

AHEAD seed grant brings International Rural Poultry Centre (IRPC) of the KYEEMA Foundation into partnership with WCS COMACO (Community Markets for Conservation) initiative in Zambia.

The IRPC is a subsidiary entity within the KYEEMA Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation based in Brisbane, Australia (<http://www.kyeemafoundation.org>) with programs around the world. The IRPC represents world-renowned technical expertise in village poultry production and the control of Newcastle disease (ND) under village conditions.

The IRPC team, which includes veterinary as well as social science professionals, works in southern Africa to improve village poultry production in collaboration with local communities and government services. Results and experiences from a wide range of IRPC activities in southern Africa will benefit the COMACO program in South Luangwa, Zambia.

Specifically, this project is designed to achieve the following objectives: the sustainable control of Newcastle disease in village poultry, improved village poultry husbandry and management strategies including marketing (critical within the COMACO framework – see www.itswild.org); and improved household welfare, including improved nutrition and food security. Through the COMACO enabling environment, this is leading to decreased poaching and a rebounding of local wildlife populations, along with a concomitant expansion of economic opportunities associated with healthy wildlife numbers.

In addition to the \$20,000 seed grant from AHEAD, both IRPC and the **Cornell University-led USAID SANREM (Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management) initiative**

(see: <http://www.wcs-ahead.org/newsarchive.html#updatejan2006>) have contributed co-funding in addition to technical support in support of COMACO.

What is AHEAD?

IUCN Veterinary Specialist Group (VSG) members are playing a key role in helping to lay the scientific foundation for an international animal health and natural resources management initiative that a consortium of organisations launched within the context of the September 2003 IUCN World Parks Congress in Durban, South Africa. The initiative is called AHEAD – Animal Health for the Environment And Development.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), IUCN VSG, and other partners helped to start AHEAD in recognition of the importance of animal health to both conservation and development interests. Around the world, domestic and wild animals are coming into ever-more-intimate contact, as we all of course know, and without adequate scientific knowledge and planning, the consequences can be detrimental on one or both sides of the proverbial fence. But armed with the tools that the health sciences provide, conservation and development objectives have a much greater chance of being realised, particularly at the critical wildlife/livestock intersection, where conservation and agricultural interests meet head-on.

AHEAD hopes to catalyse work focused on several themes of critical importance to the future of animal agriculture, human health, and wildlife health (including zoonoses, competition over grazing and water resources, disease mitigation, local and global food security, and other potential sources of conflict related to overall land-use planning and economics).

To date, neither the NGOs nor the aid community nor academia have holistically addressed the landscape-level nexus represented by the triangle of wildlife health, domestic animal health, and human health.

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Itik and Entok: Fun Facts and Important Differences to Help Raise Healthy Ducks in Indonesia

As we all know, mallard ducks (*itik* in Indonesian) and muscovy (*entok*) ducks are different, but did you know that *entok* ducks are actually geese? Even though *entok* ducks look like ducks, they are actually a species of goose. *Entok* ducks can mate and reproduce with *itik* ducks, but their offspring have very low fertility or are sterile. This is just one example of the many important differences between these two types of birds. By learning more about these differences, we can provide better housing and care that helps to prevent diseases. Knowing more about these birds and what makes them different will result in healthier birds, which means increased egg production and better quality meat.

Itik ducks (*Anas javanica*) are good egg producers. In some parts of the world, where there is ample food and good veterinary care, these ducks can lay an egg a day. Most often these ducks are kept for their ability to lay large numbers of eggs, but they are also consumed as meat when their egg production decreases. In general, the quality of their meat is poor compared to *entok* ducks because *itik* ducks have a very slight frame. Their light weight frame allows *itik* ducks to stand at an 80 degree angle to the ground, giving them the appearance of standing upright. In Indonesia, *itik* ducks are not usually kept in confinement housing, and instead are herded between rice paddy fields to feed. This practice provides nutrition for the ducks, but also helps to maintain the paddy fields.

Entok ducks (*Cairina moschata*) are larger than *itik* ducks, walk at a 45 degree angle from the ground, and are raised for their good quality meat. Since *entok* ducks are not really ducks, but are actually geese, their egg incubation period is much longer. It takes 35 days for *entok* eggs to hatch, but it only takes 28 days for *itik* eggs to hatch. *Entok* ducks are like *itik* ducks in that both types of birds can get sick from bacteria such as Salmonella (Pullorum), Pasturella (Duck Cholera), and Clostridium (Botulism). Both types of birds also can contract viruses like Duck Viral Enteritis (DVE), Newcastle disease (ND) and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). However, *entok* ducks are more sensitive to DVE and HPAI. If there is an outbreak of DVE or HPAI, villagers that keep both types of ducks will see their *entok* ducks become sick before their *itik* ducks. On the other hand, if there is an outbreak of ND, farmers will see their *itik* ducks, especially ducklings, become sick first, because *entok* ducks are more resistant to ND.

However, it is most important to remember that all types of ducks can contract all of these diseases. In the case of HPAI, ducks may have the disease without being sick, and then give the disease to chickens.

In order to ensure good egg production and good quality meat, it is important to minimise disease in ducks. This can be done by providing good housing which is cleaned and disinfected regularly, providing good veterinary care and vaccinating to prevent diseases, and keeping ducks and chickens separate. By understanding some of the differences between these types of birds, we can do a better job of keeping them healthy.

By Dr. Jennifer Zambriski, Field Program Facilitator, FAO Indonesia. E-mail: jzambriski@gmail.com



Free grazing Alabio ducks in South Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Don't talk about Newcastle disease in front of the chicken.
Ethiopian proverb

City Chicks

It all started with an article in the Courier Mail about city people wanting to get back to nature and have a healthier life style. So what could be easier than keeping chickens! You can have fresh eggs and at the same time provide nutrients for the garden. Why not rent a chicken coop? This is what a company in Brisbane is doing, visit: <http://www.citychicks.com.au/>

My son André always wanted a pet but working full time with nobody home during the day and then being stuck during the holiday season, I was reluctant. However, with chickens it is different and if we go away, they are so easy to look after. The rental solution also gives the flexibility of selling or giving the chickens away and having new ones when you return, so it's a great idea!

So, in the new year, we will be having our own chooks! With a mobile coop which we can move around, our two chickens will enrich the ground by aerating the soil and adding natural fertilizer and will make our lawn look better. André will finally have some pets to look after and he will be in charge of looking after them and getting the eggs.

So for all you city dwellers wanting a piece of the country, it couldn't get any easier than this!

Marie-France Wellington, KYEEMA's Newsletter and Website Coordinator

This is what our Chicken-Coop will look like



XXIII World's Poultry Congress Brisbane, Australia 30 June – 4 July 2008

The XXIII World Congress is proud to be joining together with the following meetings to bring you the biggest world's poultry congress ever. There is something available to suit all levels of poultry interest.

- 6th Asian-Pacific Poultry Health Conference (AP6)
- 4th International Ratite Science Symposium (4th IRSS)
- 2008 Poultry Information Exchange (PIX2008)

Opportunities for participation in the Congress for industry are now available! For more information see the [website](#) or contact sponsorandexhibit@wpc2008.com

If you are interested in registering for the Congress and would like to receive congress correspondence, [click here](#). Information regarding registration and accommodation will be available in September/October 2007.

Please note that all presenters must register for the meeting by **Friday 29 February 2008**. Registration payment not received by this date will result in presenters being withdrawn from the program.

WPC2008

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Articles for publication in our rural poultry e-Newsletter can be sent to:
ruralpoultry@kyeemafoundation.org

Visit our website: www.kyeemafoundation.org

30th AFSAAP Annual Conference Africans in Australia and Outsiders in Africa

31 January – 2 February 2008
Australian National University, Canberra

[Provisional conference abstracts](#)

To date, two conference themes have been identified:

Africans in Australia

This theme will include the African diaspora, studies of various African immigrants groups in Australia and New Zealand, results from the 2006 Censuses, and the provision of services for new arrivals.

Outsiders in Africa

This theme will include discussions of the role of AID agencies, mining companies and other organisations in Africa, and the involvement of nations such as Australia and China.

[Click here for the conference registration form](#)

The Postgraduate Workshop will be held on Wednesday, 30 January 2008. The program for 2 February will include panels from African community organisations.

Proposals for papers and sessions on any aspect of African studies are welcomed.

The Conference organiser is:

Dr David Lucas
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EISMV

International Conference for improved competitiveness in poultry production in Africa

The conference will be held from:
5th to 9th May 2008.

Two plenary sessions, six workshops and technical visits will be organised.

Overall objective

Analysis of the mechanisms of poultry productivity and the organisation of the value chains for improved poultry production and competitiveness.

Specific Objectives

- Analysis of recent scientific progress in the mechanism of poultry productivity and the performance of poultry value chains.
- Identification of future research fields for an improved competitiveness of poultry value chains.
- Networking poultry scientists for regional research programs.

The following main topics will be discussed during the conference:

Topics

- Control of heat stress
- Availability and valorisation of local products and by-products
- Health and technologies in disease control
- Quality of poultry products
- Economics and international trade
- Poultry production, legislation and environment

Contact

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Promotion of HIV/AIDS mitigation and wildlife conservation through improved village poultry production in Southern Africa

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Introduction

Many poor rural households in developing countries rely on village chickens (Alexander, Bell and Alders 2004). In rural households affected by HIV/AIDS and areas surrounding protected wildlife populations, they play a particularly important role (Alders, Bagnol, Harun and Young 2007; McDonald 2006). In farming households the illness or death of family members due to HIV/AIDS leads to loss of valuable labour resources (du Guerny 2002). Consequently the focus of household activity turns to maintaining family food security. In affected households, food security is maintained through revising the complex division of labour in accordance with the possibilities presented by the local farming system. Throughout Africa, expanding human populations have created situations in which large numbers of poor people live close to protected wildlife populations. Inevitably, the needs of people and wildlife come into conflict. One approach to ensure that meat intake is maintained while reducing bushmeat hunting is to improve the ability of people to subsist on alternative sources of protein and income.

Village chickens provide a scarce resource - animal protein - in the form of meat and eggs and can be sold or bartered to meet essential family needs such as medicine, clothes and school fees. Village chickens are active in pest control, provide manure, are required for special festivals and are essential for many traditional ceremonies. The output of village chickens is lower than that of intensively raised birds but it is obtained with a minimum input in terms of housing, disease control, management and supplementary feeding. They are generally owned and managed by women and children (Gueye 2000) and are often essential elements of female-headed households (Bagnol 2001). As women are the main carers of sick people, chickens can play an important role as they provide the women with additional resources to carry out their important task of supporting to people living with HIV/AIDS.

The components of village poultry production include: indigenous poultry breeds; feed; shelter; disease control; and community collaboration and group formation (Alders 2004).

Project: HIV/AIDS mitigation in Mozambique

The main activities includes: baseline studies and annual participatory rural appraisals; training volunteers of local NGOs as community vaccinators against Newcastle disease (ND; Alders, dos Anjos, Bagnol, Fumo, Mata and Young 2003); training NGO technical staff and local government agricultural staff in ND control; implementing ND vaccination campaigns; training farmers to experiment with low-cost improvements to village poultry husbandry; working with volunteers and NGO staff, local health posts and primary schools to promote village poultry production and consumption of poultry meat and eggs; and technical backstopping and monitoring and evaluation. The project has demonstrated the potential to deliver triple benefits: direct support to the people affected or infected by HIV/AIDS (Sylvester 2005); income generation for the carers and the community based organisations; and an increase in the capacity of the communities to support welfare activities.



Sra (Mrs) Celestina Zimbabwe, a widow in Manica Province, Mozambique, received one rooster and three hens. Six months later, she had 21 birds Celestina was delighted with the results and so were her children. She also helps with the training sessions for child-headed households and continues to provide advice to four households in her local area.

Promotion of HIV/AIDS mitigation and wildlife conservation through improved village poultry production in Southern Africa - Continued

Project: Wildlife conservation in Zambia

This project focuses on the sustainable control of ND in village poultry (Alders, Inoue and Katongo 1994; Songolo and Katongo 2001); improved village poultry husbandry and management strategies including marketing (Alders 2007; McDonald 2006); and improved household welfare, including improved nutrition and food security as a means of reducing the need for communities surrounding South Luangwa National Park to hunt, eat and sell bushmeat (Faiela, Alders and Bagnol 2007).

Acknowledgements

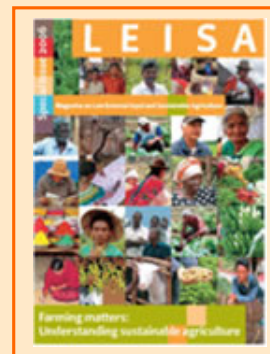
The Zambian project is implemented in collaboration with Community Markets for Conservation. Financial support provided by FAO Mozambique, Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (SANREM) grant to Cornell University and the Wildlife Conservation Society and GRM International is gratefully acknowledged.

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Articles on similar topics have been published in the LEISA magazine,

What is LEISA? <http://leisa.info/index.php>



LEISA, the **Centre for Information on Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture**

promotes exchange of information for small scale farmers in the South through identifying promising technologies involving no or only marginal external inputs, but building

on local knowledge and traditional technologies and the involvement of the farmers themselves in development. Information about these technologies is exchanged mainly through the LEISA Magazine.



**Best wishes for the Festive Season and
Happy New Year 2008!!!**

**Chúc mừng năm mới! - Cung chúc tân xuân!
Joyeux Noel et Bonne Année!
Boas Festas!**

From

The KYEEMA Team

www.kyeemafoundation.org

*NB: The opinions expressed in articles contained in this e-Newsletter are the author's
and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the e-Newsletter editors.*