

Cost Effectiveness of Egg Powder Production from Indigenous Chicken

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ABSTRACT The study used a household survey research design to evaluate the cost effectiveness of producing egg powder in Mkhambathini. The study findings show that the majority of respondent households were: engaged in production of indigenous chickens; owned indigenous chickens, especially resource-poor rural communities due to the low input requirements; women were responsible for their rearing and management of the chicken and willing to learn more about egg powder; practicing indigenous egg storage methods. Diseases and predation were the main challenges to effective production of the eggs. The study recommends training of rural chicken farmers, especially women, on flock management for effective egg production. The production of egg powder using locally available eggs was beneficial since suppliers are located far from rural areas thereby minimising transportation cost. Rural communities could integrate indigenous drying technology (sun-drying) with modern food safety techniques to preserve eggs for improved food security.