

The Role of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) in Chicken Rearing: The Case of Tshongogwe Communal Area in Lupane District, Zimbabwe

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ABSTRACT This was an interactive research which examined the role of indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) in chicken rearing in Tshongogwe Communal Area, Lupane District, Zimbabwe. The study found that the traditional medicine and cultural practices played an important role in rearing indigenous chickens. Indigenous herbs and remedies were used to prevent and treat chicken ailments. These traditional medicines were affordable and accessible. Knowledge about the traditional medicines was acquired through observation and apprenticeship with knowledge holders. The rearing of indigenous chicken and associated knowledge systems contributed to sustainable community livelihood by providing protein and income generation. The study recommended: (i) documentation and dissemination of the ethno-veterinary medicinal plants to contribute to knowledge and awareness on indigenous knowledge in animal health and (ii) establish Ethno Veterinary Gardens (EVG) as sources and repositories of indigenous herbs utilized in indigenous chicken rearing.