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Small-scale family poultry production systems and their current developing status

Chickens constitute about 90.55% of the poultry population and are, by far, the most important poultry species in all parts of the world compared to other poultry species such as muscovy ducks, mallard ducks, pigeons, guinea fowl, geese, quail and turkeys. The term “poultry” is therefore often used synonymously for chickens. Chickens are found everywhere around the world; every culture knows them and how to husband them. Over the last decade, poultry population has grown spectacularly throughout the world: 23% in developed and 76% in developing countries, respectively. The term “family poultry” used to describe the full variety of small-scale poultry production systems that are found in rural, urban and peri-urban areas of developing countries. It is used to describe poultry production that is practised by individual families as a means of obtaining food security, income and gainful employment. Being called ‘Family poultry’, ‘Small-scale poultry’, ‘Small-holder poultry’, ‘Scavenging poultry’, or “Village poultry” the different systems of poultry rearing with various levels of intensification are now adopted by poor, marginal as well as richer members of the society with intensification according to their economical status and requirements. Small-scale poultry production can also be considered as less intensive or ‘alternative system’. There are four broad well recognized small-scale poultry production systems. They are (1) Free-range extensive system, (2) Backyard extensive system, (3) Semi-scavenging system, and (4) Small-scale intensive system. Characteristics of these systems met 14 criteria. Small-scale poultry production is everywhere in developing countries and has economic and social significance in the rural areas. Hence, it can be used as a tool in the eradication of poverty, as a means of economic empowerment, as a way of ensuring food security for rural families, as a vehicle for demonstrating the appropriate application of science and technology to solving problems, and as a unique opportunity for technical cooperation among developing countries. In conclusion, increased production of poultry, both commercial and small-scale production, is a vital contribution to food security at both the household and community levels in many countries. Small-scale family poultry is thus a valuable asset to the local human population in many countries located in the tropical and sub-tropical environments.

Biography

Yusuf L Henuk is a Professor in the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture at University of Sumatera Utara (USU), Medan, North Sumatera, Indonesia. He received a Bachelor's degree (S1: 'Sarjana') from the Faculty of Animal Science, the University of Nusa Cendana from 1980-1984. He obtained Master's in Rural Science (M.Rur.Sc.) from the University of New England from 1991 – 1995 and continued Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the University of Queensland from 1998 – 2001. He participated in the courses of “Arabic Language” and mainly “Poultry Production and Health” from 15 January – 31 March 2008 organized by the Egyptian International Centre for Agriculture (EICA), Cairo, Egypt. He was a Visiting Professor to the Department of Poultry Science, Texas A&M University, USA (September – December 2010 & 2017). He was a prolific writer and has published many articles in international journals mainly on Poultry Science, e.g. *World's Poultry Science Journal* as well as international scientific meetings as such as 1st International Conference on Native Chicken (“Invited Speaker”: Khon Kaen-Thailand, 23-25-02-2015); 5th International Conference on Sustainable Animal Agriculture for Developing Countries (“Invited Speaker”: Pattaya, 27-30-10-2015); The 37th Malaysian Society of Animal Production (MSAP) Annual Conference (“Plenary Speaker”: Hatten Hotel, Mallaca, 1-3-6-2016); The 1st International Conference on Tropical Animal Science and Production (“Invited Speaker”: Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok, July 26-29, 2016); 25th World Poultry Congress (“Invited Speaker”: China National Convention Center, Beijing, 05 – 09 September, 2016); The 3rd Animal Production International Seminar & The 3rd ASEAN Regional Conference on Animal Production 3rd APIS & 3rd ARCAP (“Keynote Speaker”: Royal Orchids Garden Hotel, Batu Malang, Indonesia, 19-21 October 2016); International Conference on Plant Science & Physiology (“Keynote Speaker”: Avani Atrium Hotel Bangkok, Bangkok, Thailand, 26-27 June 2017).

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