

Improvement of village chicken production in Chibuto District, Mozambique

Similar to the FAO project described above, in January 2005 the International Rural Poultry Centre (IRPC) was invited by Corridor Sands Limited (a BHP subsidiary mining company in Mozambique) to facilitate the community-based management of Newcastle disease (ND) and other poultry husbandry practices. CSL is establishing a mine in the Chibuto district of Mozambique and as part of the mine establishment; several communities will be affected by the operations. CSL is committed to ensuring these communities will be better off as a result of the mining activities, and is funding priority community development activities, such as village chicken production, to help communities to build a better future.

The IRPC was contracted to produce and implement an education program, comprising both extension materials and methodologies, for defined target groups in Chibuto on the management of Newcastle disease. The education program focused on the effective use of a) vaccines for control of ND and b) low-cost poultry husbandry practices. It was developed as a tool for local veterinarians, livestock officers, extension supervisors and extension workers, CSL extension staff, farmers and students at local primary and high schools.

The IRPC also trained a group of individuals selected from the community as 'community vaccinators' and ensured that 'community vaccinators' were provided with the knowledge, skill and experience to a) acquire vaccines, and b) effectively administer vaccines. They were also taught how to establish a 'fee-for-service' business based on selling vaccinations.

To further increase the benefits of improved poultry husbandry practices, the IRPC also undertook an analysis and trial of marketing options for chickens and eggs.