CONSTRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN INDIGENOUS CHICKEN VALUE CHAIN IN BOMET AND MWALA DISTRICTS

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Results
Importance of indigenous chicken

- Common enterprise: 95% of farmers involved in free-range production
- Indigenous chicken identified as one of the 3 major agricultural enterprises (FGDs)
- Ranking for 3 major agricultural enterprises by location
  - Mbiuni: oranges, maize and chicken
  - Mwala: chicken, maize and cattle
  - Chemaner: maize, cattle, chicken
  - Kapkimolwa: maize, cattle, chicken
Importance of indigenous chicken

- Chicken ranked relatively highly by women
  - Mbiuni
    - Women: chicken, oranges, maize
    - Men: oranges, maize, chicken
  - Mwala
    - Women: chicken, maize, cattle
    - Men: maize, chicken, cattle
  - Chemaner
    - Women: maize, cattle, chicken
    - Men: cattle, chicken, maize
Importance of indigenous chicken

- Kapkimolwa
  - Women: cattle, chicken, maize
  - Men: cattle, maize, chicken

- Reasons for chicken ranking by women
  - Source of income for basic household & emergency financial needs
  - Women have freedom to make decisions on sale of chicken
Overview of the value chain

Minor differences in structure of value chains in the two study sites
Mwala indigenous chicken value chain map

SERVICES

Transportation
- Bicycle
- Motorcycles
- Matatu (Public Service Vehicles)

Extension
- Govt (MoLD)
- NGOs (World vision, INADES Formation)

Rural consumers
- Institutions (Schools, colleges, hospitals)
- Large assemblers
- Secondary brokers
- Small traders/Primary brokers
- Local market traders
- Urban consumers
- Urban Hotels
- Rural Hotels

Individual farmers
- NGO (World vision)
  - Providing improved cockerels
- Individual farmers (Chicks-local)
- Agro-vets (Feeds, Drugs)
Marketing outlets for producers

![Bar chart showing marketing outlets for producers by gender and location. The chart compares Small trader/broker, Large trader, Consumer, and Hotel responses.]

- **Mwala**: Male - Female - Total
- **Bomet**: Male - Female - Total
- **Total**: Male - Female

*Person responsible for chicken*
Marketing outlets for producers

- Small traders
  - Most prevalent outlet for producers regardless of gender of person responsible for production and gender of household head

- Second common outlet
  - Large traders
    - Women producers in female-headed households
    - Men producers in male-headed households
  - Local consumers
    - Women producers in male-headed households
Reasons for choice of marketing outlets

- Small traders/brokers
  - Only available marketing outlet
  - Offer better prices
  - Proximity to producers
    - Farm gate sales
    - Saves on time and transport costs
Producer gross margins

![Bar chart showing gross margins per chicken for different buyer types and locations.](chart.png)

- **Mwala**: Broker/small trader - 271, Large trader - 364, Consumer - 259, Hotel - 448
- **Bomet**: Broker/small trader - 205, Large trader - 159, Consumer - 154, Hotel - 272
- **Overall**: Broker/small trader - 237, Large trader - 228, Consumer - 224, Hotel - 331

**Gross margin per chicken (KES)**
Participation of women along value chain

- Sourcing for breeding stock
- High participation as producers
  - Mainly responsible for enterprise (80%)
  - Undertake most production activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Persons responsible for chicken production</th>
<th>Gender of household head</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mwala</td>
<td></td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>86.7</td>
<td>92.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bomet</td>
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<td>93.8</td>
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<td>19.5</td>
<td>7.3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>80.5</td>
<td>92.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Participation of women along value chain

- Reasons for participation in production
  - Spend more time at home
  - Source of quick income for basic household & emergency financial needs
  - Freedom to make decisions on sale of chicken
  - Enterprise has low input requirements

- Women involved in sales decisions
  - Female-headed households: mainly women (89%)
  - Male-headed households: mainly jointly by men and women (67%)
Participation of women along value chain

- Women involved in decisions on use of revenue
  - Female-headed households: women (91%)
  - Male-headed households: joint (64%)

- Where women were responsible for production, decisions on use of revenue were made by
  - Men and women jointly (53%)
  - Women separately (38%)
    - Pattern similar in Bomet (62% joint vs. 29% women)
    - Different in Mwala (44% joint vs. 47% women)
Participation of women along value chain

- Farm gate and local market chicken sales (90%)
  - Participation at lower end of marketing chain

- Reasons for low participation in trading
  - Time demand from domestic chores
    - Limits participation since trading is time consuming and tedious
    - Restricts women’s mobility especially for long-distance travels
  - Trading can be aggressive & competitive (brokers)
  - Unfriendly transport means
    - Use of bicycles to source for birds not convenient for women
  - Social constraints that limit people with whom women can interact
    - Spouses reluctant to allow women to be away from home for extended time periods and interact with the more prevalent male traders
Constraints faced by producers

- High disease incidence
  - High chicken mortality
- High cost of feeds
  - Limited supplementary feeding
- Predation due to lack of proper housing structures
- Little or no bargaining power, hence low producer prices
- High cost of transport to markets
Constraints faced by traders

- Poultry disease outbreaks which affect supply of birds
- High transport costs due to poor road infrastructure and long travels
- Inconsistent and low supplies due to small flock sizes
- Lack of capital to expand business
Opportunities

- **Growing demand & preference for indigenous chicken**
- **Support by government and development partners**
  - Mainly training
  - Model poultry housing units
- **Existing collective action among producers**
  - Facilitate collective marketing
  - Ease assembly of indigenous chicken by traders
- **Potential for value addition**
  - Slaughtering and dressing especially for urban consumers
    - Existing or new service
Conclusion

- Indigenous chicken are an important enterprise and potential for commercialization exists
- Women are involved at the lower end of the chain
- Unlocking potential for women to participate in markets
  - Focus on production
    - Women are main producers & decision-makers
  - Improve production to tap into growing demand
    - Put more investment into management of birds
      - Semi-intensive system of production
    - Implement bio-security measures to prevent introduction & spread of diseases
    - Supplementary feeding
    - Proper housing to minimize predation
Conclusion

- Unlocking potential for women to participate in markets
  - Encourage collective marketing of chicken
    - Farmers already engaged in groups
      - 90% of households are in groups, majority of members are women
    - Improve bargaining power among women producers
    - Enable access to high-end markets like hotels
    - Pool resources for vaccines to make treatment cost effective
    - Deal with social constraints limiting women’s mobility & interaction
THANK YOU