

# WOMEN IN FARM MANAGEMENT

TABLE EGG PRODUCTION IN  
LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA, WEST  
AFRICA, by Mrs. Grace Evbuomwan .

# Protein Deficiency Problem

- The FAO stipulates a daily requirement of 65gm to 75 gm of total protein out of which 40 percent or 36 gm should be derived from animal protein.
- Currently, the estimated per capita animal protein consumption in Nigeria is about 20gm which indicates a shortfall.

# The place of poultry in Nigerian Agriculture

- Poultry occupies a unique position in the Nigerian livestock production possibilities for several reasons. The most important of these is the fact that poultry are relatively free from the many pathological, ecological and economic constraints which affect the commercial production of other breeds and classes of livestock in Nigeria.

# Poultry and Animal Protein Supply

- Poultry is the quickest source of meat and its production involves the least hazardous and arduous process in relation to other livestock enterprises.
- At maturity, a broiler weighs about 1.5 kg dressed carcass. This is equivalent to about 300 gm of animal protein which is sufficient to satisfy an adult animal protein requirement for 3 days.

# Poultry and Animal Protein Supply

- Poultry eggs are considered a wholesome diet since an egg contains adequate amounts of protein, energy, amino acid, vitamins and minerals to satisfy the body needs. An average egg weighs about 50 gm without shell and contains about 6gm of protein. A child or adult who eats an egg every day is sure of meeting at least  $\frac{1}{5}$  of his daily requirement of animal protein from egg alone.

# Table Egg Production: My Experience

- I started egg production in my backyard in 1996 with 50 layers.
- I keep them in battery cages because it is neater and safer. It involves much less labour in replacement of litter and has a much lower level of parasite build-up and disease risk.
- My children are my farm hands.
- I supply my family with fresh eggs everyday and sell the rest to my colleagues in the office.













# Table Egg Production: My Experience

- I obtain my feed and drugs from my school mate who is a veterinary doctor and had established an integrated poultry enterprise. He also provides me with advisory services free.
- I collect wood shavings from the sawmill near my house free.
- On weekends we clean out the poultry house and dispose the litter.

# Table Egg Production: My Experience

- From popular demand, I expanded my backyard poultry and doubled its capacity.
- I keep records on: No. of eggs produced; No. of layers; Egg production percent; Mortality rate; No. and percent of cracked eggs; etc.
- On average, I achieve over 90 percent egg production in most of the birds laying life.





# Table Egg Production: My Experience

- When my husband saw how lucrative my backyard poultry project was and the fact that I could no longer meet the demand for eggs by my customers who were growing by the day, he bought land far from our house and established a poultry farm.
- Currently we have 3,000 layers. We also raise cockerels and broilers for festive seasons like Christmas, etc.



# Cost and Benefit of Table Egg Production in Lagos, Nigeria

- A point of lay bird cost N1,000; so it will cost N1,000,000 to stock 1,000 birds
- A bag of feed of 25kg cost N1,800
- Poultry drugs such as antibiotics, vitamins etc cost N400 to N500 per sachet.
- Farm hands are paid N12,000 to N15,000 per month
- A crate of eggs sells for N600 to N800

