



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

RAISING INDIGENOUS CHICKENS

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INTRODUCTION

Indigenous chickens are a vital part of many agricultural systems. They are well-suited to local conditions, often hardy, and can be a profitable addition to small-scale farming operations. This guide provides practical steps and tips for raising indigenous chickens for food and nutritional security.

HOW TO START

- Provide suitable housing and adequate fowl run/grazing land (4m²/chicken), partitioned according to chicken ages and breeds if necessary.
- Provide fencing to control movement.
- One cock for every ten hens.
- Keep newly hatched chicks in a hay brooder for 3-4 weeks and feed accordingly.
- Provide enough brooding/heating equipment, water and feed containers.
- A proper vaccination program.



HOUSING SYSTEM



HAY BROODER

FEEDING THE CHICKENS

For chicks to grower stage

- Makhaya/Broiler Starter: 6 weeks fed adlibitum
- Supplement with Makhaya grower/Mixed fowl feed/Crushed maize until slaughter

NOTE: FEED THE CHICKENS SUPPLEMENTARY COMMERCIAL FEED MORNING AND EVENING, ALLOW THE CHICKENS TO SCAVENGE AND GRAZE FOR GREENS IN THE FOWL RUN DURING THE DAY.



VACCINATION PROGRAM

AGE	DISEASE	TYPE OF VACCINE/DRUG	ADMINISTRATION ROUTE
2 weeks	New Castle Disease	NCD Vaccine	Drinking water
4 weeks	New Castle Disease	NCD Vaccine	Drinking water
8 weeks	Fowl Pox	Fowl Pox Vaccine	Wing web
Every 4 months	New Castle Disease Worms	NCD Vaccine Dewormer	Drinking water Drinking water/Feed
Once just before rains	Fowl Pox	Fowl Pox Vaccine	Wing web

Note: After every 3 months, remove litter and dust