

REPORT

ON TRAINING IN SUSTAINABLE POULTRY PRODUCTION FOR THE RURAL COMMUNITIES IN CHIBOMBO DISTRICT ZAMBIA – Part 2



CVA SMALL PROJECT

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Chibombo, Zambia

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ZARA GREEN FARMS LTD

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1. BACKGROUND

In the rural Communities (RC), poultry continues to be an integral part of farming systems and household economies. Under the current project which is supported by CVA Small Project Funding, Mutekenya Livestock and Poultry Farm Limited (MLPFL), and Zara Green Farms Limited (ZGFL), the initial training on sustainable poultry production was held on 09th July 2022. The training was well attended and attracted over 30 participants comprising of a bias ratio of 60% women and 40% youths from Chibombo rural communities near MLPFL. The previous training formed the foundation on which knowledge, skills and experience were gained by the individuals from the communities. The first training culminated into the creation of a WhatsApp Group for easier communication and information sharing, and three (3) cohorts to be used as for the collection and rearing of the chickens.

On 2nd October 2022, one day training was organized with the objective of training the participants in practical disease prevention and control strategies in poultry production, and for the purpose of distributing chickens to the groups.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING

2.1 Specific Objective

To train the participants in practical strategies for disease prevention and control, and to distribute the chickens to the groups.

2.2 General Objectives

- To train participants in preparation of equipment and chickens prior to vaccination
- To train participants in proper cleaning of the poultry house and disposal of the chicken manure
- To train participants on how to dilute the vaccine for Newcastle Disease (NCD) and Infectious Bronchitis (IB)
- To train participants on practical vaccination against NCD and IB

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 requirements and preparation procedure prior to vaccination among the participants
- b) Participants become more knowledgeable and experienced with proper cleaning and disinfection of poultry house
- c) Participants become knowledgeable and experienced with dilution of vaccines and practical vaccination of chickens as a disease control and prevention strategy.

4. PROCEEDINGS OF THE CVA SMALL PROJECT TRAINING

4.1 Opening Remarks and Official Opening of the Training

This training was officially conducted on October 02, 2022, and only 21 participants showed up compared to 36 participants from the first training. The reason for the drop in attendance was mainly due to the trainees having church commitments as the training was held on a Sunday.

There were two (2) facilitators, one (1) from the University of Zambia, School of Veterinary Medicine (UNZAVET), and one from ZGFL.

Dr. Eugene C Bwalya (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. 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 objectives of the training and the preparation for vaccination to the participants, (b) participants listening in to the training and discussing, (c) Mr. Maxwell of ZFL opening the vaccines and demonstrating how to dilute the vaccines in water, and (d) participants practicing how to open and mix the vaccines in water.

4.2 Training Activities

The training was conducted with the active involvement of all the participants. The training utilized a very practical approach whereby the facilitators demonstrated all the activities and allowed the participants to practice. Participants were only considered to be competent when they demonstrated the procedure correctly. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and to fully engage the facilitators so that they could have a full understanding of the requirements of rearing chickens. When participants were not clear about something, discussions and demonstrations were prolonged until they demonstrated competence.



Figure 2: Training activities showing (a) a participants demonstrating the mixing of the vaccines in water, (b - c) participants administering the vaccines to the parent stock using conical drinkers, and (d) participants observing the parent stock drinking the vaccine

Similar to the experience in the first training, local languages namely Nyanga and Bemba other than English were also utilized for better communication with the participants. 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.



Figure 3: Summary of activities at MLPFL (a) showing the recently purchased 2ton of feed, (b) vaccination preparation session with participants fully engaged, (c) participants who benefited from the training and were allocated villages chickens each, and (d) parent stock from where all the production stock were raised.

6. NEXT STEPS - PHASE THREE (3)

Following the successful one day training and selection of the village chickens for distribution, the following will be the next phase:

- a) Train participants on the hatchery conditions and artificial hatching services – provide the participants training on how to hatch eggs in an incubator.

- b) Provide the groups with eggs from their parent stock with free hatching services to be provided by ZGFL and help them grow their stock.



Figure 4: Showing the production stock which was hatched using eggs from the parent stock (a) and (b) some the selected chickens which have since been isolated from the entire stock waiting to be collect by the participants after preparation completion for their poultry housing facility.

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The facilitators would first of all like to thank CVA, MLPFL and ZGFL 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.