

ASSESSMENT OF PRODUCTION PRACTICES OF RURAL CHICKEN IN GOROGUTU DISTRICT, EASTERN HARARGHE, ETHIOPIA

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to assess the production practices of rural chicken in three agro-ecologies. A total of six rural kebeles (RKs), two RKs from each agro-ecology were purposively selected within Agro-ecology and from each RK 30 HHs were randomly taken for the survey and information were collected by using questionnaires from a total of 90 HHs. The study revealed that the objectives of keeping chicken were for income generation (36.7%), additional farm employment (17.8%), and improving family nutrition (10%) and for religious purpose (2.2%). The overall village chicken flock size was 17.77 ± 0.62 per household and the flock structure is dominated by Hens, Pullets and chicks with mean value of 8.76 ± 0.75 , 3.17 ± 0.37 , and 3.56 ± 0.27 respectively. The main feed supplements used for chicken were Wheat (24.4%), maize (15.6%) and sorghum (13 %) grains. Therefore, layers receive first priority to get supplementation (61.4%). The major sources of water for village chicken were spring water (63.3%), well water (17.8%), river water (10%) and pond water (8.9%). The determinant factors of culling chicken were poor productivity (72.2%), frequent broodiness (22.2%), sickness (2.2%), and lack of broodiness (3.3%). The majority (76.7%) of respondents incubate and brood hen during the wet seasons. Exotic breed had higher egg (150.2 ± 4.07) production performances than the cross (98.10 ± 2.11), and indigenous breed (60.54 ± 2.57).

KEYWORDS: *Chicken, Gorogutu, Production performance, Rural Chicken*

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