

InCIP

NEWSLETTER

Smallholder Indigenous Chicken Improvement Programme

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Principal investigator's desk

It's with great joy and feeling of accomplishment as we look at what we have achieved so far. This newsletter is a manifestation of what we have accomplished, what we are doing and what we are yet but certain to accomplish. Given the milestones we have made, it's of common agreement that InCIP couldn't have come at a better time. We live in a time when all the other continents and subcontinents have made huge steps in development and levels where food insecurity is a thing of the past. Africa lags behind in this arena and especially countries in the Sub Saharan Africa where the two main InCIP partner countries sit. Programmes like InCIP are indeed solution packages to the food insecurity problems that bedevil Africa. InCIP solutions which target four main development areas ensure that we not only link to all the stakeholders in the indigenous chicken value chain, but we also bring them on board

to share their knowledge, experiences, challenges and opportunities. We pride ourselves as having made huge steps in empowering IC farmers, developing capacity, and supporting policy. It's indeed great to know that both the Kenya and Malawi chapters have set up desk offices, procured equipment including state of the art hatcheries,



Prof. Alexander K. Kahi at InCIP stakeholders giving his remarks

collected research data and interacted with the farmers, who are not only the custodian of IC genetic resources, but are also our main target stakeholders. What remains in our minds is the fact that we are not dwarfed by our challenges but inspired by what we can achieve.

A brief profile of IC phenotypes as documented by the Malawi Chapter



Katumba phenotype with featherhill on the head

... working to improve livelihoods and food security among the resource poor households in Sub-Saharan Africa

The InCIP Malawi has also enhanced its IC research profile by documenting brief profiles of IC phenotypes found in Malawi. To begin with, Normal chicken phenotype is common and found in almost every household. This phenotype usually has uniform plumage colour (Red, white or black) and has normal tail feathers. *Kawange* or *Kawando* is also a common chicken among IC farmers. It has plumage that is either black with white spots or white with red spots. Naked neck (also called *Kameta* or *kamkulike*) is described as having more muscle, but despite this type of IC producing more meat after slaughter, it's undesirable to farmers due to its bare neck. The Frizzled (*Kansilanga*, *Namanyaluor* or *Sakalale*) IC is described as having ruffled feathers. This is a prolific phenotype, but farmers do not like it because they associate it with skin allergies

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InCIP Kenya hold's its stakeholders meeting at Merica Hotel, Nakuru

InCIP Kenya held its stakeholders meeting in September 2012 at the Merica Hotel in Nakuru. In attendance were the PI, Prof. A.K. Kahi, the Programme Administrator (PA) Mr. Wilson Karimi and the Programme Liaison Officer (PLO) Dr. Chrulukovian Wasike among others. In this meeting the stakeholders were given a brief preview on the status of the InCIP programme activities by Dr. C. B Wasike. Some of the activities have been covered in the InCIP Newsletter (Issue N0 1 April – September 2012) released in September 2012. A copy of this can be accessed from the InCIP website (www.incip.org). The PI presented an overview of activities undertaken by the programme



Participants of the stakeholders meeting

which were explained in detail by the liaison officer. The stakeholders were also given a brief on the status of the programme in Malawi by the PA following his visit to the partner country to monitor the progress of activities in the country in September. During this meeting the stakeholders got to know of the challenges faced by the researchers in Kenya. Mr. K. Ng'eno who is working on different Kenyan ecotypes gave a presentation on his experiences during data collection from different parts of the country. Among other activities, Mr. K. Ng'eno led a team to collect blood samples from IC ecotypes from different ecological regions of the country. To accomplish this objective the team travelled to the coastal, northern, western and South Rift Valley regions of the country. The team faced different challenges in different areas which ranged from transportation to security issues.

The meeting had an interactive session with the stakeholders from which certain issues emerged. For instance, the stakeholders wished to know the criteria to be used by InCIP to qualify the quality of the indigenous chicken (IC) meat and egg composition. They also wished to know the possibility of InCIP developing modalities that will see it merge with NGOs which have

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Improving Indigenous Chicken Productivity for Enhanced Livelihood and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa

Cont. from p. 1

due to its high fat levels. The Dwarf (locally known as *Simboti*, or *Kambwata*) has short legs. It is a prolific IC, but equally farmers do not like it because of its size. The small size implications are that the farmers have to slaughter more than one *Simmboti/Kambwata* to satisfy a family. In addition to this the *Simboti /Kambwata* fetches very little money on the market. The *Kachibuduis* simply described as having no tail feathers, while the *Katsumba* also known as *Chisumbwe* has a feather hill on head. Finally a phenotype known as *Kamabuluku*, *Masapa* or *Malisasawa* is unique for having more feathers on the leg region compared to other phenotypes.

Flesh attributes of slaughtered IC ecotypes and genotypes at IPBRU

Two key important issues at the product end of the value chain are quality and quantity. In most economies consumers are increasingly becoming sensitive to what they consume. InCIP is keen on establishing the value of its products so that both farmer and consumer are kept in the know. This is done so that the IC market gets quality IC meat and eggs.

In relation to this InCIP is evaluating IC meat and egg composition collected from five counties in Kenya namely; *Narok*, *Bomet*, *Bondo*, *Kakamega* and *West Pokot*. During the exercise the meat from different ecotypes and genotypes was evaluated for different attributes. The study entailed collection of five genotypes namely; Normal, Crested-head, Naked-head, Feathered shank and Frizzle-feathered. In this development both phenotypic and carcass measurements data was collected. Data on eggs were also collected from the five named counties and analysis of this is ongoing. Chicken from each ecotype were slaughtered and bled before being weighed again and de-feathered. The study attained good data on qualities of different carcass parts. The physical attributes were determined based on normal body weight before and after slaughter. Weights after de-feathering were also determined. The exercise also saw the weight evaluation of different parts of the chicken e.g. the head, thigh, drumstick, shanks, back, neck, gizzard etc. The chemical analyses of the IC meat such as, determination of dropping loss, pH, cholesterol, tension, sensory attributes and color are being undertaken



Dissecting IC during meat evaluation



Phenotypic characterization

InCIP strengthens links with MIRTDC in Malawi

Early this year InCIP Malawi procured a 1500 egg capacity incubator to be used both for research and agribusiness activities from the Malawi Industrial Research and Technology Developing institution (MIRTDC) which is a statutory body charged with technology. InCIP Malawi through the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources -LUANAR (formerly, University of Malawi-UoM, Bunda College of Agriculture), secured the equipment to further InCIP activities. The fully automated incubator was procured through a partnership agreement between MoU, LUANAR and MIRTDC. In the agreement MIRTDC provides an improved version of the manual incubator, while LUANAR conducts hatching tests for the incubated eggs. This kind of partnership automatically contributes to partially achieving components of Activity 2. The LUANAR-MIRTDC partnership dates back to first and subsequent unique stakeholder meetings that UoM-InCIP team conducted as part of strengthening networking among the players in the IC industry in Malawi. According to UoM-InCIP liaison officer, Mr Daniel Chiuma, the partnership is crucial to achieving some of the key InCIP's outputs. Mr. Chiuma is certain that the partnership will yield multiple benefits both during and beyond the programmes implementation period. On his part, Mr. Kingsley Kalonda of MIRTDC expressed gratitude to Bunda College on this development and observed that the progress so far was impressive. The coordinator for InCIP in Malawi, Prof. T.N. Gondwe, adds that the partnership and acquisition of the incubator from MIRTDC fulfills one mandate of the University, to reach out and partner with private and public institutions, and that this will promote utilization of local industries. The LUANAR-MIRTDC partnership will result in a synergistic internalization and commercialization of IC in Malawi through a Private Public Partnership approach. As this newsletter was going to press, the Incubator had already



Incubator of 1500 eggs capacity

been installed and will soon start hatching eggs from local and Black Australorp chicken and their crosses. In addition studies to evaluate IC egg quality as part of the development of IC technologies will commence.

A great diversity of IC phenotypes in Malawi:

Farmers description of IC in Malawi

There is a consensus among farmers that there are diverse IC phenotypes as reviewed by InCIP investigators through a focus group discussion. The investigation was conducted and found out that this was common in three regions of the North, Central and South of Malawi in 2012.



Kachibudu phenotype

According to the farmers the phenotypic names of these IC are descriptive and are based on phenotypic characteristics such as feather plumage, legs, tail feathers, head, and other features. The names can also be based simply on the color. Based on these criteria eight phenotypes were identified including Normal, *Kawange/Kawando*, Naked neck, Frizzled, Dwarf, *Kachibudu*, *Katsumba* and *Kamabuluku*.

According to the farmers the Normal, Dwarf and Naked neck phenotypes have good attributes like high egg laying characteristic, high hatchability as well as good mothering ability. On the other hand, farmers prefer the Naked neck, Normal and *Katsumba* (crest-head) for meat production. In terms of resistance to common poultry diseases the *Masapa* (feathered shank) and the Naked neck chicken are desirable. These findings will be instrumental to further research by InCIP for the purpose of validation. The end product of the research will be production of a new composite IC breed which would be able to respond to farmers needs and at the same time adapt to the changing environment.

Importance of IC to farmers' livelihood:

An InCIP students assessment at Bunda in Malawi

It is amazing the amount of important information students can gather over a short period of time with good supervision. One of InCIP's strategies is capacity building. Involving students in short time research activities provides a win-win scenario for the students and programme. The students learn research skills, while the programme gets valuable data within a short period of time. In this context,

a group of students under the InCIP programme at the



A group photo at the end of a FOCUS group discussion between farmers and undergraduate students in Malawi

UoM recently undertook a baseline survey of livestock production systems in villages around Bunda College of Agriculture. The survey took place in *Nsabwe, Ching'amba, Kamchedzera* and *Chatenga* villages in T/A *Chadza's* area. The study documented livestock numbers of all species, husbandry practices and their contributions to livelihoods. The students were able to identify 495 IC contributing about 8% of the Total Livestock Units (TLU) in the villages. It was also observed that all the IC were kept under the free range system. The IC contributed over Malawi Kwacha (MK) 87800 per year or 20% of total livestock sales. This survey shows that, despite contributing only 8% of the TLU, IC contributions to livelihoods was much higher. From focus group discussion students were able to gather that Newcastle disease, theft and lack of marketing structures for IC were the major constraints to IC production.

Empirical data on effect of CC on IC production systems

The IC subsector has not been spared the effects of climate change (CC) as it takes a heavy toll on other agricultural production systems. It is evident that CC has had a big negative impact on agriculture and specifically on the livestock production. It has reduced farmers' revenues and also made it difficult for farmers to plan effectively. InCIP seeks to intervene with mitigation as well as adaptive strategies. This will be achieved by collecting empirical data and studying the effects of CC on IC production systems. Findings will provide useful information that will improve IC production systems. In Kenya InCIP has already collected empirical data from five counties namely; *Narok, Bomet, Bondo, Kakamega* and *West Pokot*.

Identification of high producing IC ecotypes and composites

Farmers can now wait on InCIP to know of the high producing ecotypes and composites. Analysis of the data being collected will soon identify high producing IC ecotypes and composites. In Kenya data collection and evaluation of the ecotypes and composites is ongoing. The experiments involve both, within ecotype selection to generate pure lines, and crossbreeding of different ecotypes of IC and also IC with RIR as sire lines.

The InCIP IC breeding sojourn takes off

If everything goes as planned an F1 generation will be realized at Bunda. This is a step towards characterization of IC in Malawi. In this development Bunda through InCIP sourced various IC phenotypes which are representative of all phenotypes present in the country. Immediately after purchases were made, chicken from *Mzimba* and *Lilongwe* districts, the key investigators separated cocks from hens to allow the hens to drop all



Breeding house at Bunda College students farm

fertilised eggs whose parentage could not be determined. The study is being done in the newly constructed modern experimental *Khola* (chicken house) at students' farm. After construction of the *Khola*, the hens were separated according to their phenotypes and origin for instance *Mzimba* or *Lilongwe* and placed in pens, but without cocks. A total of 12 phenotypes were purchased and have since been put in different compartments based on the ecotype and district of origin. Later cocks of similar phenotypes will be introduced and collection of fertile eggs will commence for incubation in a hatchery procured from MIRTDC under a partnership agreement (see related story). According to Mr. Thomson Sanudithe setup of the experiment has a triple win situation. The first experiment will focus on fees, the second on disease resistance and the third one on meat quality. However, the primary objective of the experiment is to breed F1 generation for each phenotype, which will contribute to the process of IC ecotypes characterization.

...for farmers who want to go into serious breeding of chicken, record keeping is a must. Records help farmers to trace the lineage of each of their chicken selected for breeding in a way that can help them to analyze each of the breeds they have in their flock, including their performance, in terms of egg or meat production.

programmes that are in line with InCIP activities. In relation to the criteria to be used in checking quality stakeholders, were informed that this will be done by a food scientist who will work on each ecotype. Concerning the partnerships the stakeholders, were reminded that collaboration and partnerships are one of the InCIP implementation strategies, and therefore the programme will promote public and private partnerships (PPP) for the sustainability of the programme. An illustration to this effect was given by the Malawian scenario where InCIP Malawi is working with Feed the Children, an NGOs in Malawi. In addition to this, the scope of the programme in terms of location was also made clear and members were informed that InCIP works all over the country hence increasing chances for collaborations and linkages. Youths in attendance were advised to organize themselves into IC producer or market groups so as to be integrated and benefit directly from the InCIP programme. They were reminded that, a large composition of the InCIP staff were youthful and therefore will be committed to serve their peers on areas they show interests.

The importance of value addition as mentioned in the Kenyan development blue print, Vision 2030 was also stressed to stakeholders. In relation to this, the PI urged stakeholders to help Kenya move from being net importer to an exporter of chicken products. To set the pace, InCIP has established IC foundation breeding stock from ecotypes obtained from different parts of Kenya at Egerton University. The programme has also imported pure lines of Rhode Island Red (RIR) for crossbreeding with pure line selected IC for mass production of hybrids to be used for commercialization of IC production. This will ensure constant supply of parent stock to companies interested in IC business and also hybrids to farmers who wish to commercialize IC production. During this meeting three members were chosen to sit in the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC). Dr. M. Ambula who is also Animal Nutrition expert and a Senior Lecturer in the Animal Science Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Egerton University will form part of the PAC. In addition was Mr. I. Wepukhulu from Ministry of Agriculture and Mrs. Motelin Susan an IC farmer's representative. InCIP was also asked to investigate the possibility of using Black Australorp for crossbreeding as opposed to the RIR due the farmer's preference to the former breed.

The meeting also heard concerns by farmers where they decried being conned by unscrupulous feed dealers selling fake feeds which lead to considerable reduction in expected outputs. The farmers therefore sought InCIP intervention in developing ways for farmers to start producing their own branded feeds. Members decried the scarcity of vaccines which poses a great problem to IC production and growth. The participants from the government side were challenged to make vaccination affordable and easily available to farmers

InCIP Feeds

InCIP-Kenya is currently moving towards having a self-sustaining unit through feed formulation and marketing of the feed products. The feeds produced are of high quality and aimed at improving production. This is good news to farmers who for a longtime have had to content with poor feeds at a higher price. Now they can buy the InCIP branded feeds at a cheaper price and still be assured of good quality at the end of the day. The feed packaged in 50Kg bags are produced to meet demand for the different growth stages include, chick mash, growers mash, and layers mash. In addition to producing feed for chicken, InCIP has gone a step ahead to formulate and produce feed for dairy cattle production. The "dairy meal" feed is designed for increased milk production and meets demand from farmers who suffer from poor quality dairy feeds as well lack of availability. To ensure consistent supply of feed, new feed formulation machines were bought.

EGERTON FEEDS



CHICK MASH WITH COCCIDIOSTAT
 PRODUCED BY InCIP
 TATTON AGRICULTURE PARK
 EGERTON UNIVERSITY
 P. O. Box 536,
 20115 Egerton
 Tel: +254 51 221 7684/5
 Fax: +254 51 221 7682
 Email: info@incip.org
 www.incip.org
50 KGS

EGERTON FEEDS



GROWERS MASH
 PRODUCED BY InCIP
 TATTON AGRICULTURE PARK
 EGERTON UNIVERSITY
 P. O. Box 536,
 20115 Egerton
 Tel: +254 51 221 7684/5
 Fax: +254 51 221 7682
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50 KGS

EGERTON FEEDS



LAYERS MASH
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 20115 Egerton
 Tel: +254 51 221 7684/5
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 Email: info@incip.org
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EGERTON FEEDS



DAIRY MEAL
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... indigenous poultry production can be increased through proper breeding and management.

Farmer's perception of the InCIP programme in Kenya

According to Mrs. Susan Motelin, an IC farmer representative from Nakuru County, Kenya, InCIP is a welcome intervention to alleviate the problem of poverty that has bedeviled small scale poultry farmers and women in particular. Although farmers agree that this is a timely initiative, InCIP will have to contend with the fact that there are many challenges on the ground to realize the benefits of the programme. Nevertheless, the programme design will ensure enhanced livelihoods and food security through improved IC productivity. The cyclic nature of poverty that affects generations among the small scale farming community is so vicious because of it being psychological and based on a mindset. It is possible that the IC farmers will see poverty repeat itself among their children and grand children. Poverty has its related problems, for instance it's a common occurrence that a farmer keeps IC which scavenge for food and lay eggs in the bush which hatch into chicks but die probably because of diseases, pests or predation. Generally this is caused by lack of relevant information. An observant farmer mentions that, to most farmers this loss will not cause so much concern probably because farmers or families do not attach so much value to the IC. This situation does not seem to cause concern with the owners.

Most of the farmers have resigned themselves to the fact that there are no solutions to these problems. However this is a great opportunity for InCIP to change the mindset of the IC farmers to appreciate the many IC resources available to them. In so doing, increased IC productivity is ensured. A survey by InCIP shows that farmers being stakeholders wish to be involved in its activities through seminars/workshops with farmers from identified areas. Such a forum provides platform for farmers and researchers to share ideas, where the former tables their challenges, while the latter tables the solutions if available and if not available opens a new field of research area. InCIP should be seen by the farmers as an all stakeholder inclusive programme and not just an ivory tower that they would fear to approach. This will make the project more purposeful and beneficial to the targeted farmer.

InCIP's contribution towards Kenya's Vision 2030

Over the years the poultry industry in Kenya has grown tremendously due to the demand of meat and eggs, particularly in the urban areas due to an increasing proportion of middle class households and rising health consciousness amongst consumers leading to a mushrooming of poultry production systems in the urban and peri-urban areas. The industry is thus an important source of food,

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InCIP annual team meeting

InCIP held its annual team meeting (ATM) which was hosted by Egerton University at the Agriculture Resource Centre (ARC) between the 24th and 29th March 2013. The 6 day meeting brought together the team members from Kenya, Malawi and Europe. In the



Participants pose for the group photo

meeting, progress of different activities in the InCIP programme were tabled, discussed and way forward developed. An overview of the project by Dr. C. B Wasike (Kenya) showed that the project had successfully initiated and completed some of the objectives in Activity 5 (that includes project brochures, newsletters and further publications). For instance presentations including one by Dr. T. O Okeno at the annual Tropentag Conference in Germany were documented in the premier newsletter. In addition to the newsletter a website has been successfully developed (www.incip.org) and all the presentation made in this year's annual general meeting will be slotted in the InCIP website.

Some of the highlights of the meeting were presentations on ongoing research from the Kenya and Malawi components. For instance Mr. K. Ng'eno a researcher in the Kenyan component gave a captivating presentation entitled "*Identification of high producing IC ecotypes and composites*". In his work, Mr. K. Ng'eno looks at genetic characterization of IC using microsatellite markers. The meeting was also informed of the data that has been collected for example profiling of morphological features of IC ecotypes where ecotypes were characterized using their phenotypic characteristics like body plumage color. The effect of climate variability and change (CCV) was also discussed. Under this, an extensive assessment of the vulnerability and adaptation strategies to climate variability and change were discussed. The data collected for this activity is, however, yet to be analyzed. In a different presentation by InCIP Kenya "*Identification of high yielding ecotypes and genotypes*" Mr. M. Magothe detailed work done on nine Kenyan IC ecotypes. In this work *Lamu, Taita, Mwingi, Narok, Bomet, Bondo, Kakamega, West pokot and Egerton* ecotypes were identified, while 5 genotypes: *Normal, frizzle, naked-neck, crested and feathered shank* were also identified. Work on identification of disease

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resistant ecotypes has also been done by the Kenyan team. Mr. Khobondo's work involves introduction of Gumboro and Newcastle viruses and helminthes into selected chicken ecotypes and monitor their resistance towards these infections.

On the other hand presentations from the Malawi team highlighted interesting developments including informing the meeting of their progress in coming up with a parent stock. According to the InCIP Malawi, chicken pens have already been constructed at Bunda University. In addition to this, InCIP Malawi is in the process of acquiring an incubator, while at the same time rehabilitating existing incubators. The Malawi team will acquire 1500 egg capacity incubator from MIRD (see related story) and a 400 eggs capacity incubator from other partners. InCIP Malawi has also collected data on IC phenotypes. The results from this work indicated that phenotypes with "no tail feathers" (tailless) had more meat while "naked neck" had more meat and laid more eggs". The team also had several challenges in data collection including the problem in distribution of vaccines where vaccines expired before they could be used. Data collected on CCV showed that, daily temperature reduced, rainfall pattern was erratic and this in turn had a great negative impact on the IC survival. In a relation to the challenge of vaccine a proposal was made that chicken should be bought from areas where vaccination was successful like Karanga.

In this meeting, issues on IC technology development were discussed, for instance inbreeding vs the molecular identification process. Issues on feed in IC were also tackled during this meeting. A pertinent question on the feed requirements of IC on the extensive production system arose among others. Discussion was also directed towards identification of feeding regimes to be taken under intensive feeding. It was agreed that InCIP should also tackle the feeding strategy that best suits the IC under different production systems.

As concerns information dissemination, a presentation by the InCIP System Administrator Mr. Richard Otwori on SMS response system was demonstrated. This system operates by sending an SMS on information required to 5259 and the sender receives feedback which also has a link to the InCIP website for more information. The scientists and IC specialists are still working on the relevant information to feed into the InCIP system server. The PI urged participants, especially the researchers in the two teams to give all the relevant information on IC to the system admin to feed into the system server. He reiterated that a good website is one that is rich with information and information which is regularly updated. The InCIP ATM 2013 ended on a high note with teams being reminded to retain the focus InCIP had through the first year.

income and employment and is said to contribute 1.6% to the agricultural GDP. Poultry production plays a crucial role as an income generating activity for Kenya's rural smallholder families. Poultry also contributes to the livelihoods of an estimated 21 million people. Latest census data shows poultry population to stand at 32 million. 6 million of this population is represented by commercial hybrids while the rest are IC. IC make up the lion's share accounting for approximately 81% of the total poultry population.

The industry is also linked to other sectors of the economy including the animal feed production industries (approximately 70 % of feeds produced in the country are poultry feeds), hotel industries, input suppliers among others. There is great potential for the growth of this industry given the growing demand and room for value added products that can satisfy the local and export market. The poultry industry in Kenya has potential to generate higher incomes and transform living standards of its players if appropriate interventions are developed and implemented. Indeed the Kenya Economic Report by Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis identifies poultry as one of the lead livestock enterprises that can contribute the most towards the attainment of the MDG 1. The industry is therefore poised to play a strategic role in the ongoing socio economic development under the Vision 2030.

InCIP appreciates the importance of IC in the Kenyan economy and its importance as a component of the rural family livestock. InCIP also works to involve all stakeholders in its undertakings and therefore some of the GoK Vision 2030 goals serve as ingredients of what InCIP wishes to achieve. The programme looks to synchronize its activities with the objectives of the national long term development blue print. For instance the Vision 2030 document seeks to allievate poverty elimination by reducing the number of people living in poverty to a tiny proportion of the total population. The prime focus of the InCIP programme is on the small scale IC farmer plagued by a myriad of challenges including of lack of relevant and timely information on IC; lack of feeds and drugs; diseases; and markets. To counter these, InCIP has taken centre stage with a main agenda of improving IC production. The improvement process looks at all the steps in the value chain hence ensuring the farmer is covered from the production to marketing of the IC products. This has great potential to improve the incomes of rural farmers and subsequently their living standards through improved productivity which will in the long run turn Kenya from being a net importer to a net exporter of chicken products. Through research, stakeholder meetings, conference presentations, seminars and workshops, the programme will enrich stakeholders, carry out capacity building and disseminate information to relevant persons and authorities. The programme also has a national outlook hence the dynamics of IC production will be well understood.

InCIP creates avenues for job creation among the youth and other groups to partner in production and marketing on IC. InCIP appreciates the importance of poultry production in Kenya and specifically that of IC as shown by the latest census.

“Mega” incubator at IPBRU

There was a lot of excitement last year as InCIP Poultry Breeding and Research Unit (IPBRU) in Egerton University witnessed the arrival of the recently procured InCIP incubator. InCIP staff at IPBRU and other staff at Egerton University couldn't hide their

amazement at the sheer size of the state of the art incubator. The Incubator has been finally assembled, tested and is confirmed to be functional. The mega incubator



Incubator being offloaded

replaces a small one and it's inclusive of three setters with each setter having a capacity to hold up to 19,200 eggs. It also has a single hatcher. This is particularly good news to farmers and was evident during this year's stakeholder meeting in Nakuru attended by IC farmer representatives as well as youth groups and other stakeholders. Farmers

who have in the past had problems with hatching eggs can now breathe a sigh of relief because the efficiency and capacity of this incubator is top notch and its available at close proximity. The



The incubator has been finally assembled, tested and is confirmed to be functional

final installation of the incubator is underway within a spacious and secure room at IPBRU.

Sprucing up of InCIP office at InCIP Poultry Breeding and Research Unit completed

The InCIP Poultry Breeding and Research Unit (IPBRU) now houses a state of the art new office that will accommodate the InCIP Kenya team including the PI (Project Manager), Programme Administrator, System Administrator, Liaison Officer, Research Officers and student tutors or livestock officers. The office is linked to the InCIP wireless network. This has been part of a pipeline project that will eventually see the IPBRU transformed into a research complex complete with computer labs, conference facilities, student rooms and a lecture room. In addition to the wireless internet connectivity, the offices have CCTV security to ensure the high security.



Entrance to the office



Main office

The programme is funded by the European Union through the African Union



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