



– International Fund for Agricultural Development –
– Repérer et partager l'innovation en Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre –

– Early weaning and appropriate feed –

I. Context

1. Name of the innovation

Early weaning and appropriate feed to increase chicken productivity

2. Country – Region

Democratic Republic of the Congo

3. Organization

Agricultural Revival Programme in Equateur Province (PRAPE)

4. Who is the innovator?

C.R.BIKOKO MWANYEBEKA KONGOLIKO Aaron

5. Actors involved

Farmers and agricultural experts

6. Starting date

20 March 2007

7. Type of innovation

Technological and knowledge-sharing

II. Key concepts

8. Summary

In natural conditions, the mother hen cares for her chicks for about three months.

In our approach, the chicks are removed from the mother after 3 to 15 days, depending on possibilities of feeding them in coops. Once the mother hen is alone, she is again mated, so that in five months she will have laid four times, giving an average of eight chicks per clutch.

9. What problems does this innovation seek to solve?

This innovation seeks to increase the number of poultry in general and chickens in particular.

10. Factors for successful replication

Nutrition including water, warmth, cartons, substrate, supervision and preventive health care.

11. Main results

- Increase in poultry flocks: starting with two (one male, one female) at the outset, the number reaches roughly 35 in 5 months, whereas in normal conditions, the same chicken would have yielded only half this number.
- Improvement in diet, which is at present overly vegetarian.

12. Target group(s)

- The poor
- Women
- Young people

13. Difficulties encountered

- If kerosene is of poor quality and there is not enough air, there is a risk of suffocation
- Lack of vaccine in the area, especially against Newcastle disease
- Difficulties in finding suitable boxes or cartons

14. Financial aspects

The investment cost is about US\$500, covering particularly labour, which costs a little more. As benefit, an adult chicken is sold at US\$2.5 and an egg at US\$0.125; since the trial is still not complete, full data are not yet available.

III. Technical aspects

15.

- Availability of males and a sufficient number of female chickens or ducks of breeding age
- Availability of a large enough carton or box to contain about 30 chicks or ducklings (and, of course, premises)
- Availability of a kerosene lamp for heating, a feeding trough, a drinking trough, and if possible a battery and a 100-watt bulb
- Release of the chicks as soon as they can fend for themselves against the cold and avoid being caught by sparrow-hawks (2 months)

IV. Further information

16. Key contacts

Name	Organization	E-mail
Aaron C.R. BIKOKO MWANYEBEKA KONGOLIKO	PRAPE, IFAD, Democratic Republic of the Congo	cyprienbikoko@yahoo.fr
Marcellin KOBONGO MBOMA	PRAPE, IFAD, Democratic Republic of the Congo	mpkobongo@yahoo.fr
Placide GUWENDA A. MUKELANGE	PRAPE, IFAD, Democratic Republic of the Congo	guwendaplacide@yahoo.fr
Paul KANDE MATUNGULU	Country Programme Manager, UNOPS, Nairobi	kmmpaul@gmail.com

17. Internet link

18. Key documents

- Olivier Knidiaka Lutonadio and Alain Huart, La situation de l'élevage de volaille en RDC et à Kinshasa (= The situation of poultry rearing in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Kinshasa), *Troupeaux et Cultures des Tropiques*.
- Michel Bonane, L'aviculture traditionnelle ou villageoise (= Traditional or small-scale poultry rearing), *Revue du Centre Agronomique et Vétérinaire Tropical de Kinshasa (CAVTK), Dossier spécial volaille* (= Special poultry issue), pp. 29 & 31. E-mail : cavtk@ic.cd
- Investing in Agriculture for Food Security: World Food Day, 16 October 2006. www.fao.org