

# A Field Data Collection Concept for commercial poultry farmers in Uganda

## *Introduction*

The poultry commercial farmers ( hatcher , sellers and buyers of poultry birds) continue to rapidly expand throughout Uganda. The production of chicken and eggs is increasing in the country and the genetic potential of the broiler, breeder, and egg-type layer has changed dramatically, resulting in a higher production of delicate chicken. Thus, the commercial chicken of today requires improved data management practices. In today's highly growing poultry industry, field data collection practices implemented by a company determines how data is stored, collected, interpreted and whether conclusions are correct or erroneous. In the field, many potential opportunities to evaluate production are encountered daily. Often these opportunities are lost, as data collection systems are not organized and data generated cannot be evaluated and applied.

A poultry producer must have a complete and accessible data bank when production problems are encountered to facilitate a quick and successful resolution; because live birds are involved, timely and accurate decisions play a major role in preventing greater losses due to disease outbreaks, feeding and substandard housing. The factor to consider is that most data collection problems can easily be resolved once the problems are clearly defined. Hence the use Open Data Kit (ODK) will help the commercial poultry farmers to efficiently collect and manage data collection of their customers.

## *Background*

The commercial poultry farmers use paper forms to collect field data about their customers on how they manage their poultry birds to aid them in decision making, but a lot of problems are associated with paper based tools for example; a lot of storage space is used in storing the forms, the paper forms are prone to damage that is for the case of disasters, inefficient document transportation, material supply costs, poor collaboration and editing problem. But the use of ***Open Data Kit*** (ODK) in the field data collection will solve the above problems and improve data management as mobile smart phone will be used to input data to a centralized database in real time.

## **How Open Data Kit (ODK) will work**

Open Data Kit (ODK) will allow field workers to collect data using mobile devices(i.e the field worker is bound to install the ODK tool known as ODK collect which will provide room for capturing data) and data submission to an online server, even without an Internet connection, data will be collected remotely including text, numeric data, location, media and more with a mobile device and later on can be submitted to the server when the Internet connection is available. Then, host your data online using Google's powerful hosting platform.

## **Data to be collected**

- i) Date when data was collected
- ii) Name of the Customer(client farmer)
- iii) Location of the site
- iv) Types of birds reared
- v) Number of birds
- vi) Weight of birds(That is average weight ) Image of the poultry house
- vii) Type of feeders and drinkers used

## **Conclusion:**

The use of Open Data Kit(ODK) will greatly improve the data management with regards to commercial farming.

## ***References:***

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