

Characteristics of the four family poultry production systems

Criteria	Small extensive scavenging	Extensive scavenging	Semi-intensive	Small-scale intensive
Production/farming system	Mixed, poultry and crops, often landless,	Mixed, livestock and crops	Usually poultry only	Poultry only
Other livestock raised	Rarely	Usually	Sometimes	No
Flock size (adult birds)	1–5	5–50	50–200	> 200 broilers > 100 layers
Poultry breeds	Local	Local or crossbred	Commercial or crossbred or local	Commercial
Source of new chicks	Natural incubation	Natural incubation	Commercial day-old chicks or natural incubation	Commercial day-old chicks or pullets
Feed source	Scavenging; almost no supplementation	Scavenging; occasional supplementation	Scavenging; regular supplementation	Commercial balanced ration
Poultry housing	Seldom; usually made from local materials or kept in the house	Sometimes; usually made from local materials	Yes; conventional materials; houses of variable quality	Yes; conventional materials; good-quality houses
Access to veterinary services and veterinary pharmaceuticals	Rarely	Sometimes	Yes	Yes
Mortality	Very high >70%	Very high >70%	Medium to high 20% to >50%	Low to medium <20%
Access to reliable electricity supply	No	No	Yes	Yes
Existence of conventional cold chain	No	Rarely	Yes	Yes
Access to urban markets	Rarely	Rarely or indirect	Yes	Yes
Products	Live birds, meat	Live birds, meat, eggs	Live birds, meat, eggs	Live birds, meat, eggs
Time devoted each day to poultry management	< 30 minutes	< 1 hour	> 1 hour	> 1 hour

Source: FAO, 2014.