

THE KYANJA BULLETIN

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Urban Farming Technology Trials at Kyanja ARC

Urban Kuroiler Production

Kuroilers are multi-coloured chicken specifically suitable for backyard farming. They can be used for meat and egg production with minimal provision of commercial feeds. Trials have shown that these birds can perform well on kitchen and vegetables market waste.

Kuroilers grow faster than local birds but have a similar taste; are more resistant to disease than exotic birds and therefore highly acceptable among many. By 14 weeks, birds can weigh up to 3Kg and fetch a good price of 25,000

to 30,000 shillings on average. The female birds start laying at 4 to 5 months age and can lay up to 150 eggs in a 12 month cycle. This bird is perfect for the urban setting given the fact that there is a large amount of organic waste in the various markets and food vending places around Kampala.

City primary schools particularly have access to an enormous resource of left-over food

for the birds and supplement on the teachers' incomes and children's nutrition.

It is against this background that the Kyanja agricultural resource centre set up a Kuroiler brooding unit at the farm to provide superior quality birds to urban farmers and provide technical support for sustainable urban poultry production. Kuroiler chicks are brooded to the age of 3 weeks and sold after vaccination

Why Kuroiler?

At 14 weeks, birds weigh up to 3Kg live body weight

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This provides a source for the CDD & NAADS beneficiaries to purchase replacement stock to enhance continuity of their projects.

Additionally, the center has become an irrefutable source of good quality

chicks for farmers across the country. According to the fattening trials at the farm, the following were the live body weight gains obtained : -

KUROILER GROWTH

AGE	WEGHT (KG)
6 Weeks	1.2
8 Weeks	1.4– 1.6
10 Weeks	1.8– 2.0
12 Weeks	2.5
14 Weeks	2.5– 3.0
16 Weeks	3.5



KUROILER FEEDING & MANAGEMENT

Feeds account for 70-80% of the cost of production in poultry farming and should therefore get the most attention to maximize profits. It is important to note that Kuroilers cannot be raised on commercial feed alone given their high feed intake yet feeds are very expensive.

The advantage Kuroilers have over exotic birds is the fact that they can eat kitchen left overs and vegetable and organic market waste and still attain weight at the same rate for a

lesser cost. This must be exploited in order to profit from this enterprise.

The birds can be housed and supplied with these feeds within the housing unit. Though care should be taken to clean out the remains daily. Additionally, unlimited feeding may result in excessive fat deposition and failure to lay in females. For more guidelines on daily feed intake, schedules are available at the farm.

For purposes of this discussion, let us consider 20 chicks purchased at 3 weeks age each going for 6,000 (180,000shs) shs and calculate the cost of feeding them for 10 weeks with minimal vegetable supplementation.

Remember, that feeding Kuroilers on kitchen left overs and organic market waste will further reduce the cost of feeding by even up to 50%.

COST OF FEEDING 20 KUROILER CHICKS ON COMMERCIAL FEED FOR 10 WEEKS

Age (Weeks)	Feeds/ bird/Week (Kg)	Feeds/ 20birds/Week (Kg)	Amount (Shs) @ 1,200
4 Weeks (Starter)	0.49	10	12,000
5 Weeks (Finisher)	0.63	13	15,600
6 Weeks (Finisher)	0.84	17	20,400
7 Weeks (Finisher)	0.84	17	20,400
8 Weeks (Finisher)	0.84	17	20,400
9 Weeks (Finisher)	0.84	17	20,400
10 Weeks (Finisher)	0.91	18	21,600
	TOTAL FEED COST		130,800

TOTAL COST OF PRODUCTION = 130,800 (feed)+ 180,000(chicks) + 30,000 (medicine)+ 20,000 (litter)= 360,800shs

BENEFITS OF RAISING 20 CHICKS FOR 10 WEEKS

Item	Unit Price	Quantity	Amount (Shs) @ 25,000
Adult Kuroiler Birds	25,000	20	500,000
GROSS PROFIT			139,200

KUROILER FARMERS EXPERIENCES IN KAMPALA- A Case for Sustainable Urban Agriculture

Nalongo Sekabira Irene

Irene, a 38-year old mother from Mutundwe parish in Lubaga division received 50 chicks and 280 Kg of starter feeds from the NAADS program in FY 2015/16 . At the age of 4 months, she had invested 17,000 shillings per bird including the cost of purchasing the bird. She was able to sell each cock at 35,000 shillings and 28,000

shs for the hens. With this was able to take care of daily household expenses and with the profits, restocked more birds. She had a teenage son who was on holiday at the time of our visit, whose part time job is taking care of the Kuroilers. “Caring for these birds is easier than exotic birds, I don’t mind helping mum raise them” commented the young man. Irene was impressed with her returns.



Irene's teenage son with one of the Kuroilers

Mugerwa Jane

Jane lives in Kamwokya 2 parish in originally received 20 Kuroiler chicks during the pilot trials in Central division January of 2015. She sold 4-month old cocks at 30,000 shs and has restocked twice with 40 and then 60 chicks from Kyanja . The cocks were sold for

30,000 shs to earn 1.8M that she saved but kept 15 hens for egg production. She collects 13 trays per month to earn 200,000 shs from egg sales. This is very satisfying as she only feeds the birds on vegetables from Kamwokya market and kitchen left overs. Jane is very content.



Jane discussing with USAID officials on Kuroiler egg production

Investment Options

- I. Dressed Kuroiler chicken for supermarkets & restaurants
- II. Kuroiler egg sales
- III. Kuroiler males for introduction ceremonies



4- month old Kuroiler Cock on the left and a nicely dressed bird on the right

KYANJA ARC THIS QUARTER IN PICTURES (October– December 2016)



LEFT: MPs of the Parliament Gender committee were given a guided tour of the projects at Kyanja ARC including: Hons. Beatrice Atim Anywar; Judith Babirye; Ndeezi Alex; Najjuma Sarah; Achiri Florence; Kitaka Abdul; Namukasa Esther; Bataringaya Grace; Douglas Ewong and Sumile Noah among others.

RIGHT: Teachers from KCCA primary schools received training on Kuroiler & Piggery production at the farm



The Executive Director, and the executive management team were hosted at Kyanja ARC this quarter to monitor progress of the urban farming enterprises demonstrated at the farm. The center has become a renowned source of information on such technologies.

For more information

Call 0794661234/ 0794661258

Visit us: Off Gayaza Rd, Kyanja Parish every Wednesday & Saturday