



# Factsheet

## Poultry in Rwanda

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Rwanda is a densely populated rural country (416 people/km<sup>2</sup>) where agriculture remains at the centre of strategies to reduce poverty and improve food security and nutrition. Agriculture contributes for 33% to the GDP and about 80% of the population is engaged in agriculture, on mainly semi subsistence level. Poultry production is the fastest growing livestock sector in Rwanda. The industrial poultry sector in Rwanda started quiet recent. It is a fast growing sector but not yet fully developed. Most farmers have livestock as an income supplement but not as their main occupation. This leaves many opportunities for growth.

### Facts and Figures

The poultry sector can be divided in traditional poultry farmers and industrial poultry farmers. The traditional poultry farmers are predominant and produce mainly in villages or backyards with minimal biosecurity. These birds are consumed locally with no stakeholders between the producer and consumer.

The local breed is called 'Inyarwanda' and is a mixed breed. The exotic layer breeds used are Rhode Island Red, Derco and Norman. The exotic broiler breeds used are Cobb 500 (predominant) and Hubbard. According to FAO, there were in 2014 4,917,000 live chickens in Rwanda and the production of chicken meat amounted to 16,304 tonnes. The current egg



production in 2014 was approximately 3091 tonnes or 82,370,000 eggs, which is low and shows potential for growth. Most farmers have between 100 and 500 birds (46%). 22% of the farmers has less than 100 birds and only the remaining 32% has more than 500 birds (Francis Mbuza, 2016). The unit cost per kg of poultry meat ranges from FRW 1,451 to FRW 1,734 (1, 63 euro to 1, 94 euro) depending on the size of the farm and if a hatchery is included in the farm (USAID, 1 September 2016). The market price of eggs is ranging between RWF 60 and RWF 130 (0, 07 euro to 0, 15 euro) depending on the place purchased (supermarket or local) and demand and supply. These biggest hatcheries in Rwanda are the Uzima Chicken and EasyHatch. Almost all other DOCs are imported from Uganda, Belgium and the Netherlands.

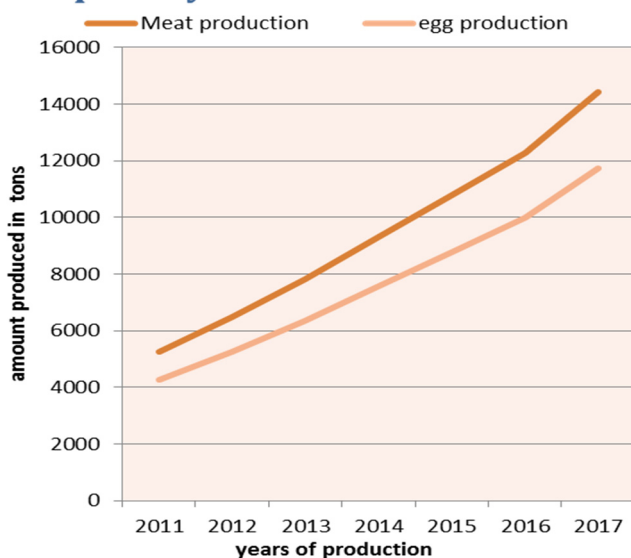
The five main producers of feed in Rwanda are Zamura feeds, Gorilla Feed, PEAL, Prodev and PAFI. Together they account for more than 60% of local production. The remaining 40% of the market is occupied ten non specialized units and home production.

The trend line below shows the amount of produced meat and eggs. The growth rate from 2011 till 2017 for meat production was 190% and the growth of egg production was 174% (Ndungutse, February 2016).

## Strengths and Opportunities

The technical level of the poultry sector in Rwanda is very low but growing. Rwanda has good weather conditions and day/night cycle for production of broilers and layers. There is currently a bigger demand than supply. 57 Tonnes of poultry meat are imported every year. In Rwanda readymade feed, inputs used for feed production and veterinary products are exempted

**Trend line of growth of poultry sector**



from VAT.

With increasing incomes, consumers are moving rapidly to superior goods, such as meat. Rwanda is furthermore uniquely positioned to serve the markets of North and South Kivu in Eastern DRC and Burundi. These markets together represent more than 15 million people. In Rwanda labour is available at competitive costs (USD 1.5 – 2/day for unskilled labour and approximately USD 300-400 for experienced agronomists). The government of Rwanda has identified modern slaughter houses and meat processing, packaging and export as investment opportunities.

## Challenges

Availability of feed remains a challenge for the commercial livestock sector. It is hard to purchase quality feed for a good price. Most feed is imported from neighbouring countries (USAID, 1 September 2016). Another challenge is the availability of Day Old Chicks. The village rural poultry sector has challenges with animal health and productivity and to a lesser extent with feeding. The poultry sector is in the emerging phase which results in lack of organization of the market.

## Framework Policies

The government of Rwanda has launched different frameworks and/or strategies to develop agriculture. Relevant initiatives are the Vision 2020 which started in 2000 with the aim to become a middle-income country by the year 2020. The *Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy-2* is focussing on economic growth with agriculture as key sector. The Strategic Plan for the Transformation of Agriculture in Rwanda-3 (PSTA III) is a five year program ending in 2018 with the objectives to enhance food security and reduce poverty by expanding private sector. For the period 2018-2023, MinAgri will present PSTA-4 on short term with updated policy and strategy. The new policy aims to contribute to improved food and nutrition security, through increased rural incomes and access to safe and affordable products. The new policy shifts from a government led economic development to a more private sector led economic development.

## The Embassy

The Embassy of the Netherlands in Kigali offers active support to Dutch companies already present in Rwanda and to Dutch companies interested in doing business in Rwanda. In addition, the government of the Netherlands has developed several business support instruments, including financing for demonstration projects, feasibility studies and knowledge acquisition. For more information please visit <http://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes>. You can also contact the Embassy by sending an email to [kig@minbuza.nl](mailto:kig@minbuza.nl) or calling to +250 280280281.

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Postbus 20061 | 2500 EB Den Haag

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