Title:	Enhancing Commercial Production and Marketing of Local Chickens in Northern Uganda through Innovation Platforms (ECOPROMALI)
Call ID	**RU/CGS/GRG/21/07/14**
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Purpose	This project is focused at increasing household food security and income through improved production, productivity and marketing of local chicken in Pader and Gulu Districts in northern Uganda.
Project Summary	This project builds on the earlier RUFORUM funded project that addressed the performance of Kuroilers and local chicken under intensive and semi-intensive management systems however was limited on scaling-up and commercialization. Local chicken production and marketing has a significant contribution it can play in transforming the livelihoods of rural and per-urban dwellers in Uganda. However, this potential is largely untapped due to

	constraints in production, productivity and commercialization of local chicken. Tackling these constraints and challenges through this project proposal will stimulate the smallholder producers to respond to the growing demand for local chicken products in the region. The project will utilize participatory action research techniques to respond to these challenges and constraints through establishment of local chicken innovation platforms for key actors in the local chicken value chain. Further, the project seeks to link the actors to the Gulu University farmers' call centre to enhance their access to information as well as encourage collective activities in marketing and production of local chicken in the region. This project will be implemented through the training of two MSc. graduate students and orientation of four undergraduate interns. The project will also be guided by a collaborative arrangement between various partner institutions to leverage on expertise, resources and build on synergies.
Country and Specific Location(s)	Gulu and Pader Districts, northern Uganda
Participating Institutions	1. Gulu University, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment 2. Makerere University Department of Agricultural Production, College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences 3. Ministry of Agriculture, Animal industry and Fisheries 4. District local governments and production departments Gulu and Pader districts
Start Date	1st July, 2015
End Date	30th July, 2017
Amount of Funding	US$ 58,868

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Ma of Animal Science in the Department of Animal Production and Range Management, Gulu University (Uganda). He has served as Head of Department, Department of Animal Production and Range Management and Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment. Prof. Okot previously served Makerere University (1973-2003) and retired as a Professor of Animal Science. He has had an illustrious career in capacity building, nurturing and mentorship of both undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom have had illustrious careers and now provide leadership at different levels in government and civil society. While at Makerere University, Prof. Okot served in various administrative and management positions as an Associate Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture for ten years. Prof. Marion W. Okot has widely published in the area of poultry nutrition. In this respect, he is a member of many professional bodies in the field of Animal Science. He worked in the Ministry of Agriculture (Uganda) for seven years as Assistant Agricultural Officer (4 yrs) and Agricultural Officer (3yrs) respectively. He has thus accumulated a wealth of experience spanning from research, technology development and innovation, to policy and management in Agricultural Sciences.

Selected Publications

Ndyomugyenyi, E. K., Okot, M.W., Mutetikka, D., (2014). Characterization of the Chemical Composition of Raw and Treated Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) and Java Plum (*Syzygium cumini*) Beans for Poultry Feeding. J. Anim. Sci. Adv., 2014, 4(11): 1101-1109; DOI: 10.5455/jasa.20141113124747; www.scopemed.org/?mno=170906

Ndyomugyenyi, E. K., Okot, M.W., Mutetikka, D. (2014). Production and availability of Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) and Java Plum (*Syzygium cumini*) beans for livestock feeding in Eastern and Central Regions of Uganda. Livestock Research for Rural Development 26 (4);www.lrrd.org/lrrd26/4/ndyo26073.htm

Nakkazi, C., Kayitesi, A., Mulindwa, H. E., Kugonza, D. R., Okot, M. W. (2014). The status of local chicken (*Gallus domesticus*) production in Northern Uganda. Livestock Research for Rural Development 26 (11) 2014;www.lrrd.org/lrrd26/11/nakk26198.html

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Okot M.W., Sentumbwe E.J, Bareeba, F.B. (2000). The effects of moist heat and dry heat on the nutritional value of velvet beans *(Mucuna pruriens var. Utilis)* for the laying hen. Tanzania J. Agric. Sci. Vol 3(2): 123-128.

Kyarisiima C.C., Okot, M.W., Svihus, B. (2004). Effect of the concentration of wood ash extract and duration of soaking on the chemical composition of high tannin sorghum *(sorghum bicolor)* cultivars. Journal of food Technology Vol. 2(4): 304-307.

Selected Funded Projects

- In 2012/14. Graduate Research Grant. Funded by RUFORUM. **USD. 60,000.** Principle Investigator.