

# REPORT

## ON TRAINING IN SUSTAINABLE POULTRY PRODUCTION FOR THE RURAL COMMUNITIES IN CHIBOMBO DISTRICT ZAMBIA



CVA SMALL PROJECT

**09<sup>th</sup> July 2022**  
**Chibombo, Zambia**

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**ZARA GREEN FARMS LTD**

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

According to FAO, poultry has contributed to human health and wellbeing for millennia. For Rural Communities (RC), poultry continues to be an integral part of farming systems and household economies. RC value their chickens but they are most often just left to fend for themselves under completely free-range conditions. The chickens find their own feed and water, breed at random, lay their eggs where they find it suitable to do so and raise their chicks on their own. This coupled with the lack of knowledge on disease prevention strategies and high mortalities makes poultry rearing unprofitable and unsustainable in rural communities. Commercial feeding is an integral part of poultry production that accounts for about 70-75% of the cost of production. It is on this background that on 09<sup>th</sup> July 2022 training in sustainable poultry production supported by the CVA Small Project Funding, Mutekenya Livestock and Poultry Farms Limited and Zara Green Farms Limited was organized which targeted 30 individuals comprising of 60% women and 40% youths from RC in Chibombo District of Zambia. The knowledge, skills and experience gained by the individuals from the selected RC will be valuable and ultimately contribute to poverty reduction.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING**

### **2.1 Specific Objective**

To improve the production system of poultry for the RC through knowledge and skills transfer of the Small Scale Farmers (SSF) comprising of 60% women and 40% youths.

### **2.2 General Objectives**

- To train SSF in RC in Chibombo District in sustainable poultry production
- To strengthen the knowledge and skills of SSF in RC of Chibombo District in sustainable poultry production.
- To increase the production of village chickens within the first year of production for the SSF in RC of Chibombo District.

## **3. EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE TRAINING**

At the end of the training, the following are the expected outcomes;

- a) Improved knowledge, skills and understanding of sustainable poultry production
- b) SSF implementing principles and good management practices of sustainable poultry production
- c) The use of the training materials provided to the SSF will ensure continuous improvement of knowledge, skills and understanding of sustainable poultry production.
- d) More collaboration efforts among the SSF for better improvements of their flocks and, disease control and prevention strategies.

## **4. PROCEEDINGS OF THE CVA SMALL PROJECT TRAINING**

### **4.1 Opening Remarks and Official Opening of the Training**

This training was officially conducted on July 09, 2022, and it attracted 36 SSF from RC within Chibombo District. There were five (5) facilitators, three (3) from the University of Zambia, School of Veterinary Medicine (UNZAVET), one (1) from Central Veterinary Research Institute (CVRI) and one (1) from Zara Green Farms Limited. In total there were 41 participants.

Dr. Eugene C Bangure (Team Leader, CVA Small Project) warmly welcomed all the invited participants. All participants and facilitators introduced themselves and Dr. Bwalya presented the objectives of the training and shared all the training materials with the participants. All the participants were encouraged to actively participate and consider the training as a great opportunity.



**Figure 1:** One Day Training for Chibombo District Rural Community in Sustainable Poultry Production. (a) Dr. Bwalya (CVA Small Project, Team Leader) discussing the training manual and objectives to the participants, (b) participants listening in to the training and sharing a light moment, (c) some of the participants touring the feed storage and compounding unit (d) Facilitators looking on as the participants continue engaging in the training and (e) participants touring the production unit.

## 4.2 Training Activities

The training was conducted with the active involvement of all the participants. The participants were divided into three (3) groups for ease of discussions and during the tour of the different

production units. The established groups will also be used for the next phase of chick allocation and collection including project monitoring. The training utilized a blended approach whereby the facilitators conducted the theoretic training based on the provided training manual and practical experiences and challenges of the participants and onsite practical scenario at Mutekenya Farms in poultry production. In addition, the teach-back method was highly utilized to ensure that the participants remained engaged and concentrated during the training. To assess participants' understanding, group discussions were conducted and the participants' contributions and level of knowledge were noted by the facilitators. Participants were encouraged to take notes and ask questions were necessary to ensure that no one was left behind in the training. Where participants were not clear about something, open discussions with a lot of practical examples were used to help them understand.



**Figure 3:** Training activities showing (a) a participants being shown how to set a cheap but effective brooder house, (b) participants discussing the training manual with the facilitators, (c) part of the production unit that was toured by participants and (d) Participants touring the feed storage and compounding facility.

Due to language barrier in some instances where some participants could not fully understand or express themselves in the English language, the contents of the training manual and discussions were also delivered in two (2) local languages, namely Nyanga and Bemba. The training elucidated many collaborative opportunities among the participants within the RC in cost sharing for disease control methods such as routine vaccinations and deworming, and feed expenses.

### **4.3 Review of the training**

#### ***4.3.1 Training Manual***

The training emphasized the importance of implementing good management practices and standard routine practices in poultry production if optimal production is to be guaranteed such as timely feeding, vaccination, vitamin and minerals etc. The active contributions from the participants during the training demonstrated the willingness of the RC to implement the skills, knowledge and experience in ensuring sustainable poultry production. Most participants expressed a number of challenges in implementing the principles for sustainable poultry production with a lack of resources being the predominant factor. It was also evident that some participants were already practicing poultry production to some degree and therefore would benefit and improve more through the application of the knowledge and skills acquired from the training.

#### ***4.3.2 Group Discussion***

The participants were randomly divided into three (3) groups to ease discussions for the different scenarios and questions from the training. The different scenarios and questions related to poultry production were provided to all the groups for discussion during the training. Each group was allowed to present their answers or response which was then opened to critique, questions and answers plenary session from all the participants with the facilitators providing the guidelines or appropriate answers. All sessions were well coordinated by the facilitators who guided the participants and only closed the sessions when there were no more questions or contributions from the participants.



**Figure 4:** Summary of training activities and tour of the different units at Mutekenya Livestock and Poultry Farm Limited.

## **6. NEXT STEPS PHASE TWO (2)**

Following the successful one day training, the following will be the next phase:

- a) Create a WhatsApp group where information will be shared and managed with the participants
- b) Formulate a schedule for the three (3) groups that were created during the training for the purpose of managing the collection times for the chicks

## **7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The facilitators would first of all like to thank CVA, Mutekenya Livestock and Poultry Farm Limited, Zara Green Farms Limited for supporting the training project. Furthermore, the facilitators would like to thank all the participants who made this training a success by being present and active throughout the training.