

# Districts to receive improved local chicken

SERERE

By Emmanuel Alomu

The National Semi-Arid Resources Research Institute (NaSARRI), one of the 16 public agricultural research institutes of National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) has bred over 500 improved indigenous chickens after selective breeding.

NaSARRI is located in the eastern agro-ecological zone in Serere district. The indigenous chickens, which were producing between eight and 12 eggs, will now produce between 25 and 35 eggs per hen.

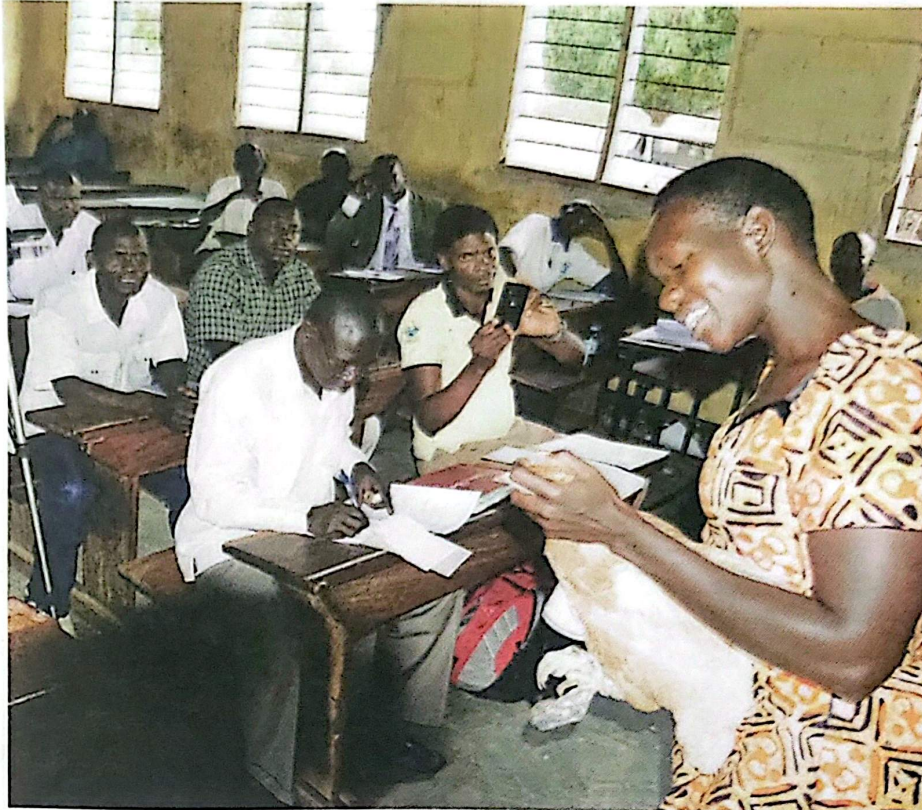
The improved local chickens grow fast and begin laying eggs at six months.

The National Livestock Resources Research Institute (NaLIRRI), under Competitive Grant Scheme (CGS) project, picked 117 indigenous chickens from Iganga, Kumi, Tororo and Lira in 2014.

Dr. James Oluka, the national co-ordinator of the project, said their aim is to enable small poultry farmers to eradicate poverty through rearing improved indigenous chicken in rural communities.

According to Oluka, after the improved local chickens have undergone selective breeding, they will be returned to the owners for monitoring and management.

"Different ecotypes of indigenous chicken were selected from four districts and we assembled them at NaSARRI, where we are currently doing selective breeding within the population. We want to get a genotype with increased meat and egg production. These will be channelled back to the same farmers who gave them to us,"



Poultry farmers in Ongiino sub-county, Kumi district undergoing training in poultry management last week. Photo by Emmanuel Alomu

## BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ The improved local chickens will grow fast and begin producing eggs at six months.

Oluka said.

He said they have bought an incubator to help them boost the production of eggs because natural breeding is not effective since one hen will not be in position to incubate several eggs.

In each of these selected

districts, groups of poultry farmers were formed.

NARO is hopeful that these groups will be supported by the local governments to sustain the project after it ends this year.

The beneficiaries of the project have received training. Over 100 selected poultry farmers were recently and sensitised on poultry management at Kanapa Primary School in Ongiino sub-county, Kumi district.

The farmers in Kumi district said they have been lagging

behind in the management of local chicken. They called on the Government to extend the training to all the farmers in the country.

The criteria for selecting these districts was based on the agro-ecological zones, according to NARO officials.

The CGS project, which started in 2014 and ends this year, was funded by the World Bank.

Over 80% of the current population of about 40 million chickens in Uganda is indigenous.

## Iganga b... social m...

IGANGA

By George Bitu

The Bishop of Central Diocese, Rt. Rev. Wakula, has Christians against social media.

Wakula said exposure may make people who end being able to live using illegal drugs was meeting Christ All Saints Cathedral recently.

According to Wakula, if most breaking news usually got from social media, Christians need to be careful as gossip, porn and vulgar messages are also social networking sites.

"There is need to get good from bad news. Actually, social applications like twitter and WhatsApp make numerous people addicted, which cost their values," the bishop said on Monday.

## WHAT

Steven Nsaju: As Christians, we need to be associated with good deeds. Let us not be tempted into sin by the dot com era.

Agnes Namukobe: Everything has a good and bad side. The onus is on us to be careful and avoid bad influences.

## Apac wants at least four...