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Success Stories in upstream large Scale and down stream small scale Poultry Production in Africa

Insights from experiences in Rwanda including the Role of women:

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**GALVmed**

Protecting Livestock – Improving Human Lives

Kigali, 1st of October 2024



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African Context- CAADP Initiative to end hunger & Reduce poverty: 10%:6%

Continental and national level frameworks to raise economic growth through agriculture-led development.

Transformation of agriculture from subsistence towards commercial production; increase farm incomes and productivity.



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Alignment of National Strategies- Commercial Poultry Production- Rwanda



Long term Vision 2050- Medium term National transformation strategies- NST1&2- the Strategic Plans for Agric. Sector, PSTA 4&5- priorities market led

The Livestock master plan recognizes central role of poultry in fighting malnutrition and generating descent income for youth & women

Ex: upstream large Scale and down stream small scale poultry productions in Rwanda

Upstream actors like LFL produce poultry feeds- Abusol is a large consumer of LFL feeds. It provides training in poultry production. Local supply of Maize, soya & other ingredients limited- importation and high prices.

Wood Valley Organics' small scale layer producer buyers LFL feeds- expensive- high cost of production, eggs not competitive/ low profit margins.

Need for stable supply of primary goods to stabilize feed prices



Ex: upstream large Scale and down stream small scale poultry productions in Rwanda

Agrotech- large importer of animal drugs, vaccines & DOC from Europe and supplies them locally, prices pegged on the Euro.

Gensi Farms, gets feeds from Gorilla feeds- but is constrained by irregular availability of vaccines from Agrotech- puts investment at high risk.

Need for more organized uninterrupted supply of inputs for Gensi stability



Ex: upstream large Scale and down stream small scale poultry productions in Rwanda

Both Gensi & Wood valley organics are women-owned mixed farm enterprises that integrate crop and animal production, keeps layer birds and dairy cows.

Issues facing both farms are high cost of feeds, fluctuations in quality, medicines & vaccines out of stock;

Lack of finance to modernize the poultry units, access to finance – commercial rates at 18% interest is quite high



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Ex: upstream large Scale and down stream small scale poultry productions in Rwanda

At Agrotech, LFL & Abusol, women like men are employed in managerial, technical and as casual laborers. However, at both Gensi & Wood valley Organics, women not only own the companies but employ other women across different levels of the companies.

Abusol, is able to export its produce because of certifications, unlike Gensi & wood valley organics but they sell same price locally because consumers do not know the difference.

For quality produce, consumer awareness & preference are important parameters.



Challenges for both upstream and downstream actors

In country production of maize and soya as main ingredients for poultry feed production is not enough. Feed processors need sufficient capital and storage to stock sufficient quantities and be able to beat seasonal fluctuations in prices and supply of raw materials.

The irregular supply of DOC, medicines and vaccines needs attention, irregularity and disruption constraints to the entire pvc.



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Challenges for both upstream and downstream actors

Opportunities inherent in regional integration such as EAC & AfCTA remain illusive for Rwanda's poultry sector, because the high cost of production does not make it competitive.

DOC suppliers like Uzima and Pearl are doing well but not in sufficient quantities to meet demand. Some farmers are also not satisfied with the quality and importation of DOC is still ongoing.



Opportunities in the PVC- Upstream and Down stream-Insights on WAY Forward:

A number of policy & initiatives are supportive of the PVC such as;

- VAT exemption of poultry feeds,
- School feeding programs encouraging egg consumption rising the demand
- Bk eases loan access to women of up to 15 million Frw without collateral, though interest rate is still high, other financial institutions ought to do the same.



Opportunities- cont

The Livestock master plan privileges poultry production because of its low land requirement, potential for creating jobs for youth and women, income generation and reducing household poverty and above, all in fighting malnutrition.



Way forward & Conclusions

To fully take advantage of the favorable policy environment, there is urgent need for PVC actors to address the issues of supply of DOC, medicine and vaccine supply, feed costs and quality, improve production standards & hygiene so as to access export markets, consumer protection, standards, monitoring, regulation & enforcement. The sector needs to attract more investment and joint ventures, for instance in production of animal medicines and vaccines locally.

While challenges remain, the poultry sector in Rwanda is fast growing and promising at all levels. In addition and like in all other areas of national life, the role of women in sustaining the poultry sector is very important. In Rwanda, you cant succeed without involving women!!



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Thank you for your attention



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