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ARTIFICIAL CHICKEN EGG INCUBATION IN ZAMBIA-Apath to Economic growth and Communiity welfare

Zambia, like many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, is experiencing a surge in demand for poultry products. With a growing population and changing dietary preferences, poultry production has become increasingly crucial in meeting the nutritional needs and economic aspirations of its people. However, to meet this demand sustainably, the poultry industry must adapt and innovate. One area ripe for transformation is the adoption of artificial chicken egg incubation techniques.

Growing Demand and Market Opportunities

In recent years, Zambia has witnessed a significant increase in its population, with projections estimating a population of over 20 million people by 2025. This demographic trend correlates with a rising demand for protein-rich foods, including poultry products. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Zambia's poultry consumption has been steadily increasing, with per capita consumption rising from 3.5 kilograms in 2010 to approximately 5 kilograms in 2020.

This growing demand presents substantial market opportunities for poultry producers across the country. However, traditional methods of poultry farming, including natural incubation and brooding, often struggle to keep pace with the escalating demand.

Benefits for artificial brooding

The benefits of artificial chicken egg incubation extend beyond individual farmers to encompass broader societal welfare and economic development. As poultry production flourishes, it creates employment opportunities across the value chain, from hatcheries and feed mills to transportation and retail.

Moreover, increased poultry production contributes to food security and nutritional diversity, providing essential protein sources for communities, particularly in rural areas where access to alternative protein options may be limited.

Furthermore, the adoption of modern poultry farming practices fosters knowledge transfer and skill development within local communities. By encouraging governmental and non-governmental organizations to support poultry production initiatives and provide

training on artificial incubation techniques, Zambia can empower farmers with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in a competitive market environment.

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KWACHA GAINS- BECOMES THE BEST PERFORMING CURRENCY

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The Association of Bureau De Change says in the last seven days the local unit has appreciated from 27 Kwacha to a dollar to approximately 22 Kwacha. The Kwacha's aggressive gain to interventions from the Bank of Zambia such as the raising of the Statutory Reserve Ratio on both local and foreign deposits is one factor at play. Further, the offloading of some dollars by Mopani and Konkola Copper Mines into the economy has also contributed to the Kwacha's strengthening. However, Mr. Kalumba has urged the Central Bank to implement measures urgently to curb the Kwacha's steep appreciation. He says the sudden rise of the Kwacha against the US dollar is causing losses, especially among business people involved in importing goods. He says the strengthening of the Kwacha needs to be gradual in order to safeguard businesses from making losses. *Source: Kwacha Still Appreciating - (zbc.co.zm)*

Figure 1: EXCHANGE RATE- KWACHA DOLLAR- FEBRUARY 2024



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Drinkers Feeders



DOC BROILER PRICE STABLE

PRICE FOR POINT OF LAY STABLE

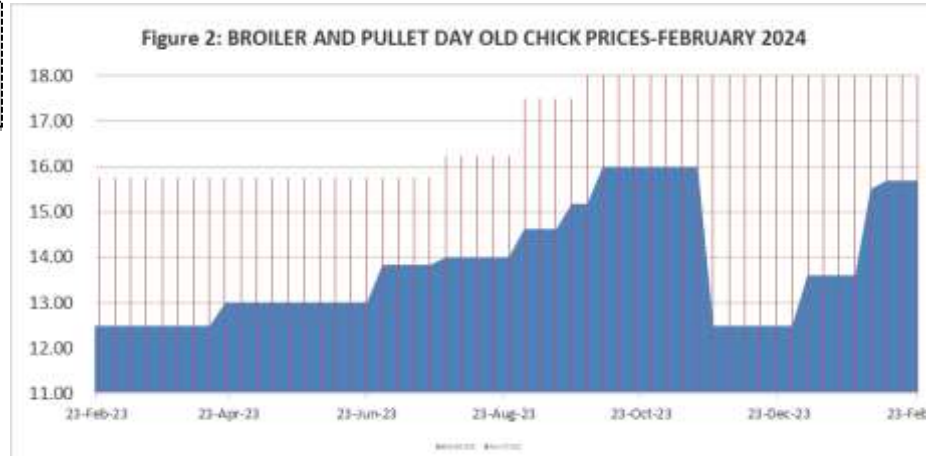
The prices of broiler day-old chicks remained stable during the week. The lowest chick on the market is trading at ZMK15 and the highest is now selling ZMK16 per day old chicks, depending on location and supplier. There were no movements on the prices of pullets on the market which are averaging ZMK18 per day old pullet. The price for DoC SASSOL and Kuroilers is trading at ZMK 15 per DOC. The price for the improved free-range such as Black Austropop's, Bushvelds, Kuroilers are selling between ZMK 15 to ZMK35 depending on the age. The graph captures the national average price trend for the day-old broiler chicks. For the pullets, most of the bookings are open for February and March 2024 depending on the volumes and source. Check Figure 2 for the price trend, courtesy of PAZ.

The prices for the Point of Lay remained stable during the course of the week. The average price is now averaging ZMK145, with the lowest being ZMK140 per bird for bulk consignments and the highest being ZMK155 per bird for small volumes depending on the supplier and location. The bookings for March and April 2024 are available.

For beginners who are interested in getting battery cages, cage prices range between ZMK6500 to ZMK9000 depending on the capacity and also the sources of the cages. The second-hand refurbished cage price range between ZMK4800 to ZMK 5,500 depending on the quality, capacity, age and source. Quails' cages, Rabbit Cages as well as first hand layers cages are all available on the market with different prices depending on the source and location.

WHOLE DRESSED CHICKEN PRICES REMAINED STABLE

The prices for the frozen chicken remained stable during the course of the week. The average price for the whole frozen chicken in Lusaka traded at about ZMK 56.67 per kg same price as obtained last week. The lowest price in some chainstores is still trading at ZMK52.99per kg (promotion) while the highest is trading at ZMK65. per kg. The chicken sizes are ranging between 1.1kg to 2.4kg in different stores.

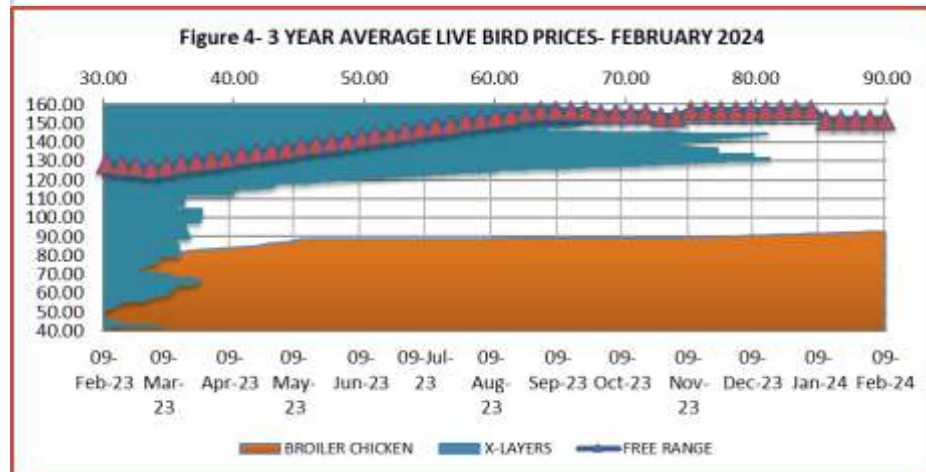


Please note that the prices are obtained from Pick n Pay, Shoprite, Zambeef, Melisa Supermarket, Chopies, and Cheers Stores, Country Choice and Supreme. Different outlets have different pricing models hence the figures displayed is the average price for all the sampled chain stores. It should also be noted that these are Lusaka prices only. For the price trend, check figure3 courtesy of PAZ



LIVE CHICKEN PRICES STABLE

The national average prices for the live broiler chickens remained stable the open markets during the course of the week. There were equally no movements on prices for the x-layers as well as the free-range chickens. The national live broiler bird prices averaged ZMK95.25 with the lowest price being Lusaka posting ZMK 85.35 per Live Chicken and the highest being ZMK120. The x-layers have also averaged ZMK 62.22 per bird, while the free-range price is averaging ZMK 140. The demand for broiler chicken is now on a steady increase as the market and consumption is now developing. Check figure 4 on the next page, courtesy of PAZ.





NATIONAL EGG PRICE STABLE

The egg prices in the domestic and export market continued to adjust upwards. The adjustments observed in the market are mainly attributed to the weaker kwacha, which is pushing the prices of inputs upwards and also making the Zambian eggs much cheaper in the export markets. The retail prices in open markets are ranging between ZMK55.45 to ZMK75.27. Most farm gate prices average ZMK 55 per tray to ZMK 58 per tray depending on the location. Further, retail prices in some Chain stores also register any movement with the prices averaged between ZMK65.99 to ZMK89.99 per tray of 30 eggs depending on the supplier, packaging and chain stores. Most of the traders in the open market are now selling an egg between ZMK2 to ZMK 2.5 in some markets. For the price, trend refer to figure 5, courtesy of PAZ.

FEED PRICES POSTS SOME MINIMAL ADJUSTMENT DURING THE WEEK

The national average prices for poultry feed posted some minimal upward movements during the course of the week. Broiler starter is trading at ZMK 577 per 50kg bag up compared with the prices obtained last week of zmk 575. Broiler Grower averages ZMK566 while Broiler Finisher also averages ZMK550 per 50kg bag. In the same vain there were some minimal upward price movements registered on the Layer feed. The prices ranges from ZMK537 for pullet starter, ZMK392 for pullet grower, ZMk 375 for pullet developer and ZMK434 for layers mash. For those compounding their ownfeed, ingredients prices have also been stable during the week especially #3 meal which is trading between ZMk 4.83 to ZMK7 oer kg as portrayed in the graphs from 6 to 9 below, curtesy of PAZ.

Figure 5: 3 YEAR AVERAGE ANNUAL EGG PRICES- FEBRUARY 2024

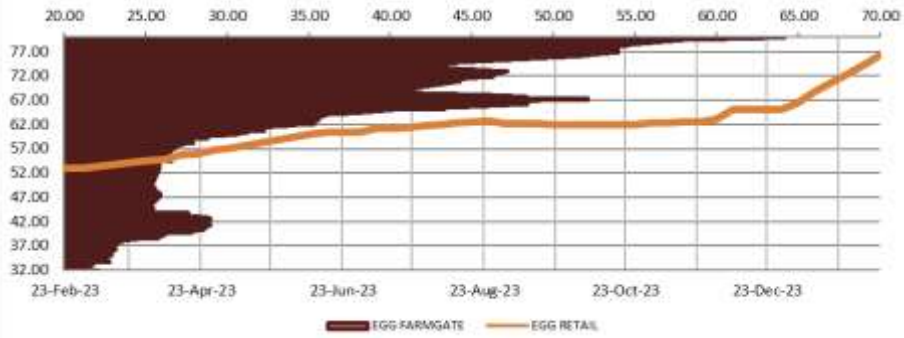


Figure 6: NATIONAL AVERAGE PRICES FOR BROILER FEED- FEBRUARY 2024

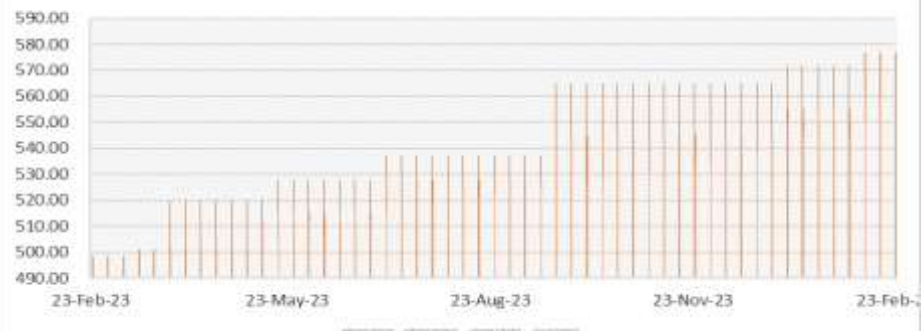


FIGURE7: AVERAGE LAYER FEED- FEBRUARY 2024

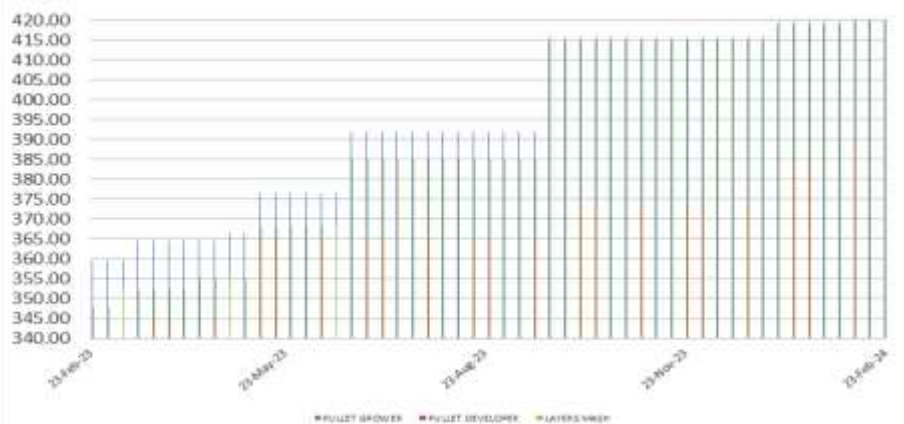


Figure 8: AVERAGE PRICES FOR SOYAMEAL FEBRUARY 2024





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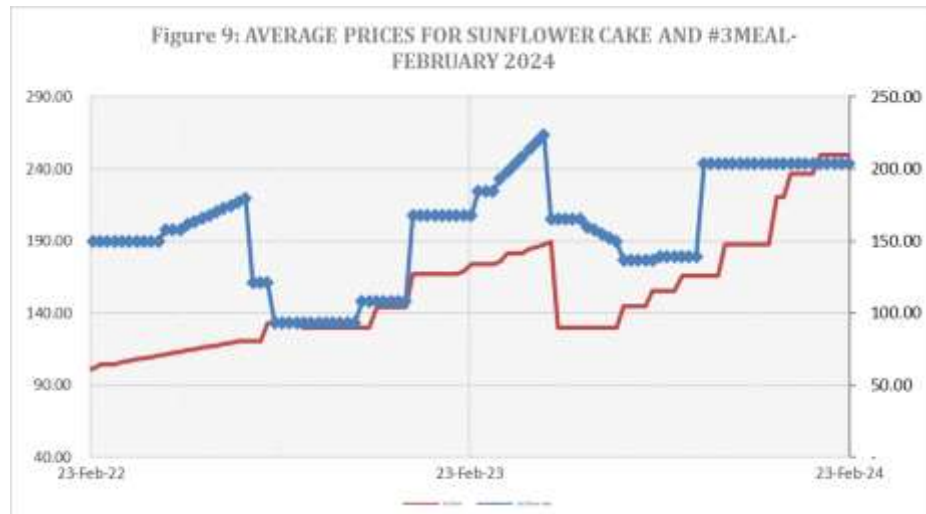
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