



Wassachiè chicken rearing system in the agro-ecological zones of southern and western Mali

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ABSTRACT

Characterizing the production system is the first step towards carrying out studies to identify threats and opportunities for improving local poultry. A characterization of Wassachiè chicken production systems was carried out in the southern and western agro-ecological zones of Mali. A survey of 84 poultry farmers was carried out in 30 villages, using a structured questionnaire. Information was collected on the description of the farmers, the origin and management of the flock. The data collected were analyzed using SPSS 21.0 and R 3.4.3 software. The results showed that Wassachiè chicken breeding (mixed breed 3/4Rhods Island Red*1/4 Kokochiè) is essentially a male activity (94.04%), with a high proportion of young breeders (50%) who have no level of education (53.57%). Despite having received no training in poultry farming (73.80%), artificial incubation (89.28%) is a common breeding practice on the farms. Most flocks have fewer than 50 chicks, which are fed with feed produced by the farmers themselves. A Multiple Correspondence Analysis (MCA) was used to divide the farmers into 3 groups. Group 1 is made up of farmers (37.04%) and breeders (24.07%). They have no level of education and started their breeding with a small number of chicks (≤ 50 chicks) which they acquired by purchase. Group 2 is made up of artisans (56.25%) who take care of the health of the animals themselves (93.75%) and produce only for sale (100%). Group 3 is made up of civil servants (66.67%). The animals in this group are under the care of a veterinarian (75%), and their production objective is mainly for sale. The study showed that the Wassachiè chicken production systems generally applied in the two zones are such that there is a need for genuine support for producers to improve egg, chick and Wassachiè chicken production.

Keywords: Breeding system; agro-ecological zone; Wassachiè chicken, Mali; typology.

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