



Research Article

Assessment of Indigenous Chicken Production Characteristics Among Small-Scale Farmers in the Eastern Province of Zambia

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Supplementary File S1: Questionnaire on Indigenous Chicken Production (Eastern Province, Zambia)

Consent statement:

I have been informed of the purpose of this study, that my participation is voluntary, and that all information will be kept confidential. I agree to participate in this survey. (Verbal consent documented by the enumerator.)

Instructions: Answer based on your current flock and the past 12 months. Select one option unless “select all” is indicated.

A. Demographics & household

A1. District: ☐ Katete ☐ Mambwe ☐ Nyimba

A2. Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male ☐ Prefer not to say

A3. Age: ☐ <30 yrs ☐ 30–49 yrs ☐ ≥50 yrs

A4. Education: ☐ No formal ☐ Primary ☐ Secondary+

A5. Main occupation: ☐ Farming ☐ Other (specify: _____)

A6. Household size: ☐ <5 ☐ 5–10 ☐ >10

B. Farm & production system

B1. Land ownership: ☐ Customary ☐ Title deed ☐ Renting ☐ Other

B2. Other livestock (select all): ☐ Cattle ☐ Goat ☐ Sheep ☐ Pigs ☐ Ducks ☐ Rabbits ☐ None

- B3. Purpose of keeping chickens (select all): ☐ Cash from sales ☐ Meat ☐ Eggs ☐ Manure ☐ Cultural/ceremonial ☐ Replacement stock
- B4. Production system: ☐ Intensive ☐ Semi-intensive ☐ Extensive/free-range
- B5. Night shelter: ☐ Chicken house ☐ Family house ☐ Trees ☐ Other
- B6. Bedding material: ☐ Wood shavings ☐ Chopped grass ☐ Sand ☐ None ☐ Raised house ☐ Other
- B7. Main feed: ☐ Scavenging only ☐ Scavenging + supplementation
- B8. Provide water? ☐ Yes ☐ No

C. Breeding & culling

- C1. Source of breeding stock: ☐ Within community ☐ Outside community ☐ Breed ourselves ☐ Exchange/gift
- C2. Practice selection/breeding? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- C3. Cull unproductive chickens? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- C4. Reasons for culling (select all): ☐ Low production ☐ Old age ☐ Disease ☐ Bad temperament ☐ Financial need
- C5. Fate of culled chickens: ☐ Home consumption ☐ Sale ☐ Not applicable

D. Reproductive performance (last 12 months – write numbers)

- D1. Age at first egg (months): _____
- D2. Eggs per hen before brooding (clutch size): _____
- D3. Number of clutches per year: _____
- D4. Hatchability (% of eggs hatched): _____
- D5. Chicks surviving to 8 weeks (per clutch): _____
- D6. Mortality per 100 chicks (before market): _____ %

E. Marketing practices

- E1. Age at marketing: ☐ <6 mo ☐ 6–8 mo ☐ 9–10 mo ☐ 11–12 mo ☐ >1 yr
- E2. Marketing method: ☐ Farm gate ☐ Local market
- E3. Product sold: ☐ Live chicken ☐ Dressed whole ☐ Parts ☐ Processed
- E4. Add value? ☐ Yes ☐ No

F. Health & biosecurity

- F1. Access to veterinary services? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- F2. Treat sick chickens? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- F3. Vaccinate chickens? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- F4. Deworm or spray against parasites? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- F5. Use traditional remedies? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, name:)

G. Main constraints (select all that apply)

- ☐ Diseases ☐ Predators ☐ Theft ☐ Feed shortage
- ☐ Lack of capital ☐ Lack of better breeds ☐ Lack of housing ☐ Lack of information
- ☐ Price fluctuation ☐ Other (specify: _____)

End of questionnaire

Ethical approval: SMHS MU1 2024 49