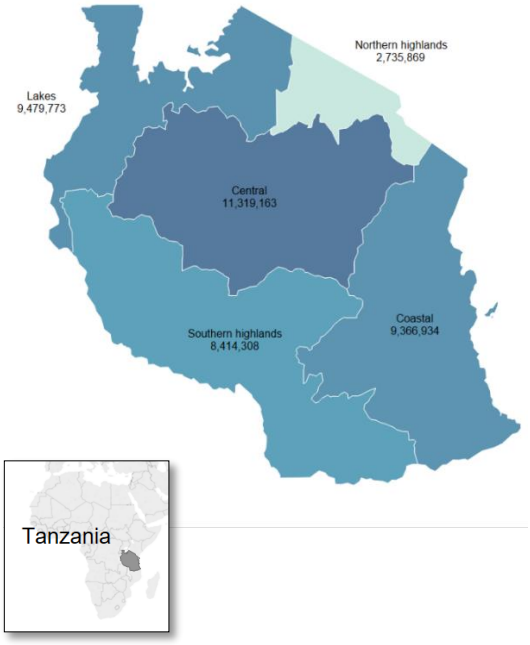
Poultry production in Tanzania

The supply of indigenous chickens meets greater than 70% of demand for chicken meat and egg production in rural areas and up to 20% in urban areas within Tanzania.

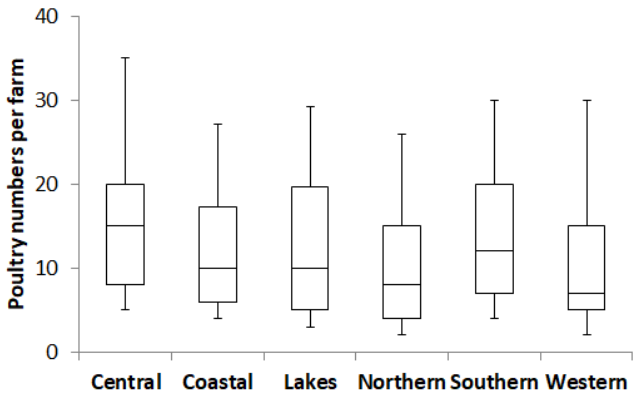
Industry snapshot:

- Tanzania has a poultry flock comprising approximately 72 M chickens.
- Approximately 40 M are indigenous breeds and 32 M are commercial poultry, which include 8 M for laying eggs and 24 M for meat.
- Of the 4.7 million agricultural households in Tanzania, 3.7 million households keep poultry.
- Indigenous chickens are mainly raised by rural dwellers and contribute almost 100% of the poultry meat consumed in the rural areas and 20% of eggs consumed urban areas.

Total poultry population by agricultural zone *(Data from 2016-17 livestock census).*



Baseline poultry numbers for different regions within Tanzania. Box plots below show 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentile flock size, based on data from the LSMS survey (2015).



Poultry production systems

Traditional poultry system

- The traditional indigenous poultry subsystem is family orientated and an extensive scavenging dual-purpose system, with low egg production (50 eggs/hen per year) and meat production (1.5 kg for mature chicken).
- This traditional system supports the largest proportion of the national flock and the output from this system is much lower than of commercially raised poultry.
- Indigenous chickens have low productivity due to their inherent low genetic potential; 70% of the poultry breeds in Tanzania are low yielding in terms of meat and egg production.

Semi-improved system

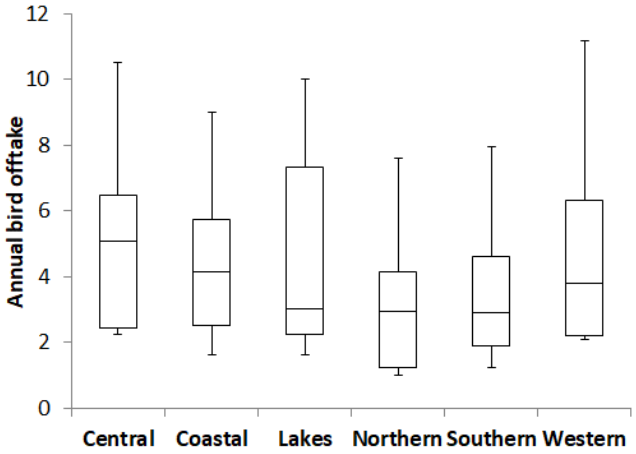
- The semi-improved system is semi-intensive, semi scavenging system with a moderately high production of 150 eggs/hen per year and 1.8 kg live weight at maturity.
- The semi-improved systems are family-orientated with a mixture of improved local and imported tropical breeds.

Commercial specialised system

- The specialised chicken system is an intensive layers and meat production system with high productivity (2 kg live weight at maturity and 270 eggs/hen per year).

Poultry yields

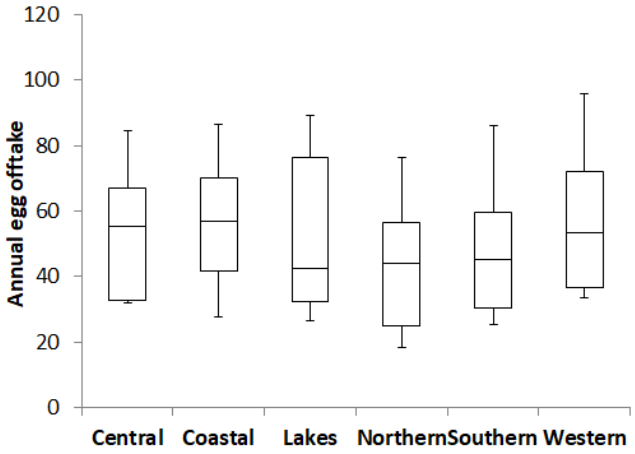
Median annual bird offtake rates (birds sold or consumed) for a traditional poultry system range from 2.7 to 4.0 birds/year (box plots below show 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentile) *(Modelled in VIPSOIM using data from LSMS (2015)).*



Value chains & market systems

- Most of the farmer marketing organisations involve small groups and tend to be concentrated in urban areas.
- There is a lack of poultry slaughtering and meat processing facilities, as well as issues around the promotion of poultry meat and egg marketing.

Median annual egg offtake rates (eggs/hen sold or consumed) for a traditional poultry system range from 41 to 55 eggs/hen per year (box plots below show 10th, 25th, 50th, 75th and 90th percentile) (*Modelled in VIPSOIM using data from LSMS (2015)).*



Issues and opportunities for poultry

- There are many advantages of a traditional indigenous poultry system including consistent production based on largely free feed sources from the surrounding environment and use of breeds well adapted to the local environment.
- The traditional indigenous poultry system is inexpensive and low input.
- Traditional indigenous poultry systems suffer inadequate feed supply, high disease prevalence, predation and inadequate shelter.
- There is enormous potential for the poultry industry to enhance food and nutritional security.
- Modelling can assist in understanding how interventions can improve egg and meat production for extensive backyard systems.

References:

LSMS Survey: https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/2862

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