



Challenges and Recommended Intervention for Native Chicken Production Practices in Selected Municipalities



S&T in Agriculture

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Key Findings and Policy Implications

- The native chicken raisers rear Improved Philippine Native Chickens and their production practices indicate a reliance on neighborhood sources for acquiring chickens.
- The respondents adopt a free-range system, allowing chickens to forage for their food, while the housing system is characterized by simple and open-air shelters.
- Vaccination practices were limited, with the majority of respondents relying on traditional and indigenous disease control methods.
- The research implications center around the integration of technology into local chicken

farming practices and the need for programs aimed at skill enhancement among native chicken raisers.

Background

The native chicken meat provides a unique taste, flavor, and texture that entices consumers and food lovers. Given its extensive historical significance, preserving our native chicken breeds is crucial, particularly as they face the risk of genetic dilution due to intentional or inadvertent interbreeding with foreign varieties.

Poultry industry is one of the major contributors to Philippine agriculture, and native chicken had improved by 6.2 percent (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2023). To sustain the demand with high quality products, entrepreneurs are pushed to find innovations and technologies that addresses the challenges in native chicken industry (Department of Science and Technology, 2022).

Research Objectives

The study explored the traditional practices used by the Ilocano, Ibanag, Kalinga, and Agta (IBAKA) farmers in raising native chickens.

Specifically, it answered the following:

- What is the profile of the respondents?
- What are the native chicken production practices of the respondents?
- What are the management practices of the respondents in raising native chicken?
- What are the suggested training and problems encountered by the respondents in raising native chicken?

Methodology

The study used the descriptive – survey design to seek the facts about a current situation (Calmorin & Calmorin, 2007) about native chicken raisers’ socio-economic profile, chicken production, and management practices. The study was conducted in the Northeastern portion of Cagayan which is known be one of the producers of native chicken in the country (Perez & Eustaquio, 1997). The study was conducted among Ilocano, Ibanag, Kalinga, and Agta (IBAKA) farmers who venture on native chicken production in the municipalities of Lal-lo and Gattaran.

Key Findings

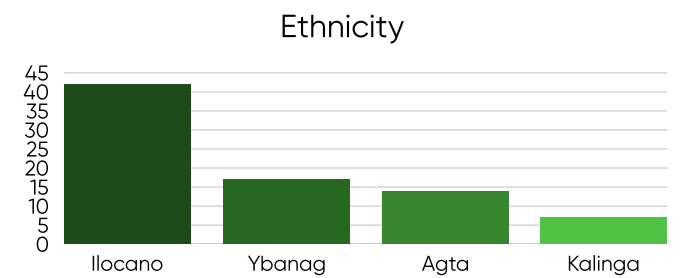


Figure 1. Summary of respondents in terms of ethnicity.

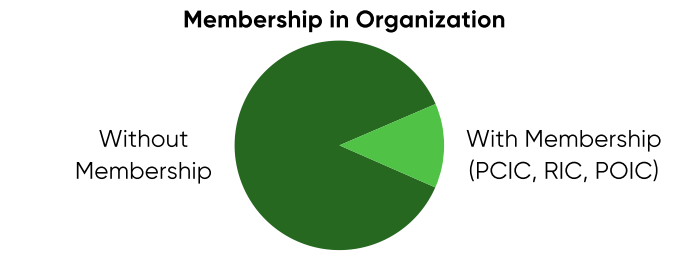


Figure 2. Farmers’ membership in organization.

Table 1. The respondents’ production and management practices in raising native chicken.

Variable	Frequency (n=80)	Percentage
Breed of Native Chicken		
Improved Philippine Native Chicken	80	100%
Sources		
From neighborhood	64	80%
From other Barangay	16	20%
Methods of Raising		
Free Range	80	100%
Housing System		
Traditional (Free Range System)	80	100%
Type of Feeds		
Grain and Corn	80	100%
Labor		
Family Member	80	100%
Disease and Control		
Vaccination (Vetracin)	3	3.8%
No Vaccination	77	96.2%

This shows a predominant presence of Ilocano chicken raisers. Most of them had no membership in any organization and majority engaged in small-scale poultry production. Their native chickens originated from their neighborhoods while a smaller proportion ventured in other barangays. All adopted a free-range system in managing their poultry, allowing the chickens to roam freely and seek their own food. The raisers typically provided their birds with a diet primarily consisting of corns and grains. They relied on the assistance of their family members in caring and managing their chickens and those who vaccinated relied on Vetracin as their veterinary drug of choice for disease prevention and control.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that the family structures of the respondents indicated varying household sizes, with nuclear and extended families being prominent. The respondents were predominantly homeowners and possessed substantial land areas for crop cultivation and poultry farming. Respondents engaged in other livestock and poultry raising activities. They identified two key recommendations: the need for training on

native chicken production and the provision of good breeds of native chickens.

Further, the study uncovered challenges faced by native chicken raisers, including inadequate capital for resources and materials, limited accessibility to poultry supplies in the locality, and the occurrence of unidentified diseases causing increased mortality among chickens. These issues highlight the need for targeted support and interventions to overcome these barriers and enhance native chicken production in the region.

Policy Recommendations

Based on the research findings, veterinary and extension support systems can be established through deployment of community-based veterinary services to provide health diagnostics, vaccination campaigns, and technical guidance. Launching of culturally sensitive training programs that blend traditional practices with modern techniques in poultry management can be considered to capacitate raisers on breed selection, disease prevention, nutrition, and record-keeping. Furthermore, raisers can be supported by conducting studies on large-scale and small-scale native chicken production systems to identify scalable, context-relevant innovations. This can be achieved by promoting participatory action research that involves local raisers in testing and evaluating best practices. Investing in the knowledge, resources, and support systems for IBAKA native chicken raisers can significantly improve rural livelihoods, food security, and cultural heritage preservation.

Target Policy Actors and Beneficiaries



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Editor's Note

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