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Editorial

Family poultry development and food security

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In low income food deficit countries (LIFDC), food insecurity and resource depletion are very serious problems especially in the arid and semi-arid areas. In such circumstances, agricultural practices that can be sustained are those that promote efficient use of the natural resources for optimum production and food security.

Food security is defined as ensuring that all members of a household, nation or region receive an adequate diet to lead an active and normal life. Food security has two elements: food availability and access to food. Access requires purchasing power or incomes. Animal production contributes significantly to both elements. For example, in agricultural systems that require work oxen, the loss of cattle results in a very serious reduction in the size of cultivation and therefore in a reduction in food availability. In the mixed farming systems, nearly all households keep domestic animals. When food supplies run very low (especially just before the harvest), the money to purchase food come from sale of small livestock or casual labour.

The majority of poor people in LIFDC live and must continue to find work in the rural areas. There is need to increase rural employment which will generate effective demand for products from the industrial sector. The role of animal production in rural employment generation may be as important as in expanding food production. The systems of animal production that can be supported should favour rural employment, maintaining input costs below inflation and use of locally available resources.

Currently, most of the animal production in LIFDC is done in the rural areas. Even poultry, the most amenable to intensive industrial production, is predominantly held in rural flocks. This is why we need to support the development of rural family animal production which, with the emerging biotechnologies, can contribute much more than before to rural employment, food availability and access to food.

The FAO's Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS) launched in 1994 is responding to the urgent need to boost food production. Rural family poultry production as well as fish and rabbit are key elements in the SPFS. Members are strongly urged to facilitate their country's participation in the SPFS.

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Research and Development

Peasant practices in traditional poultry farming in Niger

A. Idi

ABSTRACT

From daily observation of their flocks, guinea fowl breeders understand how they could improve their production system. Therefore, their breeding practices are not a random one but are due to their progress motivation.

Researchers and extension workers should pay more attention to these practices which may have modern connotation. Probability of extension messages success may be higher when these messages are based on locally available techniques.

INTRODUCTION

A national survey (in 101 villages) on guinea fowl production systems in Niger (Idi, 1990) revealed a multitude of peasant practices based on an ancestral know-how. These practices, which aim at optimising the productivity of this production system, include techniques for improving hatching and survival rates. Thus, farmers hope to obtain a larger numbers of guinea fowl keets and, later, many adult birds.

RESULTS ET DISCUSSION

Techniques for improving hatching rate

They consist of:

- immersing hatching eggs in a saline solution. It is known that the Cl⁻ et NaClO₂⁻ anions, that are likely to be found in this solution, have disinfectant proprieties. This process is similar to the disinfecting of eggs before being put in incubators of hatchery brooders;
- humidifying the laying nest before putting in hatching eggs. Thus, a favourable environment to the incubation arises because of the increase of the air humidity around the eggs. This high hygrometry keeps up often for a long time as the broody hen receives its feed in the place and therefore does not need to leave for scavenging;
- widening the laying nest before eggs are put in. While allowing to put in more eggs, this would improve the air circulation in the nest when the hen moves;
- delimiting the edges of the laying nest with cotton. This would contribute to raise and maintain the temperature under the broody hen by reducing heat losses.

Techniques for improving survival rates of guinea fowl keets

The great susceptibility of guinea fowl keets to the cold is know by all keepers. Therefore, during the laying season from June to October in Niger, most peasants avoid a second clutch because this would coincide with the beginning of the dry and cold season. Besides, the scarcity of insects at this time constitutes another factor that is detrimental to the growth of keets as their protein sources dwindle.

According to farmers, the guinea fowl keet is not clever and if they do not watch out for it during the first days, it would run aimlessly to fatal exhaustion. Guinea fowl keepers confine therefore the female several days after hatching to enable keets to be accustomed to their mother and environment. During this period, keets are also suitably fed with broken grains and mash of cereals bran in order to enable them to have a good starter phase.

Farmers also reproach the keet for being almost unable to live without the protection of its mother. For this reason, the few peasants who wish to perform a second clutch always put a domestic fowl egg into the first clutch to have a chick that will serve as leader for keets. This chick makes keets rather early independent of their mother which thus will be able to brood without being disturbed.

CONCLUSION

Smallholder farmers constantly improve the productivity of their flocks with the aid of information obtained from the daily observation of their birds. Due attention should be paid to peasant farming practices because of their progress motivation. Researchers and extension workers should take this local know-how into consideration by spreading innovations they propose. Thus, there will have much chance of being successful.

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Effect of diet and poultry species on feed intake and digestibility of nutrients in Senegal

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ABSTRACT

Effects of diet and poultry species on dry matter intake and apparent digestibility of nutrients were examined in the present study. Male local chickens and guinea fowls were exclusively fed on each of three cereals (i.e. sorghum, millet and maize) as well as on a control diet. All diets were provided *ad libitum* to four birds for 8 days.

Values of dry matter intake were significantly ($P < 0.001$) higher in the birds fed on sorghum and millet, while guinea fowls consumed significantly ($P < 0.05$) more feeds when compared with local chickens. Besides, diets affected significantly digestibilities of nutrients ($P < 0.001$ for dry matter, ether extract and gross energy; $P < 0.01$ for organic matter and crude protein), while significant effects of poultry species and interactions of the main factors ($P < 0.001$) were observed only for crude protein and ether extract.

The results suggest that millet, sorghum and maize, in that order, are the grains of choice for supplementing the diets of scavenging chickens, while for guinea fowls the order should be: sorghum, millet and maize.

INTRODUCTION

Poultry keeping is often of great importance to Senegalese households, especially in peri-urban and rural areas. This industry is largely based on chicken production, although guinea fowls are also found throughout the country. In 1995, the chicken population was estimated to be 40 million (Anonymous, 1996), and more than 70 % of these birds are constituted by the local chickens (Guèye and Bessei, 1997; Guèye, 1998). Local chickens are kept mainly in rural and peri-urban areas, and none of suitable feeding systems is generally practised. Birds scavenge in and around the compound of households, feeding on the locally available resources e.g. earthworms, household refuse, insects, residues of harvest, etc. Scavenging is therefore a traditional uncertain method of poultry feeding. There is likelihood of

inadequate supply of energy, protein, minerals and vitamins.

The objective of this study was to investigate possibilities of using locally available cereals in the feeding of local chickens and guinea fowls. The three used grains (i.e. sorghum, millet and maize) constituted about 84 % of the 976,079 metric tons of cereals produced in 1996/1997 in Senegal.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was conducted at the ENSA, Thiès (about 70 km north-east of Dakar). Four local chickens and four guinea fowls were housed at 25-28°C in individual wire cages in a room with 13 hours light daily (7:00-20:00). Male birds of about 8 months of age were used, and average body weights were 1808±47 g for local chickens (they showed characteristics of crossbreeds, Rhode Island Red x indigenous hens) and 2180±230 g for guinea fowls. All the birds were exclusively fed on each of three cereals, i.e. sorghum (containing 87.8 % dry matter = DM, 10.9 % crude protein = CP, 3.8 % crude fibre = CF, 2.8 % ether extract = EE, 97.5 % organic matter = OM, 18.5 MJ gross energy = GE/kg and 14.2 MJ metabolizable energy = ME_n/kg), millet (86.7 % DM, 6.4 % CP, 2.6 % CF, 4.2 % EE, 95.6 % OM, 18.1 MJ GE/kg and 13.9 MJ ME_n/kg) and maize (87.7 % DM, 10.1 % CP, 2.9 % CF, 3.6 % EE, 98.3 % OM, 18.7 MJ GE/kg and 14.6 MJ ME_n/kg). The used control diet (86.6 % DM, 15.0 % CP, 7.0 % CF, 3.0 % EE, 94.3 % OM, 18.3 MJ GE/kg and 12.7 MJ ME_n/kg) was representative of an usual commercial feed. This control diet was composed of 49.33 % maize, 15.00 % sorghum, 14.72 % groundnut cake, 8.00 % fish meal, 11.29 % rice bran, 1.04 % tricalcium phosphate, 0.05 % lysine, 0.07 % methionine and 0.5 % vitamin and trace mineral-premix. Cereals and control diet were provided *ad libitum* to birds for 8 days. Water was also accessible to them at all times. Previously, birds were acclimatised to the diets for two weeks.

During the experimental period, feed intake and excreta production were recorded. Afterwards, feedstuffs and faecal samples were analysed for OM, CP, CF and EE (Anonymous, 1985). Thus, the *in vivo* apparent digestibilities (D) of nutrients were assessed. The GE was determined using bomb calorimeter and the ME_n calculated.

Results were analysed statistically to determine the effects of diet, poultry species and any interactions of the main factors. The analysis of variance was used. When significant effects of main factors were found (P<0.05), the means were separated using Student's test, and significant differences were assigned different letters.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Diet and poultry species showed significant effects on the DM intake (Table 1). The highest values of DM intake (DMI) were observed for sorghum and millet, while guinea fowls consumed more feeds when compared with local chickens. Results obtained are consistent with those reported by Ayorinde (1990) in guinea fowls.

With regard to digestibilities of nutrients, significant differences were found for the effect of diet (Table 1). However, for the effect of poultry species and interactions of the main factors, significant differences were observed only in DCP and DEE. The CP of sorghum and maize was particularly better digested by guinea fowls, while that of the control diet was better used by local chickens (Table 2). Besides, local chickens made better use of EE, especially that of maize.

In addition, the DGE was significantly correlated to crude fibre content of feedstuffs (CF, %):

DGE% = 86.499 - 1.6295 CF%, $r = -0.60$, $P < 0.05$ in local chickens, and

DGE% = 89.271 - 2.019 CF%, $r = -0.92$, $P < 0.001$ in guinea fowls.

Table 1: Mean values of dry matter intake and coefficients of apparent digestibility of nutrients from three different cereals and a control diet when fed to Senegalese local chickens and guinea fowls.

Parameter ¹⁾	DMI (g/kg W ^{0.75})	DDM (%)	DOM (%)	DCP (%)	DEE (%)	DGE (%)
Diet						
Sorghum	199.2 ^a	80.92 ^a	81.71 ^b	34.81 ^b	70.50 ^b	79.18 ^{bc}
Millet	196.6 ^a	83.47 ^a	86.67 ^a	33.76 ^b	85.22 ^a	85.14 ^a
Maize	149.9 ^b	81.70 ^a	83.10 ^{ab}	39.01 ^a	72.67 ^b	81.80 ^{ab}
Control diet	177.7 ^{ab}	74.28 ^b	79.78 ^b	40.63 ^a	88.96 ^a	75.75 ^c
Poultry species						
Local chicken	172.9 ^b	79.82	82.54	33.64 ^b	82.12 ^a	79.75
Guinea fowl	193.9 ^a	80.34	83.03	40.67 ^a	75.95 ^b	81.10
Significance						
Diet	***	***	**	**	***	***
Poultry species	*	NS	NS	***	***	NS
Diet* Poultry species	NS	NS	NS	***	***	NS

NS = non significant ($P > 0.05$); * = $P < 0.05$; ** = $P < 0.01$; *** = $P < 0.001$

¹⁾ Dry matter intake (DMI), coefficients of apparent digestibility of dry matter (DDM), of organic matter (DOM), of crude protein (DCP), of ether extract (DEE) and of gross energy (DGE)

Table 2: Interactions (diet*poultry species) relating to crude protein and ether extract digestibilities in Senegalese local chickens and guinea fowls.

Diet*poultry species	Digestibility (%)	
	Crude protein	ether extract
(Sorghum, Local chicken)	26.40 ^d	68.32 ^b
(Sorghum, Guinea fowl)	43.22 ^b	72.67 ^b
(Millet, Local chicken)	36.59 ^c	84.92 ^a
(Millet, Guinea fowl)	29.99 ^{cd}	85.61 ^a
(Maize, Local chicken)	25.17 ^d	87.31 ^a
(Maize, Guinea fowl)	52.84 ^a	58.03 ^c
(Control, Local chicken)	44.28 ^b	89.23 ^a
(Control, Guinea fowl)	35.76 ^c	88.59 ^a

^{a,b,c,d} Values with different superscripts in a column are significantly different ($P < 0.05$)

CONCLUSIONS

The control diet was not better used when compared with the three cereals fed separately to birds, although it contained all feed ingredients required by birds. Millet, sorghum and maize, in that order, are the grains of choice for supplementing the diets of scavenging local chickens, while for guinea fowls, the order should be: sorghum, millet and maize. In Senegal, millet grains are particularly recommended for the supplementation of local poultry diets because its production is regular.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Development report

Rural family poultry in Kenya

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The Kenyan National Dairy Cattle and Poultry Research Programme (NDCPRP) organised a 5-day Rural Poultry Workshop at the Regional Research Centre, Kakamega, Western Province, Kenya. The workshop was attended by 32 experts, 29 of whom were Kenyans. Of the Kenyans, there were 19 researchers, 6 extension specialists and 4 private farmers. The participants heard, discussed and interacted with 22 papers reporting research and development in Rural Poultry in 5 provinces in Kenya. The NDCPRP is building on the experiences of the National Poultry Development Programme (1976-1994) which had 5 phases. The first 3 phases were devoted to projects aimed at improving commercial poultry but by phase III, the objective had been modified to concentrate on the production and consumption of poultry by rural family households. Although NPDP funded research directly during phases I and II, the funding for research was withdrawn during phase III to V. Nevertheless, close collaboration was maintained between the Kenyan Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) and NPDP. This collaboration was carried into the Poultry Research Programme of the NDCPRP which is based in KARI headquarters in Nairobi.

One interesting feature of the Rural Poultry Workshop was the presentation by farmers. The abridged form of one such presentation is reproduced below in the first person narrative.

LWICHI WOMEN GROUP'S POULTRY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT REPORT

By: Gladys Soita, Dymphina Kulecho and Miller Masitsa

P.O. Box 4, Malava, Kenya

We started in November 1995 when we acquired 15 Rhodes Island Red (RIR) cocks from KARI-NAHRC, Naivasha. We wanted to improve egg and meat production. We wanted a project that would generate income, provide us with a cheap source of protein to improve the nutritional quality of our family diet, but that required affordable investment capital to start.

At the start of the project, members of our group were trained in basic poultry husbandry: feeding, health care, breeding and housing. The intensive training lasted two weeks from 13th November to 30th November 1995. The course was conducted by Mr. Okitoi who also arranged for us demonstrations on proper poultry feeding and management.

All chickens in the Lwichi community were vaccinated against Newcastle disease and fowl typhoid. Our members were encouraged to confine their chicks in the poultry house, where they were fed. All indigenous cocks were disposed off. Initially 15 members received a RIR cock each to mate with their indigenous hens. Later, 25 RIR cocks were supplied to other members of the group.

FEEDING

We were taught to formulate rations using available feedstuffs.

- Feeds for energy: maize, millet, sweet potatoes, cassava, sorghum;
- Feeds for protein: sunflower cake, omena (fish meal), cotton seed cake, maize germ, soya cake, meat and bone meal;
- Vitamins sources: green grass, sukuma wiki (green kale), cabbage, dodo and premix;
- Mineral sources: grit, lime, oyster shell, etc.

Table 1: Examples of rural poultry rations

Nutrient source	Chick mash	Growers mash	Layers mash
	Quantity (Kg)		
Maize	2.75	3.00	3.00
Cotton seed cake	0.25	0.25	0.25
Soya	0.50	0.25	0.50
Omena (fish meal)	0.75	0.75	0.50
Total	4.25	4.25	4.25

HEALTH CARE

Chickens are dewormed using ascarex. Newcastle disease vaccination is repeated after every 3 months. Disinfectants such as dettol are used in a footbath at the entrance of the poultry house. Inside the poultry house, lice are eliminated and mites kept away with “Stellodim”, “Triatix” or “Doom”.

BREEDING

Pullets are first mated when they are 6 months old. Cockerels start mating at eight months. The RIR cock is exchanged with one from another woman just before its female offsprings (daughters) attain sexual maturity. This is done to avoid inbreeding.

HOUSING

A site is chosen that is slightly high with good drainage. The houses are open sided (cross ventilation) with mud walls up to 1 meter high. The roofs are either grass-thatch or iron sheets, depending on an individual's ability. The floor is rammed earth and wood shavings are spread on the floor. Perches are provided in the poultry house which is subdivided into compartments for different sex and age groups: chicks, pullets and cockerels, layers and the cock.

FLOCK SIZE

Forty Rhode Island Red cocks were given to fifty members. Five cocks were used for a period of 3 months and died. Five other cocks were used for one year and died. The remaining thirty cocks have been used for 3 years for breeding and have been exchanged among members in breeding groups of eight members.

The average number of hens per member is 24. The total flock size in Lwichi Women Group is 1,200.

PRODUCTION

A hen incubates 15 fertilized eggs and hatches 12. Total number of chicks surviving up to 6 weeks is 10, to 14 weeks is 8, and to 6 months is 7-8. There are two such hatchings in a year.

CONCLUSION

Members have been able to earn average incomes of Kshs 3,000 per month from the sale of eggs and surplus male and female stock. Part of this income is used to purchase feed, drugs and vaccines for the flock. The remaining income is for domestic needs. We are effectively employed as we feed the flock and clean the poultry house every day. The nutritional quality of our diet has improved as we eat the eggs and birds. Poultry manure is applied in the kitchen garden, and to fodder on the field.

The Lwichi Women Group representative were asked questions by the workshop participants.

Question 1: What do you intend to do to sustain your crossbreeding programme when there is no more supply of RIR?

Answer: We intend to keep exchanging the original cocks we were given and their sons amongst the members.

Question 2: What do you feed to each class of chicken?

Answer: The indigenous birds are allowed to run freely and then given locally available feedstuffs. The crossbreds are fed on bought commercial feeds or the home made rations.

Question 3: What role do men play in the group?

Answer: They (i) build the poultry houses,
(ii) provide money for buying feeds, and
(iii) step in when women are absent.

Question 4: How do you market your birds and eggs?

Answer: Marketing is done locally and sometimes to the nearest towns.

Comment - Mr. Ndegwa: To avoid inbreeding in future and to improve performance, farmers should select high performing birds among the crosses and indigenous flock and keep on exchanging cocks.

PS: The NDCPRP is funded by the Netherlands government. The Lwichi Women Group poultry project was supported under the NDCPRP. The reporter attended the Workshop as a technical resource person and adapted the workshop notes for this report. The views and opinions expressed do not reflect those of the Kenyan or Netherlands governments.

Italians assess free range option

(Adapted from “ International Poultry Production 6 (3), 1998: p. 7-9 ”)

The Maia Company is situated in the north eastern region of Italy near Treviso between Venice and the foothills of the Alps. After more than 35 years in the egg business, Maia is one of Italy's leading producers of eggs and processed egg products.

Maia has recently started to produce its own free range eggs. Previously all such eggs are imported from France. The company is the first in Italy to convert farms to free range and has 11,000 layers. There are typical free range houses measuring each 10 x 45 m and containing 3,000 birds. The construction of nests is typical. Nest boxes are positioned end to end and run in a central block the full length of the house. Hens can enter either side of the box and lay their eggs onto a synthetic Astroturf pad. The eggs roll gently into a central collecting channel and are transported into the lobby. A cover encloses the channel to prevent hens pecking at the eggs. The nest boxes have a raised roof to give a 'chimney' effect and aid ventilation. Moreover, slats lead from either side of the nest boxes and fall to a scratching area. Hatches along the length of the house allow birds access to the outside runs from the scratching area. The range area measures 15 x 45 m at each side of the house.

Feeder and drinker lines are suspended above the slatted area. In the evening, the birds return and the hatches are closed. Birds are floor reared as pullets. At 18 weeks old, they are moved to the free range farm. The contractor said, "The production is less than in cages but the birds are more hardy and the egg shells are stronger. We also receive premium on the eggs". He sees free range production not as a replacement to the conventional systems of commercial egg production but as a means to satisfy a niche market. For example, there is still a need to supply the corner shop with small quantities of fresh eggs but with a quality guarantee.

The vision of the future at Maia is to continue to find new ways to market eggs and the further processed products and to satisfy the ever increasing demands of the modern consumer.

News

A.DE.CO.R - A Congolese NGO for enhancing rural capacities through family poultry development

The A.DE.CO.R. ('Association pour le **DE**veloppement des **CO**mmunautés **R**urales'), a non-profit-making NGO, has been set up on the initiative of a group of development workers and leading peasants who are seeking for a new dynamism for villages. It aims at upgrading peasant knowledge and practices by making them available to village communities. The animation, the training and the follow-up are approaches adopted by the ADECOR to favouring an integrated and participatory development.

With regard to the family poultry development, interventions are in the following spheres:

- Technical training sessions and advice,
- Facilities for access to inputs,
- Exchanges of views on the organisation of the marketing system,
- Follow-up and assessment of activities,
- Organisation of local know-how exchanges,
- Use of local poultry husbandry techniques,
- Dissemination of new poultry husbandry techniques that are fit for family poultry,
- Documentation and information service.

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CONGO

First Announcement for the World's Poultry Congress 2000

During the World's Poultry Congress (WPC) which is scheduled to be held in Montreal, Canada, in the year 2000, INFPD expects to mount a symposium with the theme "Family Poultry and Food Security" focusing on the Low In-

come Food Deficit Countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and on countries of the former Soviet Union (CIS) and in Oceania. The role of FAO and other UN organizations, INGOs and NGOs as well as research and development organizations will be highlighted. The Symposium on Family Poultry will be an integral part of the WPC 2000, and all the papers of this symposium will be included in the Congress proceedings as was done for Rural Poultry during the XXI WPC in India.

The First Announcement for the WPC 2000 should have been printed and mailed at the end of October 1998 and its content was already fixed, so unfortunately it could not contain anything about INFPD Symposium because some details have to be discussed. But it will include information in the Second Announcement (due in October 1999), and of course any of INFPD members who wish to receive the First Announcement can do so by contacting the Congress Secretariat at:

Events International

759 Victoria Square, suite 300,

Montreal,

Quebec H2Y 2J7

Canada

Tel: + 514 286 0855, Fax: + 514 286 6066, E-mail: < info@eventsintl.com >

There is also a website at < *www.wpc2000.org* >

INFPD plans to have a 1/2 day Family Poultry Symposium in the Palais des Congrès so that it can be open to all WPC delegates. INFPD can then schedule its other meetings that do not require the attendance of INFPD non-members to hold for 2 days before the actual opening of the WPC 2000.

Initiation of the Latin-American INFPD's sub-Network

Prof. René Branckaert, Animal Production Officer, FAO (INFPD Advisory Committee) had carried out a mission to Colombia, from 23 to 29 September 1998. In Cali, Colombia, the first part of the mission was devoted to the initiation of the Latin-American sub-Network in the frame of INFPD, as recommended by the resolutions adopted in December 1997 in M'Bour, Senegal (see INFPD Newsletter Vol. 8. No. 1).

Due to a lack of funds, the attendance was only restricted to Colombian participants: scientists, technicians, producers. The first part of the meeting was devoted to the presentation of the results – both technical and economical – of trials in rural poultry development. In the second part, there were discussions on ways to institutionalize the INFPD Latin-American sub-Network.

Due to its large experience in rural family poultry, the RACAL (Red para la Avicultura Campesina en America Latina or Latin-American Network for Rural Poultry) will:

- take all contacts needed in order to institutionalize the INFPD Latin-American sub-Network,
- provide the INFPD Bulletin with Spanish information on family poultry development in Latin America in order to publish a trilingual version,
- liaise with the INFPD Co-ordinator and FAO/AGA.

An excellent programme of visits allowed the Reporting Officer to assess the achievements implemented by Fundación Herecia Verde and the Centro para la Investigación en Sistemas Sostenibles de Producción Agropecuaria (CIPAV) in the fields of Rural Poultry Development and Mixed Farming Integrated Systems. Besides, the possibility to field a TCDC expert for an identification/formulation mission for duck development has been contemplated and discussed.

Teleconference on improving family poultry production in Africa

A Teleconference on improving family poultry production in Africa was held on 10th November 1998. This teleconference connected participants from three locations, i.e. FAO (Rome, Italy), IAEA (Vienna, Austria) and Fort Dodge Animal Health (Weesp, Netherlands). Initiated by Prof. René Branckaert, Animal Production Officer, FAO (INFPD Advisory Committee), it was chaired by Dr. Ron Dwinger, AGE, Joint FAO/IAEA Division, and the Rapporteur was Ms. Roswitha Schellander. In Vienna, two INFPD members had been invited as consultants, i.e. Dr. Anders Permin from The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark and Prof. Jonathan G. Bell, Institute of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine Hassan II, Rabat, Morocco.

Discussion points were:

- The holistic approach introduced by R. D. Branckaert and S. D. Mack, AGAP, FAO;
- Health initiatives (vaccination schemes, coccidiostats/anthelmintics) by three teams, i.e. AGAH, FAO (J. Hansen, K. Wojciechowski), Weesp (F. Davelaar) and Vienna (A. Permin, J. G. Bell, B. Goodger, M. Jeggo);
- Feeding initiatives (simple creep feeder for chicks, local agricultural by-products) by A. Speedy and M. Sanchez from AGAP, FAO;
- Housing initiatives by A. Finzi, AGAP, FAO;
- Data collection (surveys) and analysis by E. F. Guèye, AGAP, FAO.

First INFPD/FAO Electronic Conference on Family Poultry

The First INFPD/FAO Electronic Conference will operate from 7 December 1998, for 3 months. The general theme will be: "The Scope and Effect of Family Poultry Research and Development". The conference focuses on all aspects of family poultry production systems. To initiate discussions, selected authors will write lead papers. Besides, there will be free communications on the lead papers by all those who have signed on to participate in the conference.

We hope most INFPD members and INFPD non-members from various countries in Africa, Asia, Latin-America, Australia and Europe will be involved in this first experience for our Network. We also hope that the greatest number of people interested in family poultry development, i.e. scientists, teachers, farmers, extension workers, etc., will sign on to participate in this Conference.

If you have any questions, the co-ordinators may be contacted by e-mail:

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