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Feeds and Feeding improved indigenous Chicken.

Feeding is important so as to increase production of meat and eggs from chicken. Lack of feed or water will reduce resistance to diseases and parasites and subsequently increase flock mortality

Feeds and feeding will vary between production systems. There are three main Poultry Production Systems

1) Traditional free range system

Chicken are free to forage and usually manage to get a reasonable balanced diet. However, this is restricted in quality to what they manage to scavenge. Scavenging feed resources include household kitchen waste, crop by-products, a range of cereal grains from the farm and insects/ants/rodents.

The best time for scavenging is during early morning and later afternoon when there are plenty of insects and less heat.

2) Semi-Intensive production system

Chicken are confined (during planting) and also left to scavenge around the farm (at harvesting). Chicken feed include scavenging resources supplemented with commercial or homemade feed rations

3) Intensive Production System

Birds are chicken are fully confined and supplemented with commercial or homemade feeds. Different types of commercial feeds are:

- a) *Chick mash* : high in protein; offered from day old to 8 weeks
- b) *Growers mash*: medium in protein; offered from 9 weeks up to start of lay
- c) *Layers mash*: medium in protein; offered to hens from when they start laying.

Feed Requirements

	Chicks 0-8 wks	Growers 8-18 wks	Layers 19-78 wks
Crude Protein %	19-20	16-17	15-17
ME MJ/Kg	11.9	11.6	11.2
Calcium %	1.0-1.1	1.0-1.1	3.3-3.7

How much to feed?

Age (wks)	Intake/bird/day(g dry weight)
1	12-15
2	15-21
3	21-35
4-6	35-50
7-8	55-60
16-27	68-80
28 and above	120-140

Note that this will vary with feed quality and texture.