



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND VETERINARY SCIENCES

Field Station

THREE DAY SHORT COURSE ON INDIGENOUS CHICKEN PRODUCTION



Unlike raising of layers and broilers, Intensive systems of producing indigenous chickens commercially are uncommon. But due to the high demand for indigenous chickens in many urban and rural areas, many people are now considering venturing into this practice. However, most lack the production skills. It is in this regard that College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, University of Nairobi is pleased to announce a short course in Indigenous Chicken Production, to be held at the Field Station, Upper Kabete campus. The course seeks to impart the required knowledge and

develop the competencies required to ensure sustainable commercial indigenous chicken production. It targets farmers, NGOs, Youth and Youth Groups, Extension Personnel, Agro-chemical companies and any group or persons interested in commercial indigenous chicken production.

Entry Requirements

Basic understanding of English, Kiswahili or any other language and basic reading and writing skills.

Cost

The cost of this course is **Ksh 15,000 per participant**. The cost includes tuition fees, training material, practicals, certificates, as well as lunches and tea/snacks. Payment should be made to Kenya Commercial Bank, Account Number 016-200542060, Sarit Centre Branch, Nairobi and the bank slip availed one week before the start of the course

Contacts

For more information, please contact:
The Manager, Field Station, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences
University of Nairobi
P. O. Box 30197 . 00100 Nairobi, Kenya.
Telephone: +254-202022371, 0723-987294 or 0722587021.

E-mail: dept-field@uonbi.ac.ke

Principal-cavs@uonbi.ac.ke.

Website: <http://fieldstation.uonbi.ac.ke>

Background

The latent demand for indigenous chicken in both rural and urban centres is high as most people prefer the taste of indigenous chicken over the taste of exotic breeds that are perceived as rather tasteless. However there is a mismatch between demand and supply in the formal and informal markets. One of the causes for the mismatch is the relatively low production which is caused by several constraints. The single most important constraint of local chicken rearing is their high mortality as result of poor health control, poor housing, and inadequate feeding. Although local breeds are well adapted to harsh living conditions, their productivity is relatively low and rarely do farmers use the most optimal chicken breeds. Use of better suited breeds will improve the survival rate, the weight gains, the number of eggs, and the fertility of the chicken stock.

Intensive systems of raising local chickens commercially is uncommon but due to the heavy demand for indigenous chickens in urban areas many farmers are now considering venturing into this practice. However, most lack the production skills. This course therefore seeks to impart the required knowledge and develop the competencies required to ensure sustainable commercial indigenous chicken production.

Target group(s)

The course targets the following:

- Farmers/Farmer groups
- Farm workers
- Individual youth and youth groups interested in farming as a business
- Extension staff
- NGOs
- Agro-chemical companies
- Recent graduates who like to get practical training

Course Objectives

The main objective of this course is to impart basic knowledge on profitable indigenous chicken production through the preservation of health and improvement of husbandry.

On completion of the course, the trainees will be able to:

1. Identify suitable breeds of indigenous chicken for commercial production.
2. Identify specific requirements for commercial poultry production
3. Be able to manage poultry diseases
4. Maintain appropriate records and use them in production management planning/decision making
5. Successfully operate a commercial indigenous chicken production unit.

Course structure

This is a practical course, offered in three days. The topics will include among others:

- Introduction to poultry production
 - Types of poultry production
- Poultry Housing and Equipment
 - . Types of housing

- . Essentials of a chicken house
- . Construction of affordable chicken houses
- Indigenous chicken breeds
 - . Local/indigenous chicken breeds/Ecotypes,
 - . Chicken hybrids
- Indigenous chicken management
 - . Egg management
 - . Chicks management
 - . Growers management
 - . Breeders management
 - Small scale hatchery operations
- Feeds and feeding
 - . Importance
 - . Types of feeds
 - . Scavenging
 - . Supplementary diet
- Disease and disease management
 - . Healthy chicken flock . indicators of health
 - . Unhealthy chicken flock . indicators of sickness
 - . Individual bird's health vs.flock's health
 - Vaccination
- Chicken marketing
 - . Livestock marketing policies
 - . Indigenous chicken marketing
 - . Strategies for sustainable local chicken marketing
 - . Setting a fair price
- Records keeping
 - . Importance of records
 - Disease records & reporting
 - . Mortality records and reporting
 - . Vaccinations and prophylaxis records
 - . Reproduction record,
 - . Sales/marketing records
 - . Production records

