

# DECEMBER 2020

**Community village chicken  
training in Central province  
PNG**

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**Moresby Arts Theatre (MAT)  
supporting youth in the arts  
in 2020**

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**Strong female participation in  
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**Vaccinators in Mchinji reach  
an estimated 15,000 chickens  
in their first campaign**

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**Increasing the native chicken  
market in support of smallholder  
farmers in Mozambique and  
Uganda.**

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## Thank you for your support

Thank you for following and taking an interest in Kyeema Foundation during this difficult year, including those who submitted photographs in our Annual Photography competition. This year the winner was Associate Professor Soshe Ahmed from the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at the University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh. His beautiful photo (shared with permission from the subject above) is titled 'Marzina Khatun, from a remote village (Choubaria) of Magura district in Bangladesh'. It is a strong reminder of why we choose to work with village chickens.

We want to take this opportunity to update you on our recent activities and wish you a joyous festive season. Take a look at our recently released 2019-20 Annual Report and below for our most recent project and people updates. We look forward to keeping you updated on our programs in 2021.

Finally, we are really proud to share with you the TEDxANU talk on 'Eating for the Future' by the Kyeema Chair, Professor Robyn Alders. She highlights the importance of supporting farmers and fisheries to transition to more sustainable and equitable ways of producing food.

With gratitude,

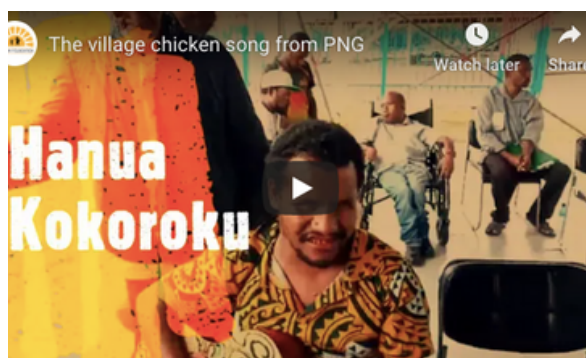
Celia Grenning  
CEO, Kyeema Foundation



*"We are poor; we hardly have a choice to buy nutritious food for our children and the family. Now I can add protein to our food plates; additionally, I contribute to pay school fees to my children and buy clothes for them." Marzina Khatun, Bangladesh*

# Our first community village chicken keeping training with local government in Central Province , Papua New Guinea

A five-day training course on keeping healthy and productive chickens for household income and food and nutrition security was held for community members from 11 villages at the government agricultural training centre at Mirigeda. Despite delays due to COVID-19, this community training finally went ahead from 28 September to 2 October, using a COVID-19 safe plan involving social distancing and hygiene practices. Mr Michael Aisi, a Senior Provincial Livestock Officer and Para Vet from the Central Provincial Government and Sylvester Bannon – former Central Province DAL Advisor and leader of a local existing Village Chicken Cooperative Group, trained participants in the essentials of setting up productive village poultry flocks. The group members were an eager and diverse group made up of males and females, included youth, the elderly and a vision-impaired person.



*Mr Dale Winnie, a visually impaired participant and talented local musician singing the 'Hanua Kokoroku' or 'Village Chicken' song at the end of the training week and played to the group after the certificate ceremony and final comments.*

The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with strong-felt declarations at the end of the certificate ceremonies from key leaders that this training has been important for progressing the livelihoods agenda in the country. Furthermore, there was great enthusiasm for working together to build numbers of resilient and healthy, locally adapted village chicken flocks in the region. The group nominated Mr Emmanuel Ume, Master Farmer from Vanapa Chicken Farm, to be the spokesperson for village chickens in Central Province and several other male and female roles to move forward as a village chicken farming collective. One of the participants even sang the 'village chicken' song as inspiration for the group at the end of the week. We must thank the Central Province Government, including an appearance by the Provincial Administrator Mr Glen Gani and Mr Igo Gari from our local partner Hiri Coral, for facilitating this week. It wouldn't have gone ahead without your significant organisational input.



*Ms Rose Daure (right) receiving her certificate of completion from Iga Peni, a Manager at Central Province Administration*

Participants learned about farm plans for biosecurity, housing chickens (including adequate floor litter management, spacing, roosts and nest boxes), disease prevention, using local feeds, egg management, breeding management (selecting bird traits for good laying and meat purposes) and business plans (including forming farmer cooperatives to promote marketing and value chain development of locally adapted breeds). They also toured one of our supported village poultry Master Farms managed by Master Farmer Mr Edea Egu, to see firsthand how productive and valuable (not to mention beautiful!) household village chicken flocks can be with the right care and use of freely available local resources.

**We acknowledge the support of the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) for this project.**



# Moresby Arts Theatre (MAT) supporting youth in the arts in 2020

This year, with funding from the Palladium Group, Kyeema supported the Moresby Arts Theatre (MAT) Youth Arts Program. The program implemented by MAT in association with the University of Goroka aims to conserve the culture and heritage of Papua New Guineans through giving young people the opportunity to gain skills in the dramatic arts. Ultimately it hopes to imbue social confidence and self-awareness in this new generation.

Year 9 and 11 students from five different schools in Port Moresby participated in the 2020 program, which was delivered over a 6-week period with the Moresby Arts Theatre's pioneering mentors who participated in YAP the year before (2019) and Dr Jane Awi and her theatre arts team from the Somare Research Centre at the University of Goroka. Students attended workshops designed to assist them in their understanding of social issues in PNG through physical and oral storytelling. Mentors worked with the students to deliver some outstanding performances in October that were judged by a panel of creative industry experts. The program was organised to ensure students and mentors interacted in a COVID-safe manner. The winning teams of each category will now have the opportunity to sharpen their dramatic skills in further training at the Moresby Arts Theatre in partnership with the University of Goroka once more. Aida Hano, a year 11 student from Kundu International School, expressed how the YAP has impacted her and her fellow students: "It brings us out of our shells and helps us to grow. Especially in our confidence when we get into character".



*Several of the MAT mentors and UOG student teachers are doing an improvisation exercise.  
Photo credit: MAT.*

We are proud to support this activity – helping the youth in Papua New Guinea to develop their critical and creative thinking. We look forward to watching how the program develops in 2021 and beyond.

Thanks to Palladium's Communities Fund for supporting this activity.



## Minimising our impact on the environment at Kyeema

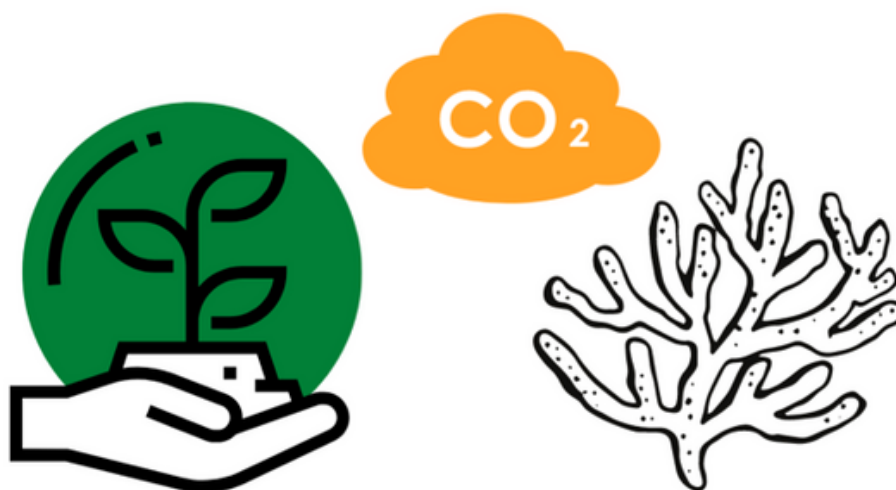
Kyeema actively works to reduce our impact on the environment. Wherever possible, we limit travel and hold virtual meetings with our people based in diverse geographies and minimise printing of materials in our daily operations.

We have recently introduced a carbon offset scheme to minimise the impact of our travel on the environment. In 2019-20 we have offset a total of \$2,600, which has been allocated to our coral reef gardening activity in Central Province, Papua New Guinea.

For those interested, we have a One Welfare statement that outlines our practical approach to animal welfare and ethics through a broader inter-disciplinary lens in order to benefit not just animal wellbeing, but human and environmental health alike. This is key to our work with village poultry globally.



### CARBON OFFSET INITIATIVE





# Building the local flock with our new partner in Papua New Guinea – PRR Foundation



We're really grateful to be working with PRR Foundation in PNG this year. Established in 2019, PRR Foundation endeavours to become a 'leader in inclusive innovation throughout PNG' by improving the livelihoods of rural communities throughout Markham Valley, Morobe Province. Through sustainable and responsible development practices, PRR Foundation focuses on assisting the most vulnerable households in rural communities. Former Kyeema Foundation intern and current Master Farmer, Melissa Ralda is PRR's CEO.

*Right: Master Farmer and CEO of PRR Foundation Melissa Ralda checking for eggs on Leron farm with some of her beautiful local birds in the foreground. Photo credit: PRR Foundation.*



The last few months have been a busy time for PRR Foundation in Markham Valley. With the help of local students, Melissa completed a baseline survey in the local community, interviewing over 50 households. She wants to learn about the knowledge, attitudes and practices of local families around nutrition, livestock keeping and climate change. This will inform the planned community training in village chicken keeping in 2021. On Leron farm, work has begun on the community training centre with programs due to commence in the New Year. It is hoped that ten to fifteen families will benefit from the training each month and will be provided with a starter pack of breeding stock to establish their own local chicken flocks. In the meantime, a temporary training centre has been built to cater for one-day training programs.

PRR's flock now numbers over 500 chickens from an initial starter flock of 50 chickens only 18 months ago. Melissa has now started to sell chickens to local businesses in and around Lae. New staff members have been employed and trained to assist with the village chickens and the planned community training. A local agriculture student from the vocational training school is currently assisting in data collection and analysis of the increasing village chicken flock.

Melissa also hopes to put the knowledge she gained in coral reef gardening in Fiji in 2019 to practice. A site in Salamaua, Morobe Province has been proposed and CEPA – PNG's Conservation and Environment Protection Authority – has shown their interest in establishing this site which will significantly help in developing PRR Foundations' first coral garden.

It's been a busy 2020 and an even busier year ahead; we look forward to helping PRR Foundation make strides in growing the local chicken value chain in PNG in 2021.

**If you're interested in supporting the work of PRR Foundation to enable households to have a flock of chickens with a secure chicken coop in 2021, visit our donate page to learn about giving options.**

# Strong female participation in Mbuji Mayi vaccination campaigns

Kyeema partnered with the AusCongo Network (ACN) in August 2018 to launch a Newcastle disease vaccination program in Mbuji-Mayi, the capital city of Kasai-Oriental Province in south-central DRC. Since then, a total of nine vaccinators (four female) have regularly vaccinated household chickens across 16 villages. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the vaccinators went ahead with two campaigns this year, incorporated safeguarding measures including social distancing and hygienic practices while vaccinating chickens at households. In the latest campaign in September 2020, a total of 8,443 chickens across 335 households were vaccinated. 56% of the households covered were female headed, up from 53% in the first campaign in 2018.

The entirely volunteer team at ACN in Brisbane continue to raise funds for the work of the people on the ground in Mbuji Mayi, to make improved village poultry production a reality.



The main challenge for this project has been sourcing reliable and affordable transport and storage options for the vaccine, which is produced at the National Veterinary Laboratory in Kinshasa, some 1,350 km away. Thanks to the tireless support of the original project volunteer trainer and facilitator, Dr Theodore Mwabi, and with funding support from Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid Ltd (PiCCA), we were able to purchase and transport a solar fridge from South Africa for the long-term storage of bulk vaccine from Kinshasa at the ACN community and business centre. Though it was a long and complex process, we are pleased to report the centre now has a functioning solar fridge for storage of the I-2 Newcastle disease vaccine that can be flown in from the capital as needed through pre-order of vaccine from the growing number of households they are now servicing.

*Below: Installation of the solar-powered fridge for storage of the Newcastle disease vaccine at the ACN community centre in Mbuji Mayi. Photo credit: Jean Calvin Tshibuabua*



## Vaccinators in Mchinji reach an estimated 15,000 chickens in their first campaign



*A group of community vaccinators receiving their certificates after completing training in Mchinji.  
Photo credit: Pat Boland.*

Training of community vaccinators (or community-based poultry workers as they are officially known in Malawi) was a top priority for the last half of 2020 for our partner, the Rural Poultry Centre (RPC). After consultation with government and other stakeholders, RPC prepared a protocol for training in accordance with COVID-19 safe guidelines. The training involved initial briefing sessions to sensitise government stakeholders, local community leaders and potential trainees, as well as preparation of suitable training materials. In view of the constraints imposed by the COVID pandemic, the actual training took place over 11 separate three-day sessions at five different locations in Mchinji District, over a period of six weeks beginning in September, with 77 vaccinators trained. 25 village leaders and 11 government animal health surveillance assistants were also included in the program to support the vaccinators. The first vaccination campaign was undertaken in early December, with around 15,000 chickens vaccinated across an estimated 1,500 households.

With 61% of the vaccinators being women, we hope the medium to long term impacts of this project will contribute to the improved production and health of village chickens and empowerment of rural women, leading to improved access to quality protein and income gains through increased sales of chickens at household level. Five Dzithandizeni Women's Groups will be participating in the program, with the hope that female vaccinators and female household heads in turn will be encouraged to improve their flocks through the example these women set. Setting up a network of village leaders and government workers will mean the community vaccinators will be facilitated to continue this important work well into the future.

**We acknowledge the support of the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) for this project.**



# Increasing the native chicken market in support of smallholder farmers in Mozambique and Uganda.



*Naked neck trait in a native chicken in Mozambique.  
Photo credit: Rosa Costa*

In Mozambique we are working with project partners in Maputo Province, Namaacha, Marracuene and Magude Districts. The project was delayed due to a COVID-19 lockdown in March 2020, with re-commencement of activities when there was partial lifting of the lockdown in June 2020. At this time the team began characterising native chicken ecotypes, their production systems and the whole value chain. They collected biological and socio-economic data on native chicken production and identified constraints and opportunities for smallholders. They also worked with farmers to understand the main problems households face with chicken diseases and how they have been overcome, and they investigated the main local feed resources, including their availability at different times of the year.

Genetic analyses are underway to understand the distinct native chicken ecotypes in each country. Cross-breeding the most popular (farmer-voted) of these is also underway to hopefully improve their productive capability, whilst retaining resilient traits for their environments (tolerance to heat, feed scarcity and disease resistance). We look forward to continued work with our partners in 2021 to achieve the key outcomes.

The 'Native Chicken Project' funded by the European Commission through the African Union Commission, is being implemented in Mozambique (Fundação Kyeema with the lead institution, University Eduardo Mondlane [UEM] and Directorate of Animal Sciences [DCA]) and in Uganda (Gulu and Makerere Universities, Wougnet and Chick Masters Limited). The key outcomes of the project are to: 1) improve the productive traits of the native chicken breeds (or ecotypes as they are known); and 2) assess the effectiveness of different cooperative smallholder production models for building the value chain in Mozambique and Uganda.



**Project partners in Mozambique**