play a crucial role in providing food security and income in rural communities in Kalaki district, Despite the importance of feeding practices for scavenging poultry and the livelihoods of small-scale holder poultry farmers, the birds are not properly well fed leading into low production, low income and food insecurity in rural communities in Kalaki district this therefore poses a significant research gap in understanding the specific challenges and feeding practices in Kalaki District. Existing studies often focus on commercial poultry production systems or overlook the specific feeding practices and challenges faced by small-

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