



## Good Practices and Innovations from the Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP)

### MOROTO DISTRICT

## ADOPTION OF KUROIILER CHICKEN AMONG THE PASTORAL COMMUNITIES



Some of the Kuroiler chicken that was distributed to the project districts when 2 days old. Credit: RPLRP Uganda.

### CONTEXT

The Government of Uganda through the RPLRP introduced Kuroiler chicken because reports indicated that they were performing well among pastoralists who received them under various projects, such as Operation Wealth Creation, The Northern Uganda Social Action Fund or those who acquired them commercially. The chicken were first introduced under the project on 19 December 2018 and distributed thereafter to beneficiaries in Nadunget sub-county, Moroto District.

The Kuroiler chicken were preferred because unlike the local chicken, they grow faster, put on much more body weight (an average of 3kg compared to 1kg for the local breeds), lay more eggs (about 200/annum more

than local breeds), adapt to local conditions better than exotic breeds and scavenge. This implied that a farmer would reap more from the sale of Kuroiler chicken and eggs than from local breeds.

The project introduced Kuroiler chicken to increase food security, household income, and household nutrition status. More than half of the beneficiaries were women as chicken rearing is predominantly women enterprise in Moroto district and Karamoja region as whole.

### GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Nadunget sub-county, Moroto District, Karamoja region of Uganda.

### STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

The beneficiaries are primarily households of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. Chicken are predominantly kept by women in Karamoja region, while men support the women by providing security and constructing housing infrastructure. In case of crises the women and men participate and benefit equally since returns from the enterprise is shared.

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) is the major implementing agency.



Some of the Kuroiler chicken that was distributed to the project districts when 2 days old. Credit: RPLRP Uganda.

- District Local Governments coordinate implementation at the district level.
- The Ministry of Water and Environment provides technical support on water and environment, and infrastructure development.
- Ministry of Works and Transport provides support in coordinating and reporting wild life health interactions with domestic animals and humans).
- Inspectorate of Government promotes good governance, ensures project transparency, accountability and strives to mitigate corruption by ensuring grievance redress mechanism is in place through Community Monitoring Groups established.

## METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

Identification of poultry farmers who were already rearing chicken as potential beneficiaries for the Kuroiler chicken in order to upscale them. Eligible farmers were carefully selected according to criteria whether they have capacity to rear chicken, interest, knowledge, and housing and must be selected by other farmers as host farmers for the group to learn from. Beneficiaries included women, youth, elderly, disabled, child headed families, widows, widowers, HIV Positive persons.

Stakeholder meetings were organised with potential farmers, District and sub-county leaders and Veterinarians by MAAIF officials with coordination from the District Coordination Unit. Requirements for eligibility were provided and farmers given opportunity to identify and select host farmers with whom they would work.

The following steps were taken:

- Stakeholder sensitisation
- Selection of beneficiaries including host farmers
- Procurement of Kuroiler chicken
- Pre-delivery inspection of chicken
- Delivery
- Withholding of chicken
- Isolation and treatment
- Vaccination of healthy chicken
- Distribution to target beneficiaries
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Review

## RESULTS

- 170 households benefitted from 3,000 chicken, farmers received two trainings, received assorted drugs,

vaccines (100,000 doses NCD/IB, 50,000 fowl pox, 5,000 fowl typhoid) and other poultry equipment (100 feeders and 150 drinkers) and 14,000kg feeds.

- Environmentally, this practice has contributed to improved soil fertility and control of insects around homesteads and vegetation.
- There is an improvement in the genetic potential of local chicken through cross-breeding, leading to increased growth rate, egg and meat production, and hence improved nutrition and increased household income.
- Beneficiary incomes have increased through sale of eggs and chicken.
- Women are more committed to poultry than men because poultry are easy to sale to meet essential household needs like salt, cooking oil, onions tomatoes, paraffin, medicines, books, pens for school going children etc. Therefore, the impact was felt more by women than by men.
- Chicken are relatively small and require less in puts like water and feed compared to larger animals like cattle and therefore more resilient than cattle during disasters like droughts.
- In situations of quarantine against notifiable ruminant diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease, which occasionally break out in the region, poultry have often become the alternative source of livelihood and animal proteins.

## CONSTRAINTS

- Diseases and pests are prevalent, and their control has been facilitated through farmer training, vaccination and treatment.
- Inputs e.g. feeds, drugs, vaccines, poultry equipment are located far away and are therefore not readily available. The project gave farmers starter kits.
- Extension services are inadequate. Farmers were located in areas that were accessible by veterinarians; recruitment of staff is ongoing.

## LESSONS LEARNT

It is important to adhere to the cooperative principle of democratic and inclusive governance to maintain closeness with the community and in answer to their needs and their aspirations. This will ensure proper management of the model.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- Groups should be well organised (with constitution) and trained to ensure institutional sustainability. The leadership should be elected democratically.
- Inputs should be locally available e.g. feed production and mill.
- There is a readily available market locally, across districts and beyond national borders.
- Chicken droppings should be utilised as manure for crop production and for biological control of insects and weeds around homesteads.

- The total cost incurred for the implementation of the practice was UGX 1 Billion.
- Since chicken reared in farmer groups contributes to group cohesion and development. Chicken can be given as gift, easily slaughtered and served as meal to visitors, can be given as token of appreciation.

### REPLICABILITY AND UPSCALING

- Practice can be extended if there is a local sources of poultry chicks (parent stock) for egg production and incubation
- The conditions that should be met/respected to ensure that the practice

is either replicated, adapted to the new context or scaled up include: availability of steady source of feed and water for brooders; availability of housing; availability of vaccines and drugs; and an unlimited access to veterinary services

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Agricultural Development in Karamoja, Uganda: Recent trends in Livestock and crop systems, and Resilience Impacts, March 2018 by Karamoja Resilience Support Unit .
- The Kuroiler Poultry Farming Guide.