

# RURAL POULTRY E-NEWSLETTER



First Edition - April 2003

GRM INTERNATIONAL PTY LTD



## An e-Newsletter on Rural Poultry?

The idea of an e-Newsletter was first thought of as a replacement to the Net-Forum which is no longer operational.

This means that the Net-Forum Mailing list members will be kept informed on general rural poultry matters and encourage members to participate and share information on rural poultry.

The purpose of the e-Newsletter is mainly as a communication tool to be used as a source of information on Rural Poultry's matters.

The e-Newsletter will be forwarded via e-mail to all the Rural Poultry members listed on the Website Mailing list.

It is hoped that this approach

will facilitate the viewing of information on Rural Poultry without having to go on the Website which can be difficult in some countries.

Hopefully, this will be an important source of information where some questions can be answered, new publications can be advertised and information on rural poultry can be shared.

*Editor:*  
*Marie-France Wellington*



**Village chicken farmer and chicken house.**

**Nhantsembene, Gaza Province,  
Mozambique - July 2002**

## AusAID Southern Africa Newcastle Disease Control Project

The project goal is to assist the Governments of Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania to improve rural food security and improve livelihoods of the rural poor. The outcomes of the project are ex-

pected to be:

- A strengthened capability of, and relationship between, stakeholders in order to successfully implement Newcastle disease control programs in Mozambique, Tan-

zania and Malawi, and

- A decrease in chicken mortality rates caused by Newcastle disease in areas where the project is active.

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## AusAID Southern Africa Newcastle Disease Control Project

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There are four components to the project:



Vaccinating village chickens against Newcastle disease with I-2 vaccine in Cumbene, Gaza Province, Mozambique - [July 2002](#)

1. Strengthening Community approaches;
2. Vaccine Production;
3. Training and Extension at all levels; and
4. Project Management.

GRM is responsible for overall project management and implementation through contracting appropriately skilled and qualified experts to support the sustainable development of the Newcastle Disease Control Project. GRM is providing support to stakeholders

to improve their ability to increase chicken and egg production through a decrease in mortality due to Newcastle disease.

GRM is also responsible for the provision of accurate up-to-date financial and technical reporting to AusAID.

### The Project Team:

#### Core Team:

- Robyn Alders**  
- Team Leader
- Mahomed Harun**  
- Deputy Team Leader
- Florência Cipriano**  
- Mozambican Country Coordinator
- Philemon Wambura**  
Tanzanian Country Coordinator
- Richard Mgomezulu**  
Provisional Malawi Country Coordinator
- Célia Faías**  
- Office manager
- Armando Romão**  
- Logistics Officer
- Amália Fumo**  
- Secretary
- Lina Thavete**  
- Office Helper

#### Project Advisers:

- Brigitte Bagnol**  
- PRA/Gender Advisor
- Laurence Spowles**  
- Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor
- Peter Wegener**  
- Extension Advisor
- Zuhara Bensink**  
- Vaccine Production Advisor
- Mary Young**  
- Vaccine Quality Assurance Advisor
- Christine Ahlers**  
- Veterinary Advisor
- Ian Morgan**  
- Veterinary Epidemiology Advisor
- Peter Taylor**  
- Funds Manager Advisor
- SAL Consultoria**  
- Financial Advisor

#### Brisbane Management Team:

- Stewart Routledge**  
- Project Director
- Celia Grenning**  
- Project Manager
- Lydia Pavlova**  
- Project Coordinator
- Marie-France Wellington**  
- Website Coordinator

A Mozambican widow explained: "the chicken is my husband, it allowed me to buy these shoes, this piece of cloth, this scarf."



Dr Wambura (standing) at the opening of Tanzanian Training and Planning ND Workshop. Dodoma - Tanzania

[3 February 2003](#)

Dra Maria Joaquim (Left, ND Subject Matter Specialist Inhambane Province) and Dra Florencia Cipriano (right, Mozambique Country Coordinator). The photo was taken at a training session for extension workers in Tete Province on [22 January 2003](#). Dra Maria is calibrating an eye-dropper.



## AusAID and FAO Team up to Control Newcastle Disease in Swaziland

An agreement between FAO and AusAID has enabled Dr Robyn Alders, the Team Leader of the AusAID funded Newcastle Disease Control project based in Maputo, to make short visits to Swaziland to assist with the development of a ND control strategy for rural areas in association with the FAO Special Program for Food Security activities.

HIV/AIDS represents one of the biggest challenges for the Swazi society. At 34.3 per cent of sexually active adults, Swaziland's HIV prevalence rate is one of the highest in Africa (year 2000). There is a depletion of skills and labour resources due to this pandemic, in parallel with a rising number of vulnerable people such as orphaned children and adolescents. The

infection rates of the last decade are now translating into high death rates including among young people.

The raising of village poultry can assist families affected by AIDS. Households headed by children or grandparents, because of the death of the parents, can raise poultry for sale and home consumption. Livestock such as goats and cattle require shepherds to stay with the herds during the day. This is not possible in households where working adults are no longer present, because remaining family members need to be involved in very time-efficient and cost-effective activities in order for the family to survive.

Newcastle disease is considered endemic in Swaziland (Dlamini 2001). In 1994 there

was a countrywide outbreak followed by sporadic occurrences up to 1998, when the country experienced another serious outbreak which was widespread. As a result of the 1998 outbreak, the Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services decided to evaluate and review the 1994 program. The 1994 outbreak mainly involved free-range backyard poultry. A few commercial flocks did not follow the standard control measures for the disease were also affected. The cause of the outbreak was a velogenic strain of ND virus. Newcastle disease in Swaziland is a notifiable disease and as such the responsibility of its control falls under the Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services.

The present FAO Special Programme for Food Security has recognised the importance of

village chickens and one main emphasis of the project will be to reduce losses in household flocks (FAO, 2002). Controlling losses from disease, especially ND which wipes out over 60 per cent of the flock in some households, will be a priority.

### References:

- Dlamini, T. 2001. Country Report: Swaziland. In: Alders, R.G. and Spradbrow, P.B. ed. 2001. SADC Planning Workshop on Newcastle Disease Control in Village Chickens. Proceedings of an International Workshop, Maputo, Mozambique, 6-9 March, 2000. ACIAR Proceedings No. 103, pp 36-37.*

FAO. 2002. Support for the diversification Component of the Special Programme for Food Security. TCP/SWA/2802 (D) Project Proposal.

Field visit to Mshingishingwi in Swaziland where the farmer was raising both commercial and local chickens.



## Viet Nam Conference

Your contribution to the next e-Newsletter is welcome. Publications, stories, questions and answers can be forwarded to:

Email:  
ruralpoultry@grm.com.au

ACIAR funded a project to improve the control of the viral disease duck plague in Vietnam. The Vietnamese partner was NAVETCO from Ho Chi Minh City. From Australia, the Animal Health Laboratory collaborated on the development of diagnostic tests and the University of Queensland assisted with vaccine development. The new vaccine is grown in cell cultures produced from chick embryos instead of duck eggs. At a workshop held in My Tho City in January 2003, NAVETCO presented the results of laboratory and field trials with the new vaccine.

The 150 in attendance included a nine person assessment commission. The Commission decided unanimously to recommend release of the new vaccine for use throughout Vietnam. NAVETCO intends to produce 300 million doses of duck plague vaccine in the current year. Half the doses will contain the new cell culture vaccine.

Article written by:  
Prof. Peter Spradbrow

## Good quality vaccine is the basis of sustainable ND control



**Dr Bensink with Dr Raúl Fringe and Sr Estavão Hossias discussing the results of a vaccine titration.**

A good quality, affordable vaccine that can be used under difficult field conditions is one of the keys to sustainable control of Newcastle disease in village chickens. At a recent workshop conducted by the AusAID Southern Africa Newcastle Disease Control Project at the National Veterinary Research Institute (INIVE) in Maputo, Mozambique, participants sharpened their skills in producing just such a vaccine. Together with Dr Zuhara Bensink (Vaccine Production Advisor) and Dr Mary Young (Quality Assurance Advisor) nine veterinarians and laboratory technicians involved in 1-2 ND vaccine production, testing and distribution participated in a series of discussions, practical experiments and problem-solving exercises especially

designed to meet the particular needs of their vaccine production and quality control units.

Topics such as quality assurance and good manufacturing practice, determining vaccine shelf life, testing vaccine for contaminants, cold chain problems and vaccine failure were covered in the three week workshop. A similar workshop is currently underway at the Animal Diseases Research Institute in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, and another is planned for Malawi later in 2003.

Story:  
Dr Mary Young & Dr Zuhara Bensink

## Mozambican poultry working group

The Mozambican Poultry working Group was established in 1999 as an informal working group of poultry professionals from different institutions, NGOs and projects such as: the Animal Production Institute; the National Veterinary Research Institute; the Veterinary Faculty; the National Directorate for Livestock; the National Directorate for Rural Extension; the National Directorate for Rural Development; Poultry project staff (including from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research) and members of NGOs with livestock projects. Since the first day, the great feature of this group was the presence of poultry professionals from different disciplines and levels of experience and background in the poultry field.

The goal of the group is to gather scientific information and knowledge, relevant to the existing production systems that can contribute to the development of poultry production in Mozambique.

The major focus of the group has been Village Poultry Production as it can make a great

contribution to the Government policy of reducing absolute poverty and improving food security in rural areas.

The major objectives are:

To promote research activities for different production systems in different disciplines such as: animal health, nutrition, genetics, extension and socio-economic issues;

To coordinate and set research priorities;

To promote exchange of information and knowledge between poultry professionals;

To seek support and funding for research into and development of poultry activities;

To seek training opportunities for poultry professionals;

To build a national database on poultry activities being undertaken by public and private institutions and NGOs.

The leadership of the group consists of two selected members (a co-ordinator and a deputy co-ordinator).

The group holds meeting when necessary and according to technical issues which need advice from and appraisal by the Mozambican Poultry Working Group. As a basic rule, meetings can be called by the co-ordinator but any member has a right to call for a meeting to discuss any topic related to poultry in Mozambique. Individuals interested in poultry or poultry-related issues are welcome to join the group. Membership is free of charge.

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***Dr Mohamed Harun***

***Deputy Team Leader of AusAID  
Southern Africa Newcastle Disease Control Project***

## The contribution of veterinary students

The Veterinary Faculty of the Eduardo Mondlane University is one of the leading institutions on village poultry production research in Mozambique. These activities have been ongoing since Mozambique gained independence in 1975 and started to promote small livestock production in rural areas. At present the Veterinary Faculty has established production units and laboratories to enable the academic staff and students to carry out research on poultry issues relevant to smallholders. As a result of international support two lecturers were able to obtain PhD degrees based on poultry research performed at Veterinary Faculty production

unit (on chicken and duck production). Two more lecturers are being trained at PhD and MSc level using the same facilities for research on genetics and nutrition. The research activities on poultry production at the moment are being expanded and used to train the final year veterinary students on Village Poultry Production. The student's perform research studies which must be written up as a thesis which contributes to their bachelor (licentiate) degree in veterinary medicine.

Some of the research topics performed by students are:

1. Study on the cost benefit of fattening ducks: Influence of

nutrition and genetics,

2. Evaluation of the impact of poultry restocking on poverty alleviation at the District of Manhica,

3. Evaluation of productive performance of Venda, Koe-Koek, and Ovambo breeds under a semi-intensive production system, and

4. The impact and role of Cooperatives and farmers' associations (CBOs) on the life of poor households involved in broiler production around Maputo.

*Article written by:  
Dr Mohamed Harun*

## Questions and Answers section

**Q:** In the Netherlands there is a disease called 'vogelpest' which has recently broken out; what is the English name for this disease?

**A:** The English equivalent is probably fowl pest. This was a term used previously in government regulations to cover the diseases we now know as Newcastle disease and acute avian influenza (also termed fowl plague until the nature of the virus was recognised). Doyle in his first paper on Newcastle disease had to distinguish the new disease from fowl plague which was recognised much earlier. The virus was not identified as an influenza virus until 1955.

**"Vogelpest" is the dutch name for Avian Influenza (= Fowl plague).**

In the recent outbreak in the Netherlands, the causative influenza virus is characterized as a H7N7 type. Control is by stopping all movements in the area (transport of chicks, eggs and so on) and stamping out measures in an area of 1 km around the farms being infected or suspected of the infection.

If you have any questions  
and would like to share  
some information  
On rural poultry.

please forward to:  
ruralpoultry@grm.com.au

**We are on the web:**  
[www.vsap.uq.edu.au/ruralpoultry/](http://www.vsap.uq.edu.au/ruralpoultry/)

