

Pilot Experiences of Community Management of Poultry



USAID Resiliency in Northern Ghana Project
Feed the Future Implementing Partners Meeting
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Project Overview

- **Dates:** June 15, 2014 – June 14, 2019 (5 years)
- **Geographic Location:** 17 districts of the Northern Region
- **Funding:** 14 districts receive direct government-to-government funding from USAID; 3 districts funded through Global Communities
- **Goal:** Improved livelihoods and nutritional status of vulnerable households
- **Expected Results:** RING is designed to contribute to USAID/Ghana FTF goals:
 - 20% decrease in stunting, wasting, underweight, and anemia among CU5
 - 80% of target HHs have increased incomes of $\geq 100\%$
- **Five technical areas:** 1) Agriculture, 2) Livelihoods, 3) Nutrition, 4) WASH, and 5) Governance



Figure 1: Map of 17 Implementation Districts in Northern Region, Ghana

RING Poultry Intervention

- Objective: to improve nutrition through consumption of eggs among women of reproductive age and CU5 and generate income
- Piloted poultry intervention in 6 districts in Northern region
- Three different poultry management models were implemented:
 - Individual management of local fowls
 - Individual management of layers
 - Collective/group management of layers

Eggs

Income



Model I: Individual Management of Local Fowls

- Tolon supported 250 women with 1,812 fowls
 - 1,443 chicks hatched (80% multiplication rate)
 - 746 mortalities recorded (41%)
 - No sales and egg consumption recorded to date
- Central Gonja supported 22 women with 600 fowls
 - No hatches recorded
 - 324 mortalities recorded
 - No sales and egg consumption recorded
- Savelugu-Nanton supported 123 women with 1,240 fowls
 - No hatches recorded
 - 368 mortalities recorded
 - No sales and eggs consumption recorded



Model 2: Individual Management of Layer Birds

- 1,250 layer birds procured and distributed to 50 women after 10 weeks in three communities in West Gonja
- Individual management of layers by beneficiary women for eggs production
- Feeding and daily management of birds underway by women and their HHs
- 38 bird mortality recorded
- Egg laying expected soon
- In operation for 3 months



Model 3: Collective Management of Layers

- Collective management of birds (layers) by group of 14 women in Nanumba South
- The group took delivery of 304 day old chicks in June 2016
- The women take charge of the daily management of the birds
- They take turns weekly in groups of 3 women to provide feed and water, clean the poultry house and observe birds' performance
- The district veterinary officer supports women with administration of vaccines, medication and best husbandry practices
- The group is also operating as a Village Savings and Loans Association



Results of Collective Management of Layers

- 285 birds reached maturity (6% mortality) in mid October 2016
- The birds have been laying eggs for 20 weeks with 6 crates/day on average (crate contains 30 eggs)
- Cumulatively collected 827 crates (24,810 eggs) in 20 weeks
- 25% of eggs collected each week allocated for home consumption
- 75% sold to generate income to sustain the activity (min 50% saved in formal savings account) and meet other needs (remaining 25%)
- Over the 20 weeks, 144 crates have been shared among group members enabling access to nutrient-dense food by the most vulnerable households
- The women have been sensitized to prioritize CU5, pregnant and lactating women for egg consumption
- The women group operates a bank account where egg sales are deposited by the treasurer (GHs 5,000 deposited to date)



Lessons Learned-Individual Management

- Each beneficiary requires coop to house the birds
- Use of right feed formulation has been a challenge
- Following the appropriate feeding regimes seem difficult for some households
- Promoting and tracking household consumption of eggs is challenging under the individual management
- Supportive monitoring by few vet officers at the individual level almost impossible
- Egg production and consumption is not seen among beneficiaries rearing local fowls
- Sales of fowls is not happening yet
- Local fowls tend to peck each other if quarantined
- Mortalities were high during the harmattan season



Lessons Learned-Collective Management

- The collective management of layer birds produced the best results
- Supportive supervision (handholding) of the women during first 10 weeks required.
- Involvement of trained veterinary officers is key
- Rural households can manage layers
- This strategy works well with groups with great dynamics (example VSLAs)
- Beneficiaries & family members consume eggs once they have access
- Some mortalities observed over 30 weeks period but manageable
- Supplying layer birds after 8 weeks reduces the risk of mortalities



Way Forward

- Recommendation to all districts to adopt the collective poultry management of layers
- Plan to revise all poultry activity work plans to reflect Nanumba South model
- VSLAs that demonstrates commitment will be supported with inputs to start poultry
- RING will incorporate egg consumption messages into soybean/OFSP cooking demonstrations



Next Steps

- In 2017, four districts will implement poultry:
 - Nanumba South plans to support 53 women with 500 layers
 - Savelugu-Nanton plans to support 150 women with 1,500 layers
 - Tolon district plans to support 102 women with 1,000 layers
 - West Gonja district plans to support 150 women with 1,500 layers
- All four districts will follow the Nanumba South collective management model



Community Management; Cost Drivers & Variables

Initial & Recurring Costs (for initial 2 years)

- Building costs: GHs 10,000 or less
 - May need to be donor/project-supported initially for start up
- Feed: GHs 36,000
 - Can be reduced by incorporating soybean and maize mixture
- Medication: GHs 5,000
- Total costs for initial 2 years: approx. GHs 51,000

Egg Production

- Projected crates produced (initial 2 years): 5,000
 - 25% household consumption = 1,250 crates
 - 75% sales = 3,750 crates >>> total sales at GHs 14/crate = GHs 52,500
 - 25% to group members = GHs 13,125
 - 75% to group account = GHs 39,375



Thank You

