

Poultry

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The AgriTech Expo, a pioneering event in Zambia's agricultural landscape, celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Over the past decade, the expo has grown into a cornerstone for progress, consistently striving towards:

- Empowering Zambian Farmers: From its inception, the AgriTech Expo has focused on equipping farmers with the knowledge and tools they need to succeed. This year is no different. Attendees can expect to witness cutting-edge technology in action, from live demonstrations of sustainable farming practices to the latest machinery innovations.
- Fostering Collaboration and Innovation: The expo is a vital platform for industry leaders, farmers, and stakeholders to connect and share ideas. This exchange of knowledge fuels innovation, propelling Zambian agriculture forward towards a more sustainable and productive future.
- Bridging the Resource Gap: Recognizing the challenges faced by farmers, the AgriTech Expo actively works to bridge the gap between potential and progress. This year's expo introduces a brand-new zone dedicated to financing solutions.

Farmers can explore options and secure equipment financing directly from service providers on-site.

The 10th AgriTech Expo is a worldwide event that draws participants from nations outside of Zambia.

The exhibition offers solutions for every aspect of agriculture, including drone technology, energy solutions, livestock management, and irrigation, with specific zones presenting these developments.

The AgriTech Expo is more than simply a show; it's an influential catalyst for progress. This occasion is essential to realizing Zambia's goal of becoming a significant food producer. Through cooperation, exchange of expertise, and resource access, the expo facilitates the growth of Zambian agriculture.

By Gladys Kipkoech
(Poultry News Africa editorial specialist)



Gladys Kipkoech

Your Poultry Updater



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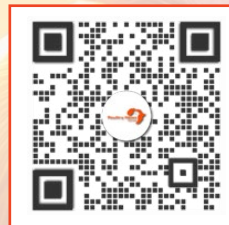
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The Power of Poultry Manure in West African Countries

In West African nations, poultry farming is essential to both rural livelihoods and urban food security. On the other hand, this industry's quick growth has had an unexpected effect. Poultry manure is rich in nutrients that are vital for plant growth, but improper handling can have serious negative effects on the environment and human health. To address this issue, farmers and entrepreneurs in the area are coming up with inventive ways to transform poultry waste from a waste product into an important resource, supporting both sustainable agriculture and economic growth.

The challenges in Managing Poultry Manure:

Poultry waste contains high levels of nitrogen, potassium, and phosphate. On the other hand, improper disposal could result in greenhouse gas emissions as well as contamination of the land and water. Manure accumulation can also lead to unpleasant odors and a rise in organisms that spread disease in populated areas, posing a risk to both human and animal health.

Innovation solutions:

One of the finest methods for overcoming the problem of handling poultry waste products is decomposition. During the composting process, manure and other organic waste organically decompose to produce a nutrient-rich soil conditioner. Compost is created when poultry manure is mixed with other organic materials like sawdust, agricultural leftovers, or kitchen scraps.

Compost benefits crops by enhancing soil structure, water retention, and nutrient availability. Generating biogas is a smart tactic. Anaerobic breakdown device called biogas digesters use organic matter, such as chicken waste, to produce nutrient-rich slurry and methane gas. In addition to acting as a powerful fertilizer that enhances crop yields and soil fertility, the slurry's methane

gas can be used as a sustainable energy source for heating, cooking, and the production of electricity.

Community Initiatives:

Community-based initiatives are playing a crucial role in promoting sustainable poultry manure management practices across West Africa. Farmers' cooperatives, agricultural associations, and non-governmental organizations are organizing training workshops, field demonstrations, and knowledge-sharing platforms to educate farmers about the benefits of composting and biogas production. By empowering farmers with the skills and resources to manage poultry manure effectively, these initiatives are contributing to improved agricultural productivity, environmental sustainability, and resilience to climate change.

Policy Support:

West African governments are also making efforts to encourage the use of sustainable methods for managing chicken manure. To encourage the use of organic fertilizers and to provide financial incentives for investments in composting and biogas technology, certain governments have implemented legislation and regulations. Others are assisting farmers in making the switch to more environmentally friendly waste management techniques by offering financial support, technical aid, and capacity-building initiatives. Governments may foster an environment that is supportive of innovation and investment in the management of chicken manure by coordinating legislative objectives with the concepts of sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship.

For West African nations, the conversion of poultry manure from a waste product into an invaluable resource is a win-win situation. Farmers



may enhance soil fertility, boost agricultural productivity, and lessen their environmental impact by utilizing composting and biogas generation. These programs also enhance community resilience to climate change, provide renewable energy, and open up new economic opportunities.

The appropriate management of poultry

manure will be crucial for ensuring food security, safeguarding public health, and creating a wealthier and resilient future for future generations as West Africa continues to urbanize and industrialize.

West African nations may fully utilize poultry manure as a catalyst for shared prosperity and sustainable development by working together, innovating, and enacting supportive policies.



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Cracking the Code to Longevity: The Revolution of Long-life Layer Production

The egg industry is undergoing significant transformations, setting ambitious targets for production efficiency and sustainability. Recent outbreaks of avian influenza have led to a reduction in the number of hens, further challenging the industry to enhance its efficiency and sustainability.

The ability to produce 500 eggs over 100 weeks requires holistic considerations, and nutritional support will be key, starting with rearing and continuing through peak production to sustain profitable production for the long-life layer. Eggcellent foundations: Understanding the skeletal development of laying hens during rearing. Understanding the skeletal development of laying hens during the rearing phase is pivotal for optimising their lifelong health and egg-laying capabilities. During rearing, hens undergo rapid

growth, and proper development of their skeletal system is essential for supporting the increased body weight and subsequent demands of egg production. Structural bone formation takes place during rearing and concludes once the hen reaches sexual maturity.

Medullary bone development will then start approximately two weeks before the first egg is laid. The function of medullary bone is to serve as a source of calcium for eggshell formation, but there is generally also loss of some structural bone during lay. Medullary bone builds up during the early stages of lay and continues to accumulate over the rest of the laying period. Structural bone that has been lost during production will be replaced by medullary bone. Structural bone is stronger than medullary bone and, since the hen only has time during rearing to lay down the



structural bone that should last throughout her productive lifetime, this is also the only time the producer and nutritionist can support the hen in proper skeletal development. When a hen has a good skeletal structure, she will have more room for depositing medullary bone and will be less prone to caged layer fatigue later in life.

Macro- and micromineral mastery: Optimising long-life layer feed during rearing

One of the foundations of layer rearing is mineral nutrition. Mineralisation of bone is dependent on macrominerals such as calcium and phosphorus, while microminerals, including copper, zinc, manganese, and selenium, are essential for a variety of physiological processes, spanning from bone development to immune function. Copper, a cofactor for enzymes involved in collagen formation, contributes to bone strength, while zinc plays a pivotal role in immune response and eggshell formation. Manganese influences skeletal development and aids in the activation of enzymes crucial for nutrient utilisation, reinforcing the overall health of rearing hens. Selenium, a potent antioxidant, assumes significance in safeguarding cellular integrity and bolstering the immune system. Precision in formulating layer feed during rearing to meet their specific mineral requirements ensures optimal growth, skeletal resilience, and sustained egg production.

Studies of laying hen chicks have found that supplementing organic forms of zinc, manganese, and copper – either alone or in combination with their inorganic forms – from day old significantly improves bone density at 14 and 26 weeks of age. Furthermore, one such study found significantly increased oviduct weight, proving the involvement of these minerals in other phases of development. During the rearing phase, hens are exposed to serious stressors, including vaccinations, heat stress, and the physiological changes to becoming a laying hen, and studies have shown the involvement of specifically zinc, manganese, and selenium in improved immunological status. It is also valuable to mention the role zinc plays in the tight cell junctions in the intestinal tract for better intestinal health, as well as wound healing and

restoring the integrity of tissues that have been damaged.

The gut connection: Illuminating the crucial role of gut health

Gut health is a cornerstone for overall well-being and productivity in long-life layer rearing. The gastrointestinal tract of young layer birds plays a multifaceted role, extending beyond digestion to profoundly influence nutrient absorption, immune function, and even some behavioural aspects.

Refined functional carbohydrates (RFCTM) are a nutritional tool that can effectively be used to support immune function and promote gut health thereby supporting these birds as they experience various stressors. RFC have been shown to effectively inhibit the adhesion of pathogenic bacteria such as *Salmonella* spp. and *Clostridium jejuni* to the gut wall of the gastrointestinal tract. In addition to RFC, a well-developed probiotic will further improve the gut health and immunity of birds. The benefit of adding a probiotic lies in the positive effect it has on modulating and improving the intestinal microbial balance. In this case, choosing a probiotic that contains more than one strain allows for broader control and growth inhibition of non-beneficial bacteria and reduces the population of avian pathogenic *Escherichia coli* (APEC). Furthermore, a probiotic has the potential to modulate the intestinal immune system, reducing inflammation caused by a challenge in the gut and improving gut structure, leading to improved nutrient absorption.

Cracking the code: Calcium and phosphorus dynamics in long-life layer diets

In the quest to increase the efficiency and sustainability of saleable egg production, the delicate balance between calcium and phosphorus has become extremely important. Calcium (Ca), a fundamental component of eggshells, ensures the structural integrity and strength of the developing shell. In conjunction with vitamin D, calcium orchestrates the intricate hormonal dance necessary for successful eggshell formation. Phosphorus (P), on the other hand, is integral to bone mineralisation, contributing



to the formation of a sturdy skeletal framework. Achieving the right calcium-to-phosphorus ratio is crucial for optimal skeletal health.

Recent studies challenge the currently accepted phosphorous requirement, emphasising the need for precise formulation. According to a meta-analysis done in Germany on the phosphorus requirements of laying hens, they found that the requirement is only 2,2 g/kg P in a diet supplied with between 35 g Ca/kg and 40 g Ca/kg of feed throughout the laying cycle.

It is important to note that this requirement is without the supplementation of phytase and with its supplementation this number becomes even lower. This team also looked at the effect of high-Ca vs low-Ca diets with different levels of phosphorous and found that higher calcium levels led to more phosphorous being available at the terminal ileum.

Micro marvels: The crucial role of trace minerals in elevating eggshell quality

Microminerals, including zinc, manganese, and copper, play a significant role in eggshell quality. These trace elements, though required in small quantities, have a big influence on the structural integrity and resilience of eggshells. Zinc is part of the enzyme carbonic anhydrase, which is critical for supplying carbonate ions for eggshell formation. A diet deficient in manganese is known to result in eggs with thinner shells with more translucent areas and abnormalities, and a copper deficiency is known to result in eggs that show abnormal shell formation.

The positive effects on shell quality and a significant reduction in the percentage of cracks when feeding the organic form of these minerals have been proven by numerous studies at different stages of production. Also encouraging are the results of a study performed on older laying hens (starting at the age of 78 weeks) that showed significant improvements in tibia density at 98 weeks and is profound proof that a good source of organic minerals can provide the necessary support for the long-life layer.

Heat stress: Unravelling the detrimental impact on laying hens

During heat stress, a common challenge on layer farms, many physiological changes are occurring, including increasing levels of corticosterone leading to immunosuppression, altered hormone levels, and altered blood pressure. In addition, gut epithelial integrity also tends to decrease, while there will often be a reduction in feed intake, ultimately resulting in decreased production and economic losses. A recent study has also shown that heat stress can lead to lung damage due to inflammatory responses.

The mineral chromium (Cr) is a valuable tool for the management of heat stress. A recent study compared two different sources of chromium (Cr-picolinate or Cr-Pic, and Cr-histidine or Cr-His) to a control diet containing no chromium supplementation in hens exposed to temperatures of 34°C. The hens that were fed chromium showed significantly better egg production, egg weight, eggshell strength, and Haugh units compared to those not supplemented. Moreover, the group receiving Cr-His showed further improvements above the Cr-Pic group, indicating that Cr-His may be superior in bioavailability and better able to support performance.

Liver health lament: The impact of hepatic challenges on laying hens

Fatty liver disease can be a common occurrence in laying hen production. The liver plays a crucial role in calcium metabolism through its involvement in the synthesis and regulation of hormones that influence calcium homeostasis. While the primary organs associated with calcium regulation are the bones, kidneys, and intestines, the liver indirectly contributes to maintaining the calcium balance in the body through several key processes. These include vitamin D activation, contributing to the synthesis of calcitonin – a hormone that promotes calcium deposition in the bones – and synthesis of insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1), which plays a role in bone mineralisation. Compromised liver function in laying hens disrupts metabolic pathways related to calcium metabolism, leading to impaired absorption





and utilisation, which manifests in reduced egg production and eggshell quality. Additionally, the detoxification capacity of the liver diminishes, rendering hens more susceptible to environmental toxins and mycotoxins present in feed.

Betaine, which is a naturally occurring compound, can play a significant role in alleviating liver damage and would, therefore, be recommended to be included as additional support in rearing hen nutrition as well as throughout production. Betaine acts as a methyl donor in various metabolic processes, including the methionine cycle, which plays a crucial role in liver function. By donating methyl groups, betaine helps in the synthesis of phosphatidylcholine, an essential component of cell membranes, and aids in the breakdown of homocysteine, reducing its toxicity to the liver. Betaine can help regulate lipid metabolism by promoting the export of triglycerides from the liver, thereby reducing the accumulation of fat in the liver (hepatic steatosis). This is important in preventing and treating fatty liver disease in

laying hens. Furthermore, betaine has antioxidant properties that protect liver cells from oxidative stress and damage and can help neutralise harmful free radicals, reducing inflammation and oxidative damage to the liver. Betaine has even been shown to significantly improve tibia density and tibia breaking strength in hens between the ages of 45 and 70 weeks.

The future of nutrition-driven long-life layer production

As our understanding of the complex relationship between nutrition and genetics expands, the opportunity for long-life layer production looks promising. Nutritional interventions have the potential to not only extend the productive lifespan of layers but also improve the quality of the eggs they produce. By addressing the nutritional needs of long-life layers with precision nutrition, optimised feed formulations, and appropriate management practices, we can achieve the goal of 500 eggs produced in 100 weeks.





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Enhancing Decision-Making for Improved Poultry Production among Smallholder Farmers through Agile Data

Keeping chickens can substantially contribute to household nutrition and food security for smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe, as in many parts of Africa. In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), rural chicken production accounts for about 60% of poultry with indigenous chickens constituting 70% of the total chicken population. Keeping chickens helps diversify incomes and provides quality food, energy, fertilizer, and a renewable asset for rural households.

The World Poultry Foundation (WPF) has been supporting private-sector poultry companies to produce and sell low-input, dual-purpose poultry (DPP) under the African Poultry Multiplication Initiative (APMI). The APMI establishes a supply of brooded and properly vaccinated low-input, DPP to rural communities.

The program objective is to catalyse a transformation of rural poultry production. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the program's private-sector partner sells day-old DPP to rural farmers, who rear chicks for five weeks and give them all necessary vaccinations, and sell months-old chicks to other farmers.

Up-to-date, real-time information opens the opportunity for better data-based decision-making and strategies that can tangibly improve the likelihood of achieving objectives and impact on the lives and livelihoods of smallholder poultry producers. In collaboration with the WPF, the Committee of Sustainability Assessment (COSA) ran a qualitative assessment of the WPF program in Zimbabwe piloting and testing an agile data gathering and assessment on the adoption



processing and analysis of rearing of DPP. The agile data gathering process was applied through Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) and WhatsApp interviews submitted to the different actors involved in the rearing and uptake of DPP. The results of the agile data gathering process are influencing the strategy planning to increase the impact of the APMI rollout in Zimbabwe.

Findings from the Agile Data Analysis

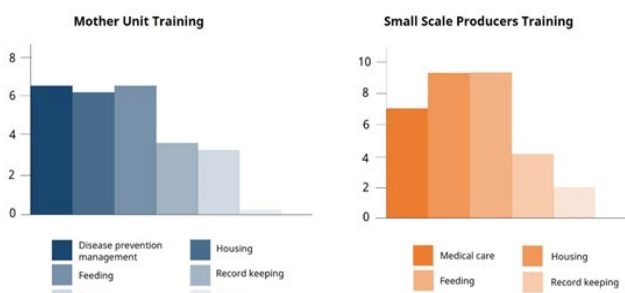
The COSA-led agile data analysis shed light on several important aspects of the rollout of the APMI project in Zimbabwe.

1. Improved Food Security

The analysis showed investing in resistant and fast-growing varieties, such as DPP, might reduce the problem of food security. The study revealed that the consumption of meat and eggs increased after the introduction of DPP for most male and female small-scale producers.

2. Importance of Training

COSA segmentation analysis shows that investing in capacity building is key to boosting success and profitability across the value chain. Notably, training attendance was one of the main factors driving success for both Mother Units and Small-Scale Producers. The study recommends deepening training opportunities specifically around feeding and feeding instruction.



The most successful Mother Units and Small Scale Producers have the following characteristics and training was a dominant one:

MUs with high-intensity renewal versus MUs with low-intensity renewal:

Higher exposure to training

Higher experience

Higher self-efficacy
Higher percentage sold.

SSPs who are repeated customers versus one-time customers:

Higher-income share from Sasso activities
More educated

More exposure to training

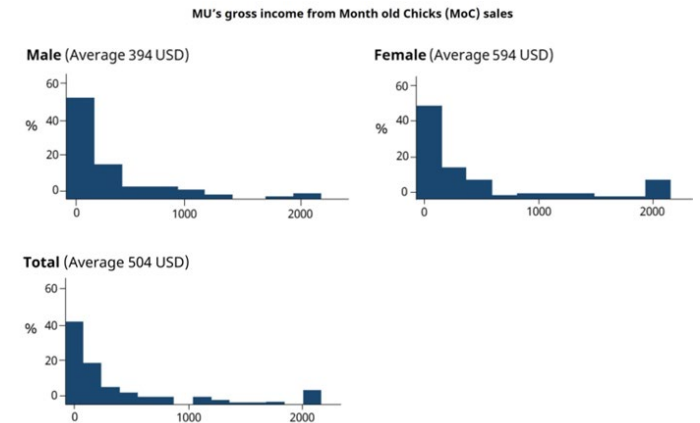
Higher frequency of communication with MU

3. Profitability

Profitability from rearing DPP was clear from the study analysis with 73% of Mother Units declaring a profitable business.

4. Women's Empowerment

Reaching women with meaningful interventions is one of the cornerstones of the World Poultry Foundation's mission. Encouragingly, the findings in the COSA study are positive, indicating women are achieving success levels equal to or greater than their male counterparts.



The agile data analysis showed that rapid decision-oriented data to test assumptions and measure performance while programs are still in progress is key to correcting courses to foster the sustainability of an intervention.

In Zimbabwe, the pilot test of agile technologies at different levels of the value chain will enable the World Poultry Foundation to benefit from having key data much more frequently and at a very low cost that facilitates decision-making in the rollout of the poultry project.



Ghana's Poultry Industry in Peril: Farmers Seek Government Support

Ghana's once-thriving poultry sector is in jeopardy, with the Ghana Poultry Farmers Association (GPFA) citing worries over the closure of numerous small-scale farms. This concerning situation is the result of several issues, the most significant of which are the high cost of production and the recent outbreak of chicken diseases. The GPFA is requesting the government to act by subsidizing poultry feed prices, which would be a key step toward maintaining the industry's long-term sustainability.

Rising production costs diminish profit margins: The primary root cause of small-scale poultry farmers' challenges is the high cost of production. The cost of basic inputs, particularly chicken feed, has increased dramatically in recent months. Maize, an essential ingredient in feed formulas, has seen a spectacular price increase, making it more

difficult for farmers to remain profitable. This cost increase is due to a variety of variables, including worldwide market uncertainty, rising prices for petrol, and local supply chain interruptions.

Disease outbreaks exacerbate challenges:

Recent outbreaks of diseases such as Newcastle disease and Avian Influenza have only exacerbated the poultry industry's problems. These epidemics have resulted in substantial bird losses, reducing agricultural production and profitability.

The cost problems of installing biosecurity measures and managing disease outbreaks place further strain on small-scale farmers' resources, bringing them to the verge of collapse.

Subsidizing Feed Costs: A Potential Lifeline:

The GPFA believes that government action, such



as subsidizing poultry feed costs, is critical to reviving the business. This policy would reduce the financial burden on farmers, allowing them to continue operations and even boost production. A consistent and affordable supply of feed is critical for the survival of small-scale farms and the general expansion of the poultry industry.

Beyond Subsidies: Exploring Sustainable Solutions:

While subsidizing feed costs can provide temporary relief, it is critical to consider long-term solutions that address the industry’s underlying concerns. This includes:

- **Enhancing local feed production:** Promoting the cultivation of maize and other feed ingredients can minimize dependency on imports and alleviate the impact of global price volatility.
- **Investing in research and development:** Supporting research activities aimed at generating alternative, cost-effective feed formulations and investigating disease preventive measures can help strengthen the sector’s resilience.
- **Improving Market Access:** Farmers, particularly in rural regions, can benefit from improved

market access, which ensures fair prices for their products and encourages continuous production.

- **Strengthening biosecurity measures:** Strong biosecurity standards at both the farm and national levels are critical for preventing disease spread and protecting the health of chicken flocks.

Ghana can construct a more sustainable and resilient chicken business by taking a comprehensive approach that includes targeted interventions, infrastructure improvements, and long-term capacity building. This would not only protect small-scale farmers’ livelihoods but will also help the country’s food security and economic development.

The future of Ghana’s chicken business depends on the collaborative efforts of stakeholders such as farmers, policymakers, and private sector actors. Ghana can guarantee the sustained sustainability of this important sector and realize its full potential to contribute to the country’s economic growth and food security by collaborating and implementing a well-defined strategy.

By Tallam Collins



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Closing the Gap for Sustainable Growth in Kenyan Traditional vs Commercial Poultry Farming

An important contributor to Kenya's agricultural sector, poultry farming provides significant contributions to job possibilities, revenue production, and food security. Poultry farming in Kenya includes both modern commercial operations and traditional backyard setups. It is essential to understand the differences,

challenges, and prospects included in both of these methods in order to ensure continuous growth in the chicken sector.

Traditional poultry farming

In Kenya, traditional poultry farming mainly consists of backyard operations on a small scale,



with households raising a few birds mainly for personal consumption and for extra income.

In traditional chicken farming:

1. Despite lower feeding expenses, allowing chickens to roam and search for food a practice known as “free-range”—exposes them to illnesses and predators.
2. Simple housing constructions that offer little protection from bad weather might be made of improvised shelters or trees for resting.
3. In contrast to commercial breeds, native or local types of some breeds may be less productive since they are more adapted to the local environment.
4. There are limited ways of managing and controlling disease, which increases deaths and lowers productivity generally.
5. The potential for profits is limited since the sale of excess poultry and eggs is frequently carried out informally in local communities or at unofficial markets.

Commercial poultry farming

Commercial poultry farming, on the other hand, involves larger-scale businesses focused on maximizing profits and meeting the needs of an emerging market. In order to improve productivity and efficiency, these farms make use of modern infrastructure, management strategies, and farming methodologies.

In commercial poultry farming:

1. Poultry are mostly kept in cages or poultry houses; they are also kept in a managed environment, which protects them from disease-carrying insects, bad weather, and predators.
2. Commercial breeds with high yields are sometimes used; such breeds are selected for characteristics including rapid development, prolific egg production, and resistance to disease.
3. In order to reduce the risk of disease and maintain poultry wellness, disease preventive measures and control techniques are put in place. These include vaccination campaigns, hygiene methods, and regular health surveillance.
4. To achieve the safety and quality demands for commercial markets, marketing strategies may

entail selling goods to wholesalers, retailers, or processing firms.

Although commercial and traditional poultry farming have advantages, Kenya’s poultry sector has to close the gap between both of them in order to experience sustainable growth. This may be accomplished by:

1. Building Capacity and Offering Training: To help traditional poultry producers become more knowledgeable and proficient in modern production methods, disease control, and marketing tactics, training and extension services are provided.
2. Obtaining resources and inputs: ensuring that both traditional and commercial chicken producers have access to high-quality inputs such as better breeds, vaccinations, feed, and housing materials.
3. Establishing connections between traditional chicken producers and organized marketplaces, cooperatives, or other participants in the value chain with the aim of enhancing market accessibility and income prospects.
4. Government Aid: Putting into practice measures that encourage investment, research and development, and infrastructure development in order to promote the growth of the traditional and commercial chicken farming sectors.

5. Environmental Approaches: promoting resource economic growth, organic production techniques, waste management, and other environmentally friendly measures in commercial chicken farming to reduce environmental effects and guarantee sustainability

In Kenya’s agricultural environment, commercial and traditional poultry farming coexist in harmony, each having specific advantages and disadvantages. Kenya is able to fully capitalize on the potential of its chicken market to enhance food security, livelihoods, and economic development by establishing a bridge between the two approaches and promoting inclusive growth.



Farming Insects on Poultry Manure: A Sustainable Future for Protein and Waste Management

The intriguing possibility of raising insects on chicken manure is being investigated by Dutch researchers in a ground-breaking study. This creative strategy addresses two important issues at once: creating sustainable means of producing protein and efficiently handling the waste from poultry manure. The goal of the research team, under the direction of Professor Leo Beukeboom, is to transform waste utilization and protein production. Regulations have historically limited the use of animal protein in animal feed because of worries about diseases like bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Except for insects grown on dung, insects are not subject to this restriction.

Two primary goals of this study are as follows:

Improving the Sustainability of Protein: Creating affordable, environmentally and economically sustainable protein production techniques.

Handling Agricultural Waste: Converting extra chicken manure from a waste product into an important asset.

Professor Beukeboom emphasizes the remarkable



possibilities of insects as a source of protein for animal and human use. Insect breeding uses a lot less water and area than traditional cattle breeding. Reducing dependency on imported protein sources, optimizing the use of nitrogen from poultry manure, and fostering a circular economy in which waste is turned into a useful resource are just a few advantages of this strategy.

The study team carried out pilot projects to maximize insect growth on poultry dung in cooperation with Vrije University and Wageningen University. Wageningen University researchers found that adding about 15% starch to the manure greatly increased the growth of the larvae. Furthermore, they discovered that the greatest outcomes were obtained by keeping the temperature at or close to 32°C. Simultaneously, Vrije University researchers achieved noteworthy advancements in fly genetics by selective breeding. This discovery enables flies to proliferate

on diets higher in fat or sugar in the future generations.

This approach further optimizes the process by enabling the development of specialized breeding lines that flourish in particular environments. The economic benefits of producing a larger percentage of female flies—who lay eggs frequently—are also examined in this study. When combined, these creative approaches demonstrate the enormous potential for advancement and optimization in insect farming. Regarding the continuous possibility for additional innovation and improvement in this developing sector, the researchers are upbeat. As the research develops, it may open the door for legislative adjustments that would permit the production of insects on manure. This revolutionary method has the potential to completely change protein production techniques and waste management procedures, promoting a more circular and sustainable food system.



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Kenchic Powers Up with Solar Energy, Slashing Poultry Processing Costs

Leading producer of high-quality chicken and day-old chicks in East Africa Kenchic is investing \$1 million in solar energy, a significant step toward more economical and sustainable operations. By taking this calculated risk, they hope to lessen their need on the costly and unstable electricity provided by Kenya Power.

Financial Benefits and Savings

Kenchic is anticipating significant financial gains from its investment. The company expects to recoup the initial \$1 million expenditure within four years and generate cost savings of up to Sh25 million annually. The Japanese government

provided 25% of the overall expenses, which amounts to \$250,000 (Sh40.6 million) and played a crucial role in funding the project.

Operational Advantages

The Kenchic facility in Thika has a meat processing plant and a hatchery, both of which require a dependable power source, day and night. To meet this requirement, the facility has installed a solar panel system with a capacity of 843 kW, while the hatchery installation contributes an additional 481 kW. Together, these installations provide a combined power output of 1.32 Megawatts (MW).



Funding the Initiative

Jim Tozer, the Managing Director of Kenchic, has highlighted the importance of this investment, as it supports the facility’s operations and their need for electricity. He has also praised the Japanese government’s financial assistance in this sustainable energy project as a fine example of international cooperation.

Impact on Electricity Bills

The transition to solar power is expected to bring about a significant reduction in power costs. It is estimated that the processing facility will save Sh18 million, while the hatchery will save Sh14 million, resulting in a total annual savings of Sh32 million.

This will lead to a significant 33% reduction in their overall electricity costs, making it one of the best advantages ever for poultry farmers.

A Beacon for Sustainable Practices

Kenchic’s investment is in line with the increasing trend of Kenyan companies looking for substitutes for the unstable electricity provided by Kenya Power. This action not only reveals their understanding of finance but also establishes Kenchic as a leader in the poultry industry’s adoption of dependable and sustainable energy techniques. Kenchic’s shift serves as a model for other industries looking into renewable energy sources as Kenya struggles with power stability challenges. Businesses may save money, lessen their environmental impact, and help ensure that Kenya has a more sustainable future by utilizing solar energy. Furthermore, when solar energy becomes more widely used, the burden on the nation’s grid may be reduced, which might improve stability and dependability for all users of electricity in the nation.

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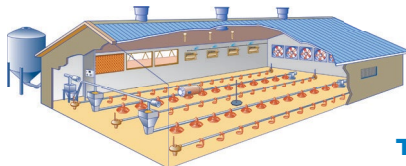
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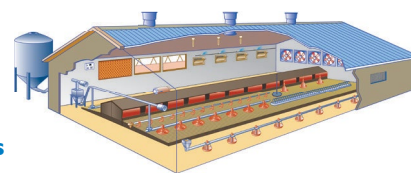
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Securing Quality Chicken: A Look at the Poultry Supply Chain in African Agriculture

Arising population and increasing prosperity are contributing to an increase in demand for poultry products throughout Africa. It is still difficult to guarantee consistently high-quality chicken across the supply chain. Delivering fresh, secure, and healthy birds to customers needs careful monitoring at every level of this intricate network, which involves many stakeholders.

Small-scale farmers, who frequently raise native breeds or dual-purpose hens, form the base. These types produce less meat and eggs than commercially produced species, despite being well suited to the local environment. As we move up the food chain, hatcheries are essential to provide farmers with chicks. Here, it is crucial to take biosecurity precautions to stop the spread of illness.

Producing economical, high-quality feed is one of the most important parts of raising chickens. The health and growth of birds are directly impacted by the quality of their nutrition. Unfortunately, differences in the price and accessibility of essential ingredients like as maize and soybean meal can lead to changes in feed production, which in turn might affect the quality of chickens. Processing facilities are essential for maintaining proper storage temperatures to prevent spoiling and for making sure that hygiene standards are followed. Unfortunately, access to cold chain infrastructure is restricted in a number of African

nations, which can lead to large losses.

There are difficulties with transportation as well. Transporting chicken over long distances, in unrefrigerated vehicles, or with inadequate road infrastructure can all degrade its quality. Lastly, there are a variety of retail establishments in Africa, from supermarkets to traditional wet markets. Supermarkets provide superior temperature control, but their erratic electrical supply might cause problems with refrigeration, which lowers quality.

Taking on these issues demands a multifaceted strategy. Bird health and productivity can be increased by providing support to small-scale farmers through enhanced availability to high-quality chicks, biosecurity training, and vaccination programs. Enhancing regional feed production and expanding the variety of ingredients used can guarantee more stability and control. To stop spoiling, investments in cold chain infrastructure are essential at every stage of the supply chain, from processing facilities to retail locations.

It is imperative that all parties involved—farmers, processors, retailers, and government organizations—work together. Stricter laws and the promotion of best practices may greatly enhance the quality of chicken across the African poultry supply chain, guaranteeing that consumers on the continent receive safe and nourishing protein.





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2024 AgriTech Expo Zambia

The annual AgriTech Expo, scheduled for April 18th-20th, 2024 in Chisamba, Zambia, is creating a buzz in the agricultural community within Zambia and beyond borders. Awarded the best African Bound Trade and Consumer Exhibition over 12 000 square meters, the AgriTech Expo is also the most professionally attended expo in Southern Africa. The year's show is poised to host 20 000+ local and international, farmers, agribusinesses, and stakeholders.

Celebrating its tenth year anniversary, the AgriTech Expo has consistently presented cutting-edge technology and machinery contributing to sustainable farming practices and agribusiness success. This year the expo continues to showcase live crop trials from top seed and crop protection companies as well as live machinery demos. A new inclusion to the list of zones is the insurance and finance zone where farmers can arrange for finance at the show for equipment from service

providers. The show will also include its historic zones: irrigation zone, energy zone, drone zone, livestock zone, etc

The 2024 AgriTech Expo is proud to announce its gold sponsors: Saro Agro Zambia and ZimTrade. Under ZimTrade the following companies will be exhibiting: Afrostain, Agri-Kilimo, AgriRocket, Chilmund Chemicals, Humuson, National Tested Seeds, William Bain, ZFC Limited Zimplow, ZimTrade. The expo will also host the German pavilion with representation from notable entities in the agribusiness sector.

Additionally, the expo will have exhibitor representation from: Czech Republic, Mauritius, Russia, South Africa, Turkey and United Kingdom.

The expo will feature over 150 agriculture entities including: Afriseed, Agrico, Agrinovo, Amiran, Bayer, Cfao, Corteva, ETG, Farm Depo, Good Nature Agro,





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The AgriTech Expo will host a series of seminars featuring agriculture industry experts, financiers and thought leaders. These sessions will cover a wide range of topics, including market trends, agribusiness financing, sustainability practices, and the role of technology in modern agriculture. Participants can expect to gain valuable insights and knowledge that will help them enhance their operations and stay competitive in the evolving agricultural landscape.

The AgriTech Expo in Zambia serves as a platform for fostering collaborations and partnerships within the agricultural sector. Networking opportunities abound, allowing participants to forge new connections, explore potential synergies, and build a strong support network within the industry.

As Zambia continues to position itself as a bread

basket, events like the AgriTech Expo play a crucial role in driving the sector forward. By bringing together farmers, financiers, agribusinesses, and industry experts, the expo serves as a catalyst for future agriculture growth and development.

The tenth AgriTech Expo in Zambia, scheduled for April 18th–20th, 2024, promises to be a dynamic expo that will showcase the best that the agricultural sector has to offer. With its focus on innovation, sustainability, and collaboration, the show is poised to set the stage for a brighter and more prosperous future for agriculture in Zambia.

The AgriTech Expo is presented by Zambia National Farmers Union organised by DLG Agriculture and hosted by GART in Chisamba.

For more information and updates on the AgriTech Expo in Zambia, visit the official event website:

www.agritech-expo.com

or

contact the organisers directly:

Shanaaz@dlg-africa.com.



E-commerce Takes Flight: Reaching New Markets and Consumers for Nigerian Poultry Products

Nigeria's increasing middle class and increased protein consumption are fueling the country's poultry business expansion. But conventional distribution methods frequently find it difficult to meet this demand. Here's where e-commerce steps in, providing a strong means for companies to connect with customers and new markets around the nation.

Traditional Poultry Distribution's Challenges

Wet marketplaces and intermediaries play a major role in Nigeria's traditional poultry distribution model. These channels have their uses, but they are not without restrictions. Price inflation is caused by layers of intermediaries, and inadequacies in the cold chain infrastructure can result in spoiling and safety issues. Furthermore, wet markets frequently have a restricted geographic reach, making fresh poultry less accessible to customers outside of large cities.

E-commerce Takes Off: Revolutionizing the Sector
The Nigerian poultry sector is breathing new life thanks to e-commerce platforms.

HOW TO DO IT IS AS FOLLOWS

Greater Market Reach: The reach of e-commerce is not limited by physical location. Companies can communicate directly with customers across the country by eschewing conventional distribution channels. This provides access to new markets, especially in highly internet-connected metropolitan and peri-urban areas.

Increased Efficiency and Transparency: Direct connection between buyers and sellers is made possible by online platforms. Customers can get access to comprehensive product details, costs, and country of origin information, which promotes brand loyalty and confidence. Furthermore, a lessened dependency on middlemen simplifies the supply chain, which could result in cheaper costs



for customers.

Convenience for Customers: For working Nigerians, having the option to purchase fresh poultry products online from the comfort of their homes is a huge benefit. In order to accommodate modern lifestyles, e-commerce platforms provide flexible delivery alternatives including scheduling and contactless deliveries.

Better Cold Chain Management: E-commerce offers a chance to spend money on better cold chain facilities. Delivery partners can guarantee that poultry products reach consumers safely and fresh by using insulated packaging and refrigerated vehicles. This improves product quality and customer confidence in addition to lowering spoilage.

Developing a Lucrative Online Poultry Business

E-commerce has tremendous opportunities, but navigating this market calls for careful strategy.

HERE ARE SOME CRUCIAL THINGS TO REMEMBER

Establishing Trust: Developing trust with customers is crucial because fresh poultry is a perishable good. Assist dependable delivery providers that put cold chain integrity first. On your platform, emphasize quality certifications and safety procedures.

Delivery and Logistics: Establishing a strong logistics network is essential. Investigate joint ventures with reputable delivery firms or think about building a specific delivery infrastructure for transit under temperature control.

Product Variety and Cost: To accommodate varying customer tastes, provide a wide selection of poultry goods, such as whole chickens, cuts, and marinated choices. Use pricing tactics that are competitive to draw clients and build a solid internet reputation.

Marketing and Customer Engagement: To reach your target demographic, make use of social media platforms and focused internet advertising. To keep clients interested and promote repeat business, offer loyalty programs and promotions.

Poultry E-Commerce: Reaching New Heights

Nigerian chicken companies can access a larger customer base, increase their reach, and seize new growth prospects by embracing e-commerce.

This change benefits customers as well as businesses by giving them more access, convenience, and possibly even more equitable pricing. The poultry sector is set to soar to new heights as e-commerce takes off in Nigeria, meeting the country's expanding protein needs.

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Heat Stress and Lung Injury in Broiler Chickens

Modern broiler chicken production faces an increasing concern: heat stress. A recent Chinese study emphasizes the consequences of prolonged high temperatures, proving a clear relationship to respiratory issues in these birds. This article investigates the effects of heat stress on broiler chickens, including the processes underlying lung injury and the consequences for farm management.

Broiler chicks, which develop quickly and lack sweat glands, are particularly sensitive to heat stress. Unlike humans, who cool themselves by sweating, chickens control their body temperature by panting. When ambient temperatures rise, hens are compelled to pant excessively, resulting in alkalosis of the respiratory tract, a condition in which the blood becomes overly alkaline due to the rapid outflow of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Researchers via Henan University of Science and Technology explored this further. Their study that was published, followed two groups of broiler chickens: a control group kept at a pleasant 23°C and a heat-stressed group subjected to 35°C for 12 hours each day. By studying samples from birds of various ages, the researchers discovered a concerning pattern.

Heat-stressed hens had considerably higher respiratory rates and blood pH, indicating the development of respiratory alkalosis. More significantly, histopathological studies indicated serious symptoms of lung injury. These birds' lungs were congested, bleeding, and infiltrated with inflammatory cells, indicating tissue distress. Furthermore, the heat-stressed group had higher levels of oxidative stress markers and proinflammatory cytokines, which are signaling molecules that cause inflammation. The work provides insight into the fundamental processes of heat stress-induced lung damage. The researchers observed that heat stress

damages the fragile pulmonary blood-air barrier, which is crucial for gas exchange in the lungs. This disturbance, along with the activation of inflammatory pathways, offers an ideal environment for lung injury. Notably, the degree of the damage was directly proportional to the period of heat stress exposure, demonstrating the cumulative effect of prolonged high temperatures.

These findings have substantial implications for broiler chicken production operations. To reduce heat stress-related losses, it is critical to implement preventative measures such as effective ventilation and cooling systems. Farmers may reduce respiratory discomfort in their flocks by keeping chicken houses at a reasonable temperature, which benefits both animal welfare and production efficiency.

In conclusion, heat stress is a serious hazard to broiler hens' lung health and general well-being. Understanding how heat stress causes lung disease enables farmers to take preventive measures to preserve their flocks. Farmers who prioritize a cool and well-ventilated environment may maintain the health and productivity of their flocks, contributing to a sustainable and ethical chicken business.





Why Tanzania's Commercial Poultry Farmers Must Unite Now More Than Ever, Case Study: Tanzania Sugar industry

// The business owners have only two options, either stop selling sugar and let the government find another option, or industrialists have only two options, follow the government procedure, they cannot quit this job," we have protected them enough, in the sixth month in the budget session, I will propose changes to the law to liberalize the sugar trade, they will compete with foreign companies, we have protected these people for more than 20 years now, it's enough if they wanted to grow, they have already grown"

In the wake of Minister Hussein Bashe's recent press conference addressing the sugar crisis in Tanzania, a critical need for collaboration has emerged within the commercial poultry sector. The aftermath of the el-nino rains in 2023 wreaked havoc on sugar plantations, resulting in a substantial shortage of sugar in the country. As a response, the government, through the Tanzania Sugar Board, orchestrated the importation of sugar by issuing permits to companies invested in the sugar industry to import at least 100,000MT of sugar.

However, the Minister's announcement of the intention to liberalize the sugar industry underscores a shift in strategy, indicating the lifting of protection for local sugar producers against global competition. (They will instead be incentivized to compete with global sugar producers) While the sugar industry takes center stage in discussions, it prompts us to consider why the poultry producers in Tanzania should be attuned to these developments.

Drawing parallels between sugar and poultry products, envisioning local sugar-making companies as counterparts to those producing day-old chicks or processing poultry meat, and aligning the Ministry of Agriculture with the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, reveals the interconnectedness of these vital sectors.

Both sugar and poultry products are integral to the daily lives of Tanzanians, and like sugar their supply and demand dynamics are influenced by environmental and external factors, it is the Government's wish to continue having their supply ensured to maintain food security.





Unlike the structured sugar industry where the sugar Board works with the government and Sugar producers to establish supply, and demand and regulate sugar importation in case of shortage, the commercial poultry sector lacks a comprehensive organizational framework, making it susceptible to vulnerabilities in decision-making and importation control.

In the event of shortages, the poultry sector currently lacks the organization needed to assist the government in understanding and coordinating demand, whether through importation or production. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, it becomes paramount for the commercial poultry sector in Tanzania to organize itself effectively. This organization is crucial not only for addressing current challenges such as high input costs but also for proactively assisting the government in navigating

unforeseen problems that may arise, akin to those experienced in the sugar industry. Enter the Tanzania Commercial Poultry Association—the pivotal body aspiring to be the collective voice of the commercial poultry industry. By fostering collaboration and serving as a unified entity, The TCPA aims to aid the government in comprehending the poultry market and production landscape.

In conclusion, as we witness the evolution of the sugar industry, let it serve as a reminder of the imperative need to organize, through such proactive measures, the commercial poultry sector can play a pivotal role in preparing for and mitigating potential crises, safeguarding the stability and resilience of this vital industry. By uniting under a common banner, we can influence policy, streamline decision-making processes, and ensure the stability of the poultry market.



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Silverlands has chosen Royal Pas Reform to establish a new hatchery operation in Tanzania

Tanzania's Silverlands, a growing integrated farming, processing and poultry business, chose Royal Pas Reform technologies for its new hatchery operation in Arusha a city in the northeast of the country, known as the safari capital of Tanzania. When fully operational, the facility will have a production capacity of 7.3 million day-old chicks per year.

Already a leading producer of day-old chicks, Silverlands' hatchery project involved the installation of 6 x SmartSetPro™4 setters and 4 x SmartHatchPro™ hatchers, together with a complete climate control system – with air handling units, air distribution and control, cold-process water chillers, heat pump and heat-recovery system and cold-water buffer tank. The hatchery also features SmartCenterPro™ for process control and data management. Commenting on the installation, Adriaen Sligcher, Pas Reform's Sales Director in Southern Africa, says: "We were very grateful for the guidance of Royal Pas Reform's Stewart Bradnick and his team, which resulted in a first-class hatchery project. Without doubt, we will see a further extension in the near future."

Silverlands was established in 2013 to service Tanzania's growing demand for quality poultry products at a reasonable price. From its headquarters at Makota Farm, Ihemi Village in the Iringa region, the company operates two separate

units: a poultry and feed business, and a cropping business. The poultry farm has a feed-mill, hatchery and poultry houses. Silverlands is the only company in Tanzania that produces three different day-old-chick varieties for the commercial market. The Silverlands Broiler and Layer breeder stocks are imported from internationally recognized breeder supply companies to ensure that farmers receive day-old chicks with the latest genetics that will produce maximum results. Silverlands has also secured exclusive rights for the distribution of the SASSO bird in Tanzania, a dual-purpose, slower-maturing chicken.

With the distribution of SASSO day-old chicks, Silverlands provides improved genetics to small-scale rural farmers, together with technical assistance and training, and offers them access to markets that may not have been possible before. This initiative aims to increase poultry production and productivity, improve rural household income and nutrition, and empower women. Like Royal Pas Reform, Silverlands believes in developing long-term relationships with customers. In 2016 it established the Silverlands Poultry Training Centre at Makota Farm. The objective of the training courses offered is to provide attendees with the knowledge to successfully manage a poultry unit. It has proved to be a highly valued service and today the training centre has an active Facebook community of over 27,000 members.

Adriaen Sligcher says: "We are delighted to have partnered with Silverlands on this important new hatchery. It will help to bring new skills and prosperity to the region and support its commitment to being socially responsible to the communities it operates in. "We also look forward to arranging a hatchery manager's course with Silverlands in the near future in order to further extend the knowledge of potential hatchery managers in Tanzania."





Poultry Farming in Burundi is a Path to Food Security and Economic Empowerment

Poultry farming in Burundi has enormous possibilities for improving the availability of food, increasing income, and empowering women in rural communities. However, the industry has encountered considerable obstacles, including a decrease caused by political instability and a lack of resources. Despite these challenges, the past several years have seen a gratifying recovery, thanks to dedicated efforts from a variety of stakeholders.

Historically, chicken farming in Burundi was essentially a home occupation, overseen by women, and viewed as supplemental to other forms of revenue. The destructive civil war in the 1990s, combined with trade embargoes, had a significant impact on the sector. The importation of chicks and critical agricultural inputs became problematic, resulting in a decrease in poultry population and production.

Fortunately, there has been some recovery over the past two decades. Organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgique (VSF-Belgium) have played critical roles in this process. They provide vital assistance to farmers through:

Improved breeds: The distribution of improved chicken breeds, which are noted for faster growth and higher egg output, has greatly increased yields.

Training and education: Providing farmers with knowledge about better poultry management methods, such as biosecurity, correct feeding, and disease control, has resulted in healthier and more productive birds. **Access to Resources:** Facilitating access to critical resources such as vaccines, feed, and equipment, particularly for women-led families, has allowed them to participate more actively in chicken farming. These measures have had a clear impact. Burundi's poultry population

has consistently expanded from 2000 to 2022, with meat output reaching 8,346 tonnes in 2022. This development is due not just to improved breeds and management approaches, but also to rising demand for chicken products.

Burundi's population is continuously increasing, as is demand for animal protein, particularly eggs and chicken meat. This gives an excellent opportunity for poultry farmers to boost their revenue while also contributing to national food security. However, obstacles still exist. Access to economical and high-quality feed, frequent disease outbreaks, and limited market access continue to stifle the sector's potential. Addressing these difficulties requires a multi-pronged strategy.

Investing in local feed production: Encouraging the establishment of local feed production facilities can reduce farmers' dependency on expensive imports while also ensuring consistent availability of high-quality feed. **Enhancing veterinary services:** Strong veterinary services are critical for early detection and control of poultry illnesses. This entails creating easily accessible diagnostic facilities and training veterinary specialists.

Improving market access: Connecting farmers to local marketplaces and encouraging the formation of farmer cooperatives can help them obtain higher prices for their products and reduce post-harvest losses.

By solving these difficulties and continuing to receive critical help from organizations such as the FAO and VSF-Belgium, Burundi's poultry business may continue to flourish. This will not only improve food security and empower rural populations, but will also help to drive the country's overall economic development.

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Ever steadily, modern poultry farmers are adopting technology that consolidates sensor readings and equipment controls into a single interface. As the most definitive indicator of profitable bird development, weight data plays an indispensable role in effectively managing your flocks. Globally trusted poultry scale manufacturer VEIT Electronics has been aware of this for many years. That's why the company's in-house development team has dedicated itself to developing and testing a new automatic scale that brings a new dimension of quality and reliability to weight data by automatically importing it directly into any farm management system.

Direct integration takes farm management to a whole new level

The new BAT2 Connect series of poultry scales frees breeders and farmers from unreliable, unsystematic practices for recording and storing weight data, as well as the hassle and risks of transferring and copying it. The new scales automatically bring all individual weights together in one place, along with

actionable statistics such as average weight, uniformity, CV, histograms as well as graphs for growth curve comparison.

Company owner Petr Veit explains it best in his conversations with customers and partners:

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The global growth of the poultry industry has resulted in a diverse range of farm management systems, both third-party and proprietary. The subsequent need to seamlessly incorporate reliable weight data into these systems led VEIT developers to create the BAT2 Connect Series. Now, thanks to API-driven integration, you can make the most of 24/7 online access to your weight data in real time and on any management system, such as MTech.

As the industry grows, farmers seeking to expand to new locations now have to grapple with novel challenges, especially in terms of transferring and working with their weight data. Anticipating this, the BAT2 Connect Series features scales equipped with specialised technology to cater to any farming strategy, even in locations with little or no data coverage.

VEIT Electronics' new BAT2 Connect Series is designed to meet the requirements of modern poultry farming, decreasing costs in the breeding process and, above all, greatly increasing its efficiency.

For comprehensive information on the new BAT2 Connect series of automatic scales and weighing solutions customised for your own specific needs, visit the BAT website.

Petr Lolek



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