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### Transforming Zambia's Poultry Sector Through Expanded PMI Operations in 2026

Zambia's poultry industry is entering a new phase of growth and opportunity as plans take shape to expand the Poultry Market Initiative (PMI) across Southern, Lusaka, and Copperbelt Provinces in 2026. This expansion reflects a strong commitment to strengthening local poultry value chains, improving farmer livelihoods, and supporting food security through sustainable and commercially viable poultry farming models. By partnering with Hybrid Poultry Farm, the initiative is positioning itself to build on past successes while reaching a much broader base of farmers.

Over the years, PMI activities in Zambia have demonstrated that small and medium-scale poultry farming can be a

powerful driver of economic empowerment when farmers are supported with the right systems. Access to quality day-old chicks, reliable feed, technical training, and structured market linkages has enabled many producers to move from subsistence-level operations to more profitable enterprises. The upcoming expansion is designed to scale these proven approaches, ensuring that lessons learned are applied across new regions with diverse farming conditions and market dynamics.

A major focus in the lead-up to the 2026 rollout is the development of strong and well-coordinated field teams. These teams will serve as the backbone of the program, offering direct support to farmers and acting as a bridge between producers and the wider poultry ecosystem. Through regular farm visits, trainings, and performance monitoring, field officers will help farmers adopt best practices in flock management, biosecurity, feeding, and record-keeping. This hands-on support is critical to improving productivity, reducing losses, and building farmer confidence.

Community outreach will also play a central role in the expansion strategy. Engaging communities early helps create awareness about the opportunities within the poultry value chain and encourages collective participation. Outreach activities will focus on inclusivity, ensuring that women, youth, and emerging entrepreneurs are actively involved. By fostering strong relationships at the community level, the program aims to build trust, encourage knowledge sharing, and create a supportive environment for long-term success.

In parallel, significant investment will be directed toward strengthening data systems. Reliable data is essential for tracking progress, identifying challenges, and guiding continuous improvement. Enhanced data collection and



analysis will allow the program to monitor farmer performance, forecast demand, and optimize supply chains. For Business Units (BUs) and Small-Scale Poultry Producers (SSPs), access to data-driven insights can improve planning, reduce operational risks, and support smarter business decisions.

Expanded support for BUs and SSPs remains a cornerstone of the initiative. Beyond production, the program emphasizes business sustainability by equipping farmers with skills in financial management, cost control, and market engagement. This comprehensive approach recognizes that profitability depends not only on raising healthy birds but also on efficient operations and stable market access. Strengthening these areas helps farmers build resilient enterprises capable of withstanding market fluctuations and external shocks. Planning efforts with Hybrid Poultry Farm are already progressing well, underscoring the importance of strong partnerships in achieving scale and impact. Joint planning ensures alignment on technical standards, logistics, and farmer support mechanisms, laying a solid foundation for implementation. As preparations continue, teams are building momentum and refining strategies to ensure a smooth launch and rapid uptake once activities begin.

Looking ahead, the expansion of the PMI program across Southern, Lusaka, and Copperbelt Provinces represents more than geographic growth—it signals a deeper investment in Zambia’s agricultural future. By empowering farmers with knowledge, resources, and market connections, the initiative aims to create lasting economic benefits while strengthening national poultry production. As implementation unfolds, ongoing updates will share progress and success stories, highlighting how collaborative, well-structured interventions can transform livelihoods and drive sustainable development within the poultry sector

<https://poultrynews.africa/index.php/2026/02/13/transforming-zambias-poultry-sector-through-expanded-pmi-operations-in-2026/>

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**ZIMBABWE STRENGTHENS POULTRY SECTOR TO CUT ANTIBIOTIC USE THROUGH ONE HEALTH STRATEGY**



Zimbabwe is intensifying efforts to reduce the overuse of antimicrobials in its poultry industry as part of a broader national campaign to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The initiative, supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), focuses specifically on improving poultry production systems so that farmers rely less on routine antibiotic treatments and more on preventive health measures.

Poultry farming plays a critical role in Zimbabwe's food security and rural economy. Thousands of small-scale and commercial farmers depend on broiler and layer production for income and nutrition. However, frequent disease outbreaks, limited biosecurity, and easy access to veterinary drugs have led many producers to depend heavily on antimicrobials to protect their flocks. While antibiotics can treat infections, their misuse or overuse increases the risk of resistant bacteria developing — a threat that affects animals, humans, and the environment alike.

To address this challenge, national stakeholders recently gathered to design a practical roadmap targeting antimicrobial use specifically within poultry value chains. The discussions brought together veterinary experts, poultry producers, policymakers,

researchers, and private sector actors. Their shared objective was to identify sustainable alternatives that would safeguard bird health without encouraging unnecessary antibiotic reliance.

A key priority emerging from the discussions was strengthening farm-level biosecurity. Poor sanitation, overcrowding, and inadequate disease control measures often create conditions where infections spread rapidly among birds. By improving housing structures, controlling farm access, disinfecting equipment, and separating flocks by age, farmers can significantly reduce disease pressure. Prevention, experts emphasized, is more effective and affordable than constant treatment.

Vaccination programs were also highlighted as a critical intervention. Many common poultry diseases can be controlled through timely and well-managed vaccination schedules. Strengthening access to quality vaccines and training farmers on correct administration methods will reduce the perceived need for preventive antibiotic use. Alongside vaccination, better nutrition and clean water management were identified as pillars of flock health. Well-balanced feed enhances immunity and lowers vulnerability to infections.

Beyond technical solutions, the roadmap also addresses behavioural and economic drivers. Farmers often use antimicrobials out of fear of financial losses or due to misinformation about proper dosages and withdrawal periods. In some cases, antibiotics are used as growth promoters rather than for medical treatment. Stakeholders agreed that farmer education, peer learning platforms, and extension services must be strengthened to shift attitudes and encourage responsible practices.

The strategy further calls for improved regulation and monitoring of antimicrobial sales and usage within the



poultry sector. Stronger oversight can help limit the circulation of counterfeit or substandard drugs and ensure prescriptions are guided by veterinary advice. Surveillance systems to track antimicrobial consumption and resistance patterns in poultry farms will provide evidence to inform future policies.

Importantly, the initiative recognizes that reducing antimicrobial use does not mean compromising productivity. On the contrary, better farm management, hygiene, and disease prevention can enhance output while lowering input costs associated with frequent medication. By investing in farmer field schools, training programs, and public-private partnerships, Zimbabwe aims to build a resilient poultry industry that prioritizes long-term sustainability.

Through coordinated One Health action focused squarely on poultry production, the country is demonstrating that safeguarding antibiotics for the future begins at the farm level. By empowering poultry farmers with knowledge, tools, and preventive strategies, Zimbabwe is laying the groundwork for safer food systems, healthier communities, and a more sustainable agricultural sector.

Source : <https://poultrynews.africa/index.php/2026/02/16/zimbabwe-strengthens-poultry->

sector-to-cut-antibiotic-use-through-one-health-strategy/

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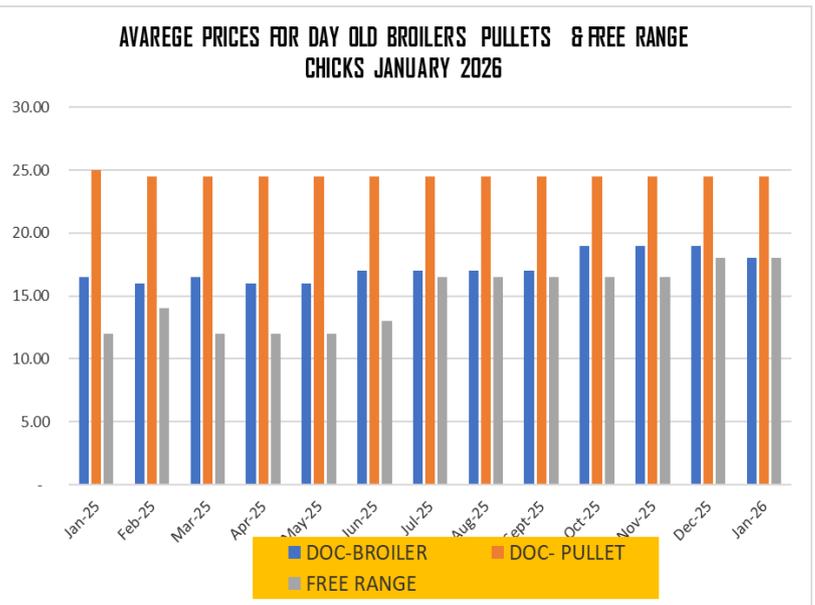


- Free-range chicks are no longer “cheap”
- Demand from health-conscious and urban markets is strong
- Implication

Entry cost has risen, but:

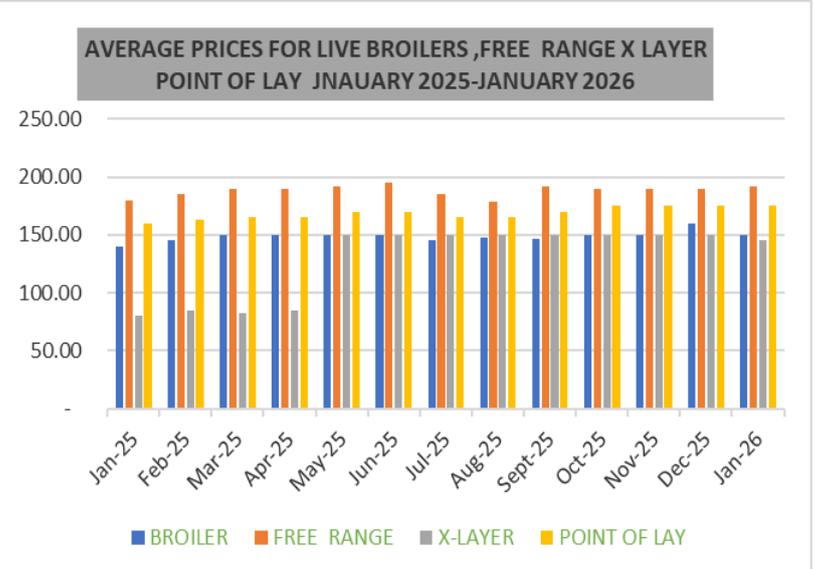
- Market pricing power is improving
- Premium egg/meat margins justify the situation

AVAREGE PRICES FOR DAY OLD BROILERS PULLETS & FREE RANGE CHICKS JANUARY 2026



We assume that the price adjustment could be attributed to the slight increase in the demand for chickens emanating from reduced feed prices. For more details, please refer to the graphs for the day-

AVERAGE PRICES FOR LIVE BROILERS ,FREE RANGE X LAYER POINT OF LAY JNAUARY 2025-JANUARY 2026



### BROILER PRICES.

### Analysis Day old Broilers, Village and Pullets chicks

#### DOC Broilers – January 2026

Price has softened slightly from the Q4 2025 peak but remains elevated.

Indicates: Post-festive slowdown in broiler placements.

Input costs (feed, fuel, logistics) slightly reduced but still high

Implication: Broiler production margins are tight unless:

#### DOC Pullets – January 2026

- Price remains almost unchanged from previous months.
- Reflects:
- Contract-based supply
- Long planning cycles by layer farmer

#### Free-Range Chicks – January 2026

- Price now matches broiler DOC prices (~K18)
- This is a major structural shift:

January 2026

ISSUE number 1



Broiler prices were stable during the month of January 2026; however, the price slightly reduced from K150 to K120 retail prices. That could be attributed to lack of disposable income due to other competing expenses needs faced by the families post festive season.

## FREE RANGE CHICKENS

Prices were maintained during January 2026 the price average was above K170 per live village chicken.

**POINT OF LAY CHICKENS:** There was increase demand for point of lay chickens during the first quarter of 2026. National price average Was about K185 maximum price and K170 was the minimum price.

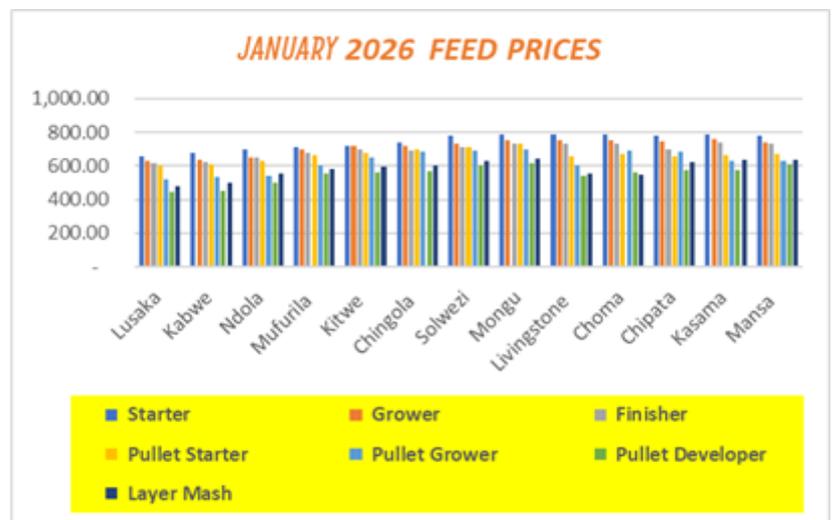
### Analysis stock Feed prices- January 2026

## Analysis of Stock Feed Prices – January 2026

In January 2026, the Zambian stock feed market experienced a downward adjustment in prices, particularly for broiler starter, grower, and finisher feeds. On average, prices declined by approximately K10 to K20 per 50 kg bag, signalling the beginning of a cost-relief phase for poultry producers.

However, despite this downward trajectory, the market response was not uniform across suppliers. Many stock feed producers and distributors had not fully implemented the price reductions by January 2026, suggesting the presence of price adjustment lags. Such lags are typical in input markets where existing inventories, contractual obligations, and cautious pricing strategies delay the full transmission of cost reductions to end-users. The observed price moderation is likely supported by several macro- and sector-specific factors: Improved macroeconomic stability, which reduced volatility in input procurement and pricing decisions. Lower inflation in key commodities, easing cost pressures on feed manufacturing inputs. Increased local grain production, particularly maize and soya, which are core components of stock feed formulations.

Overall, while January 2026 marked the start of a downward price correction in stock feed prices, the adjustment process remained incomplete, with full price transmission expected to occur gradually as market conditions stabilised and suppliers cleared higher-cost inventories



### Analysis processed chicken prices - January 2026



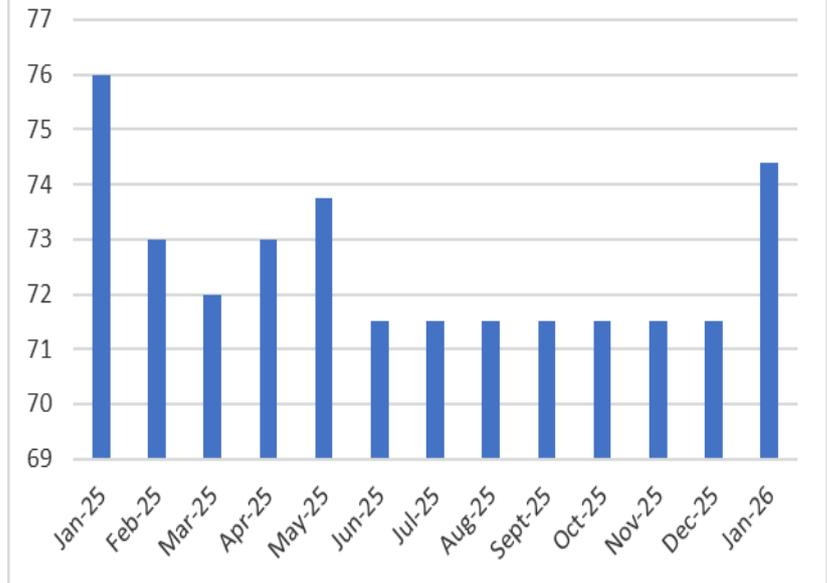
### Analysis of Processed Chicken Prices – January 2026

In January 2026, the average price of **processed chicken** increased to approximately **K76**, up from **K72** in the preceding period. This price rise represents a **moderate upward adjustment** in processed poultry prices.

The **primary contributing factor** to this increase was **persistent load-shedding**. Electricity shortages disrupted poultry processing operations by increasing production costs through greater reliance on alternative power sources such as diesel generators. These higher energy costs affected critical processes including slaughtering, cold storage, refrigeration, and distribution, thereby exerting **cost-push inflationary pressure** on processed chicken prices.

Despite easing input costs in other areas, such as stock feed, the impact of load-shedding constrained the extent to which producers could pass on cost savings to consumers. Consequently, processed chicken prices increased even as some upstream costs were stabilising. Overall, the price movement in January 2026 reflects the **structural vulnerability of Agro processing to energy supply disruptions**, highlighting electricity reliability as a key determinant of food price stability in Zambia.

AVERAGE PRICES FOR FROZEN CHICKENS PER KG January 2025 - January 2026



### Analysis Egg Prices – January 2026

#### Analysis of Egg Prices – January 2026

In January 2026, **egg prices recorded a modest upward adjustment**, increasing from approximately **K72 per tray of 30 eggs in December 2025** to about **K75 per tray**. This represents a **gradual price increase rather than a sharp escalation**, suggesting measured market pressure rather than supply shocks.

The increase is likely attributable to **rising operational and distribution costs**, particularly energy-related expenses associated with **load-shedding**, which affects egg handling, cold storage, and transportation. In addition, **post-festive supply adjustments** and ongoing cost pressures within the poultry value chain may have contributed to the price rise.

Despite easing trends in some input costs, such as stock feed, these savings were not immediately reflected in egg



prices due to **cost transmission delays** and the need for producers to recover previous high operating costs.

Overall, the January 2026 egg price adjustment reflects **cost-push inflation dynamics** and highlights the sensitivity of egg pricing to energy and logistics constraints within Zambia's poultry sector.

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