

Transcript

Vaccination means business for female poultry farmers

TA This poultry business I started it like a joke. I didn't expect much. But to my amazement like the cock I am carrying right now, this cock goes at 700 (Ksh) and I do not even go and look for somebody to come for it because there is that market.

PS *Triza Atieno is a member of the Young Sisters Muungano Group in Kamser village, Homa Bay County in western part of Kenya. The group was formed so that the twenty members could benefit from a training on poultry farming through a farm organisation called Great Wang' Chieng' Farmers Investment Company Ltd. The trainings were conducted by Animal Welfare and Public Health, AWAPH. Before the training, Triza had given up keeping poultry because the chicken often died whenever there was an outbreak of diseases, like the Newcastle Disease.*

TA I lost 200 out of 300 birds in one month. So the challenge was to administer the vaccine, but I didn't have that capital. So I was just hoping that I would get that money and bring the vaccine then the disease popped in. So it cleared 200 birds in one month.

PS *After the training on poultry disease management, Triza realised the importance of vaccinating her chicks and followed the vaccination requirements.*

TA After selling my 100 birds, I got 300 which I followed the vaccination schedule properly and I had no loss. The breeding was 99%. I sold my 300 birds.

PS *This opened a new window of opportunity for Triza as she started breeding and selling the chicks to other farmers. She also became a vaccinator. She started getting the Newcastle Disease and other poultry vaccine from Great Wang' Chieng' Farmers Investment Ltd which is offering the services to the farmers through a programme initiated by AWAPH and supported by government.*

TA They knew very well they should vaccinate their chicks but nobody was there to help them. So I initiated that apart from breeding that I could also get this one now as a business whereby if I can get these vaccines from the Great Wang' Chieng' then I can arrange with the farmers, then I go and do the vaccinations and they give me something on top.

PS *The Great Wang' Chieng' Farmers Investment Company Ltd also has a community bank where farmers can access loans and save money to grow their poultry business. The company was formed in partnership with Technoserve, a non-profit organisation. Government and AWAPH introduced the vaccination component to stop poultry losses.*

CO This is a bank that was started by the poultry farmers. Though the bank does not like any other people doing this kind of business because now we encourage even the fisherfolk, the boda boda people to come and join so that we can expand the business. When a farmer wants to acquire birds, they can still apply for a loan, get the old birds, breed them to maturity, then they can sell. Still they are able to borrow loans to supplement their feeding and also vaccination of these birds. So at the end of the day the birds do not die because they lacked feeds or they lack vaccinations. So we find that they go hand in hand. As long as the farmer is doing good production of chicken, the bank is also going to benefit because, through the loans, we get the interest that the farmer expects at the end of the year to get dividends from us through buying more shares.

- PS Triza takes me through some of the poultry farmers she has helped to acquire the chicks, vaccines and the markets for the poultry business.*
- TA At the moment, we are at the home of Joyce Noreen Ogindo who is one of our active farmers. She embraced the idea of poultry keeping. I advised her correctly. She took some loan from the Great Wang' Chieng'. So she decided to purchase some chicks. So I helped her on the part of breeding and after one month I gave her the chicks, she took another 150 chicks from me, by then I had given them the 4th vaccination which was for the NCD.
- JO There was some days back then when there was an outbreak of a disease that kills a lot of birds around our place and even our neighbours, they lost all their birds. And with that we survived because we went and vaccinated all the birds and we were keeping them away from the affected birds and for that we were lucky to find our birds alive and we didn't lose any.
- PS This is Alice Onyach Achieng's house in Simbi Nyaima village. Alice is not at home because she has just taken some mature cocks to the market for sale. Triza explains how she has helped Alice succeed in her poultry business.*
- TA The hens have started laying and she is collecting eggs. So this is a portion for today. They have managed to collect but a few. By December she sold some cocks and even at the moment as we are speaking she has another ten cocks which we have just seen outside there.
- PS All this success attributed to the importance of vaccinating birds.*
- TA If I get a linkage of market I will not just keep quiet that I don't have that stake I will just say yes you can get that number, you just come. You go and talk with...you agree then the person gets the money and when he gets that money maybe he has the two months or the three months, meaning after selling that he will need a one month or with that money he will just come back again.