

East Africa Cage Free Chicken Conference 2022

Conference Report

Theme: Towards a Cage-Free Continent

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Our deepest appreciation to all the conference delegates for being part of this special convention geared towards actualizing a cage free movement in Africa.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAWC	Africa Animal Welfare Conference
ANAW	Africa Network for Animal Welfare
AU-IBAR	The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
AWSA	Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DVS	Directorate of Veterinary Services
DVOs	District Veterinary Officers
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
KFC	Kentucky Fried Chicken
Ksh	Kenya Shillings
KVB	Kenya Veterinary Board
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
SADC	Southern African Development Community
TSh	Tanzania Shillings
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UoN	University of Nairobi
US	United States of America
USD	United States Dollars
Ush	Ugandan Shillings

Background of the Conference

Josiah Ojwang, Africa Network for Animal Welfare

Mr Ojwang facilitated a round of introductions by organizations, individuals, veterinarians, and students present at the conference.

He welcomed all and began by orienting the participants on the purpose of conference and why it was critical in the animal welfare practice today. He relayed that there are myriads of chicken in the African continent. It is particularly important for Africans as 'Chicken is seen as a sign of honor in the African society.' He explained that as a tradition, chicken is served to guests when they visit a home. It was further stated that if one does not consume the meat, they can consume eggs.

Mr Ojwang highlighted that the conference explored and advocated for cage free chicken in farming practices in East Africa, namely Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Kenya. He mentioned that the conference is crucial for all participants as the same deliberations can be translated in Nigeria, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and other countries represented by some participants attending the conference.

The conference was focusing on battery caged farming. From an animal welfare perspective, it was established that caged poultry farming was not humane. Europe and the US were phasing out the use of battery cage farming as a result of the ban in this type of poultry farming.

Mr Ojwang stated that this process has been reversed in Africa. The continent was being urged and encouraged to take battery cage farming on. Old cages used in previous practices were being sent to Africa. As animal welfare practitioners, they must aim to tackle this. This form of farming also caused changes in the environment. It contributes to the climate crisis being experienced across the world today.

In concluding his assertions, Mr Ojwang relayed crucial questions to the participants including:

- Do people know that there is use of battery cages in towns across Africa?
- Do they care if they exist?
- Do they look at the source of production?
- If they are not aware, how do we promote awareness?

He emphasized that it was important that the conference evaluated what consumers thought.

Welcome Remarks

Josphat Ngonyo, Africa Network for Animal Welfare

Mr Ngonyo opened with a word of welcome and voiced his appreciation and gratitude to all who were present. He appreciated the people he had worked with as stakeholders in the country and encouraged all to work together as a team and not in isolation.

Mr Ngonyo informed the conference of the recent good news that an Animal Welfare, Environment and Sustainable Development Nexus Resolution had passed at the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA 5.2) on March 2, 2022. “Animal Welfare is the global level right now.” The recommendation drafted on the resolution instructs the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Executive Director to draft a report which would come up with recommendations that would see countries across the world implement animal welfare policy and practice. He emphasized that there is a strong connection between animal welfare and human welfare.

He acknowledged the presence of Dr Annette Kitambi, the Assistant Director for Animal Welfare in Tanzania, who was representing Prof. Hezron Ndonga, the Director of Veterinary Services. He relayed the apologies of Dr. Mwangi Kiai, the Director of Veterinary Services, Kenya. He acknowledged the representatives from different countries. He was also grateful for the presence of college students from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Tanzania, and members of the Fourth Estate, the media. He asserted that the world was at the ending edge of the COVID-19 pandemic. The virus dawned on humankind as a result of interference with the natural world and the well being of animals.

He told of the beginnings of his interest to help tackle animal cruelty. He highlighted that a market survey was undertaken in 2005 that focused on animal transportation in East Africa – Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. It focused on animals that were transported from the market to the slaughterhouse and cited that that was what transformed him in a unique way. The study contributed to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) work with culminated in the establishment of the animal welfare standards.

Mr Ngonyo addressed the dire issue of caged poultry systems and stated that it intensified industrialized farming and global trade. In these systems, it is observed that chicken grow in small spaces. He stated that indoor cage systems should be replaced by free range systems. Diseases were further spread in caged farming more than in free range farming. He added that domestication have affected the morphology and physiology of chicken.

Intensive farming of billions of chickens was taking place around the globe. Chicken and other poultry were being confined in small spaces that increased stress for the animals. Antibiotics were being administered which over time caused antimicrobial resistance leading to the increase of zoonotic diseases.

Mr Ngonyo stated that in order to meet the need for humans to consume animal-based protein, poultry farming has been intensified industrialized and globalized. This has caused undesirable effects in the lives and livelihoods of humans and on the welfare of animals.

He related that at the beginning of 2020, ANAW became concerned about the suffering of chicken brought about by the rising trends of battery cage systems. ANAW partnered with Open Wing Alliance and began an advocacy campaign against the use of battery

cages. He asserted that animal welfare experts agree that the battery cage system need to be replaced by cage free farming to better cater to the behavior and physiology of the birds.

The ANAW team visited 19 counties where battery cages are prevalent to conduct a comprehensive welfare assessment of egg laying chicken reared under the battery cage system and to enhance the understanding of the farmers perception and ideologies regarding the adoption of this system. The findings would be presented in the conference.

Message from The Open Wing Alliance

Aurelia Adhiambo, The Open Wing Alliance (OWA)

Ms. Adhiambo began by stating that the Open Wing Alliance, which was initiated by the Humane League, encouraged people to keep animals off their plates. The 82 member organizations under the Alliance represented 63 countries in three (3) continents.

Ms. Adhiambo informed the participants that chicken today displayed little resemblance to its ancestor, the Red Jungle Fowl. The fowl had been selectively bred to prioritize producing eggs above any other animal welfare considerations. She deduced that the current species was prioritized to lay 300 eggs per year as compared to 20 in the wild. The chicken is not able to cope with the frequency as it deprives their bodies of calcium. Those confined in cages are not able to practice their natural behavior. They suffer from feather breaking, weak bones and exhaustion due to their confined surroundings.

She stated that the Open Wing Alliance focuses on hens as the numbers speak for themselves. Of the many species of animals farmed for food, it is the chicken that is the most abused farm animal. She informed the conference that at any given time, there are about 7.8 billion hens on earth. Of these, 6.5 billion are kept in cages.

She petitioned that the Open Wing Alliance asks for a Cage-Free commitment. This entailed asking companies to produce a public policy to transition their egg supplies away from battery cages to free range or organic systems. She informed the Open Wing Alliance (OWA) coalition houses 15 animal welfare organizations. The organization was working through challenges and strong action plans that are able to help free hens from cages. The undertaking had seen the organization gain major strides though its member campaigns to have companies such as the Yum Brands to make a cage free commitment.

She enumerated the challenges faced in Africa in pursuing the cage-free initiative. She highlighted that 85% of hens live in cages in the continent. There was no standardization in the countries and that the legislative framework was lacking. There existed a general lack of consumer understanding as many communities did not understand the concept of hen welfare and did not understand why a chicken should not be kept in cages.

There were many growing economies in Africa which meant that caged eggs were mostly the main option for protein and many companies seem unwilling to front the cost of transitioning. OWA believed that no person deserved low quality food from caged eggs. Ms. Adhiambo stated that caged eggs may be cheaper than the alternative. The dire cost

was felt on the animals, on the environment, and on human health. Ms. Adhiambo believed that the continent is able do better.

It was also highlighted that Europe and The Americas are shifting away from caged systems. The old battery cages are being shipped to Africa. Ms. Adhiambo deemed it essential that the corporate cage free commitment should continue in Africa to deter acts like the dumping of old battery cages to Africa.

Ms. Adhiambo asserted that Open Wing Alliance hoped to secure new cage free commitments in Africa through corporate outreach and through campaigns. It was also hoped that the companies that have made a commitment, like Carrefour and retail outlets in South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya, to account. The organization also aimed to build on the movement in North Africa. She cited that the Open Wing Alliance has more animal welfare organizations represented in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Alliance also hoped to increase awareness through programs such as research, conferences, seminars, and community initiatives. They also aim to build momentum towards legislative campaigns. The legislative framework is lacking in regard to hen welfare.

The organization hopes to have more plant-based food substitutes be available in Africa. They believe that poultry should be free and not in cages.

Keynote Address and Official Opening

Chief Guest, Dr. Annette Kitambi, Directorate of Veterinary Services

Dr Kitambi began by relaying a word of welcome and thanking all in attendance for being present. She lauded the organizers for bringing together government officials, development partners, private sector, civil society, and other communities in the commitment to improve animal welfare and fight against the misuse of animals. The meeting focuses on cage-free practices, but she also hoped that other animals would be discussed as well.

She cited that in 2020, Tanzania had about 87.7 million poultry animals. 47.3 million were improved breeds of birds. 40.4 million were the local breeds. Of the other animals 33 million were cattle, 24.5 million were goats, 8.5 million were sheep and 3.2 million were pigs. Livestock contributed about 7.4% of the country's GDP. Production of eggs per year reach up to 4.5 billion eggs per year.

Dr Kitambi informed the participants that livestock keeping is considered the most important means of improving the livelihoods of Tanzania's communities. Poultry keeping is an important economic sector for the country. About 50% of the earned livelihoods were from the poultry sector. Dr Kitambi stated the vast resources of the poultry sector is governed under the Ministry of Livestock, the president's office, regional administration, the local government, and other stakeholders. Tanzania's population numbered more than 55 million people who require protein and to whom poultry production is important. With poultry, protein is made available in a short period of time when compared with cattle keeping or goat keeping.

She stated that there were several systems of keeping poultry in Tanzania. This was dependent on the location – rural to urban areas, the purpose of keeping and the breed of poultry. There were three major production systems in the country which included traditional or indigenous methods, improved family chicken, and commercial specialized chicken which encompass caged systems.

The traditional one is an extensive scavenging dual-purpose system where birds produce 50 eggs per year and can reach 1.5 kilograms live weight. This system supports the largest population in the national flock. The supply of indigenous chicken meets for than 70% demand for chicken and egg production in rural areas and 20% in urban areas.

Improved family chicken sub-system consists of sub-improved local chicken and important tropical breeds. They are mainly produced as the semi-intensive and semi-scavenging. There is a moderately high production of eggs that reach up to 150 per year and are at 18 live weight at maturity. Both traditional and indigenous and the improved species are family sub-system and of family orientation.

The main indigenous breeds in Tanzania include the *Kuchi* breeds, *Kishingo*, *Sukuma*, *Kinyafuzi* and the *Kibuchu* breeds. These improved family production systems is attracting the interest of several stakeholders with developed systems like AKM Glitters Company Limited (AKMG), Kuku Bill, AVI in Arusha and Zua Enterprises.

Dr Kitambi stated that the commercial specialized chicken system was an intensive layers and broilers system with the productivity of live weight reaching up to 2 kilograms and a production of 270 eggs per year. The lack of private investments in the establishment of grandparent day-old chick production facilities hindered the expansion

of the commercial sector of poultry in Tanzania. Tanzania is a net importer of parent stock with only slow growth in local parent stock farms and hatcheries. These starter costs and inputs have also hampered the growth of poultry production in the country. Commercial poultry was largely made up of small and medium scale producers who own 200 beds up to 2000 beds and they provided balanced diet and veterinary care. These included breeders' farms, hatcheries, poultry farms, traders and processors.

She informed the participants that battery caged systems are newly introduced in Tanzania when compared to their neighbours and developed countries. More researchers were needed in the country to solve the challenge and to give other alternatives for the environment.

Dr Annette Kitambi then declared the East Africa Cage Free Chicken Conference 2022 open.

Session 1: Status of Cage Free Farming in East Africa

Role of Media in Cage Free Farming Campaigns

Sebastian Mwanza, Africa Network for Animal Welfare

In his presentation, Mr Mwanza aimed to speak about the role of the media not only at the present conference but also in other engagements that any organization undertook. He targeted his presentation to leaders of animal welfare organizations and institutions and other animal welfare practitioners. He mentioned that if activities carried out by any organization were not covered by the media, even done effectively, they were considered null and void. If an activity or event was not covered, it never happened.

He cited Malcolm X who declared that the media is the most powerful entity on earth. The media had the power to make the innocent guilty and the guilty innocent. Mr Mwanza considered it to be the ultimate power because they controlled the minds. He also cited George Orwell, who said that the people will believe what the media tells them to believe. That showed how powerful the media was.

Mr Mwanza proceeded to show a powerful image taken in rural Ethiopia by a British journalist, Michael Baird. As the photo became popular, the effect was tremendous. It was aired in 425 media stations worldwide. It touched the world. Over USD\$ 100 was raised. Celebrities held concerts and a lot of money was raised to help the hungry in Ethiopia. 1.2 million people had lost their lives. If it was not the media, many more people would have lost their lives.

He emphasized that many journalists go through tough experiences to bring stories to the public. Media served the function of shining light where there is darkness and exposed the major issues. He remarked that animal welfare practitioners speak for the voiceless using the media.

Mr Mwanza informed the conference of the ‘CNN Effect’. He explained that this took place when compelling images force the policy makers, in this case the US, to intervene in a situation where they never intended to intervene. Such coverage evokes emotional outcry which pushes everyone to the corner and forces someone to act. He quoted Collin Powell, the former US Secretary of State, who said that the media, the government officials, and policy makers present at the conference are not the ones changing the policy, but they create the environment in which the policy is made. Coverage such as the ones highlighted create an emotional outcry and pushes people to the corner which makes someone to act.

Mr Mwanza informed the participants that media advocacy is the process of sending the information that seeks to effect action, to change policy and to change attitude and perspectives. The role of the animal welfare organizations is to inform the media enough for them to be able to inform the public.

Status of Caged Chicken Farming in Kenya

Dr Dennis Bahati Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)

Dr Bahati began citing the importance of using science to drive change. It is for this reason that the field of animal welfare needed to be backed by science in order to drive

change. He explained that research is done to fill a gap between ‘what is’ and ‘what ought to be’. It is an objective, systematic and scientific investigation of a problem through collection, analyses, and interpretation of data in order to gain understanding of a phenomenon. Gather key empirical data that can be observed and measured.

This is what informed the study undertaken by Dr Bahati and his team to understand the status of battery cage farming in Kenya. He informed the participants that Kenya had an estimated poultry population of 31 million birds. 75% consist of indigenous chicken, while 22% of broilers and layers and 1% of breeding stock. Other poultry species like ducks, geese, turkeys, pigeons, ostriches, guinea fowls and quails made up 2 % of the poultry production. While indigenous chicken was mainly found in rural areas, broilers and layers are kept in urban areas. Dr Bahati stated that the commercial poultry sector is producing over one million chicks per week. The demand of commercial chicken and eggs was high and was growing.

He mentioned that the use of battery cages is frowned upon as it has been globally criticized for its violation of poultry welfarism and sentience. The confinement associated with this poultry management system severely impairs the birds’ welfare, as they are unable to express their natural behavior hence compromising their overall physical and psychological well-being. He stated that in Kenya, their use is increasingly gaining popularity among small-scale peri-urban and urban farmers.

The study’s objectives included to assess prevalence and status of poultry battery cage farming in Kenya, identify specific geographical zones that practice poultry battery cage farming, stakeholders’ knowledge on poultry battery cage farming and its associated animal welfare issues, understand the drivers of battery cage farming among Kenyan poultry farmers and establish a baseline for future assessment on status of poultry management in the country. He employed applied research, qualitative research and purposive sampling.

The study revealed that free-range poultry production was highlighted as the most common system adopted by most poultry farmers in the country, followed by semi-intensive and intensive which is battery cage systems. Dr Bahati stated that the main limiting factor averting the adoption of the battery cage system among farmers in the country was coined as a high initial investment cost. Farmers prefer cheaper management systems such as the deep litter which is less capital intensive.

The study discussed *Kienyeji* breed, the local or indigenous breed which was identified as the most common chicken breed prevalent in the country followed by the improved *Kienyeji*. These breeds were favored due to their resilience in warding off diseases as well as their preferred healthy products.

He stated that 61% of respondents held the opinion that the use of battery cages as a poultry management system is not a favorable production technique highlighting concerns with compromised welfare and the high investment attached to it. However, 34% of respondents believed that the adoption of the system would be beneficial due to its proficiency in enhancing biosecurity, reduction in labor cost, better disease monitoring and surveillance, effective resource use as well as economizing on space,

Dr Bahati explained that confinement resulting in restricted movement was highlighted as the main welfare issue associated with the use of battery cages accounting for 61.29% of the responses. He stated that other key welfare concerns highlighted included a lack of freedom to express natural behavior (17.74%), high stress and increased disease incidences (8.06%), overcrowding (6.45%), poor handling during transportation (3.22%) and cruelty (1.61%). 1.61% of respondents saw no welfare issues associated with the use of cages.

Dr Bahati concluded that:

- 84.12% of county officials believe that consumers of poultry products raised under battery cage systems are not interested in the means of production nor the compromised welfare state of the birds
- Consumers were ignorant of the origin of the products, the type of management system used to rear the birds, irresponsible use of antibiotics and growth promoters, the means of transportation used to deliver them to the market and general food safety. There is also a lack of traceability in the production process. It was highlighted that most consumers lack awareness on criteria used to ascertain food safety and security.
- Poultry welfare is not well articulated nor appreciated among consumers who are more fascinated by the end-product rather than the means of production utilized

Following his observation and research, Dr Bahati gave recommendations to the participants, He cited that a substantial knowledge gap exists among poultry farmers and battery cage suppliers, animal health professions, regarding poultry sentience and welfarism. He also stated that farmers lack sensitization and education forums to learn about poultry welfare and its significance in enhancing productivity. would benefit greatly from forums that educate them on animal welfarism, sentience and how this is linked to improved productivity.

He emphasized that Africa need to employ an Afrocentric and holistic approach that addresses chicken welfare and food security/safety while safeguarding community livelihoods

Status of Caged Chicken Farming in Uganda

Dr. Paul Ssuna, Makerere University

Dr. Ssuna presented on a study that gathered views from District Veterinary Officers (DVOs) on farmers keeping poultry in Uganda. He mentioned that the 87 out of 120 DVOs gave feedback in their study noting that commercial poultry production was increasing.

He informed the participants crucial information that gave a clear picture on poultry keeping, particularly cage free farming systems, in Uganda.

The study inquired on the usage of battery cage poultry management system. He highlighted the results stating that out 120 of the DVOs, 113 said that they did not use the battery cage poultry management system. However, he observed that intensive and semi-intensive battery cage use were slowly picking up. When asked, majority of the 103 out of 120 DVOs, stated that caged poultry farming is a good practice. In addition, Dr Ssuna established that the target market for the poultry products from these farms were mostly local and urban consumers.

The presenter stated that the DVOs had noted animal welfare issues that associate with battery cage poultry production. The most common welfare concerns found were restricted movement, limited exercise, crowding and congestion where the DVOs informed the study that the farmers could keep 9 to 12 chickens in a small cage, easy spread of disease, lack of freedoms, stress, and poultry vices such as feather pecking were very common.

Dr Ssuna proceeded on to relay findings on whether battery cage sellers and farmers were aware of animal welfare concerns. Majority of them stated that they were not aware of these concerns. Dr Ssuna deduced that there was a confirmed gap in awareness and education.

The DVOs were asked whether the consumers were concerned about the raising and management practices. The feedback showed that most of the consumers were not concerned about the practices. According to Dr Ssuna, this showed that most of the consumers lack adequate knowledge. They needed to be made aware of the management practices.

The respondents were queried on the mechanisms that could be used to create awareness among the farmers and the general public. Majority of the responses given included mass sensitization using media, the use of extension workers or animal health practitioners at the different districts that could talk to the farmers or the general public about poultry management systems and animal welfare concerns on a day-to-day basis.

The study also undertook focus group discussions. In these forums, the farmers were brought together to discuss poultry battery cage systems and issues surrounding it.

Dr Ssuna and team found that the farmers faced major issues. The farmers explained that deep litter systems would require space while with battery cages, one could easily pile them on top of each other in many rows and therefore gained maximum space. They mentioned that the stocking base was very high among chicken kept in battery cages. The presenter expounded that there were farmers who kept as many as 9 to 12 birds in a cage.

According to Dr Ssuna, the farmers stated that some middlemen and markets especially affluent customers were more interested in working with farmers who keep chicken in battery cages because they have a large supply capacity. They also mentioned that poor hygiene and the high risk of disease were causes for concern in the deep litter systems as compared to the battery cage systems.

He informed the meeting that in Uganda, deep litter systems are usually seen as an alternative to battery cage systems. The farmers had disclosed that in battery cage systems, there was a major problem in the management of waste. Waste accumulates quickly which poses a challenge especially in managing it. He stated that the farmers mentioned that chicken in cages get paralysed, they peck at each other, a situation which lowers the laying percentage and the duration in which the birds are at peak production.

Dr Ssuna stated that the District Veterinary Officers had given recommendations to government during the interviews.

The DVOs proposed that the poultry drugs distribution and dispensation should be regulated. They mentioned that there are so many points that sell drugs that are not regulated or authenticated. Counterfeits are easily introduced in the market. They requested to have subsidies on the different factors of production be granted to farmers, good suppliers that ensure good quality of the chicken, inputs, and the price of poultry products, especially of eggs, be re-evaluated. Dr Ssuna explained that at the time of the study, the price of eggs had gone very low because one of the biggest markets in Kenya had been closed to Ugandan farmers.

The farmers also appealed to the government to re-adjust on the prices of the battery cages. It was also stated that some farmers mentioned that the cages should be produced locally because they are currently being imported and that makes them expensive.

In conclusion, it was affirmed that the study objectives were achieved. Dr Ssuna and his team noted that few farmers that have taken on battery cages, produce the largest number of poultry in the country. He relayed that there are many farmers who are on free range farming, but they are producing very little.

He noted with concern that the numbers of battery cage farming are increasing, and that there is limited awareness on animal welfare issues present in farms. The farmers stated that in order to reduce the use of battery cage poultry farming in the country, it would be prudent to revise and develop more regulations and policies. There is dire need for the establishment of standards for poultry production and chicken welfare.

Status of Cage Chicken Farming in Rwanda

Dr Jean Claude Masengesho, Rwanda Animal Welfare Organisation (RAWO)

Dr Masengesho gave a presentation on a study that sought to establish the existence and the extent of the adoption of chicken farming in Rwanda. The key activities conducted were interviews with District Animal Resources Officers. The study covered

all 30 of Rwanda's districts. In undertaking the study, 15 Animal Resources Officers were interviewed in person, and the other 15 was conducted, virtually. Focus group discussions were also carried out. The study was able to reach 20 groups of farmers and each group was made up of five (5) farmers. Welfare assessments were carried out on farms.

During farm visits, the team observed the individual chicken and assessed their condition using the five (5) freedoms of animal welfare. They also observed the environment where the chicken lived. The team then had a discussion with the farmers after the assessment and later carried out mapping on the farms visited. Dr Masengesho estimated that there were about 9,000,000 chicken in Rwanda. He informed the conference that Rwanda was overpopulated and needed high number of poultry products to meet the need of protein in its diet.

The study used the quantitative approach where structured questionnaires were given to District Animal Resources Officers. In the focus group discussions, they had a set of questions centred on animal welfare and the battery cage system. They also had a checklist for welfare assessment. The DVOs were able to observe the animals in the cages and the environment and had opportunities to discuss with the owners. The work was conducted in the local language, *Kinyarwanda*, which was later translated to English. The report was drafted soon after.

The findings that came from the report highlighted views from the District Animal Resources Officers.

The District Animal Resources Officers highlighted that battery cages were not common in the districts. Some of the District Animal Resources Officers had never even seen a battery cage. They admitted that they had only seen them on the internet, in agricultural shows and in the media. They also revealed that free range was the most predominant system in the country followed by semi-intensive and lastly modern systems where the deep litter and battery cage systems were categorised under.

Majority of the interviewees believed that the battery cage systems were the best. They explained that they helped them hit their target numbers as the high population of inhabitants in the country need protein. Majority were strongly aware of the disadvantages of battery cage systems because most of them were veterinarians. They emphasized that even with them being aware of the disadvantages they would still want to choose a system that made the most profit. The DVOs however agreed that even if the battery cage system were considered better, they were not practical as they were very expensive.

Dr Masengesho explained that IDP Model villages are a distinct type of village in Rwanda in that populations affected by soil erosion in their original villages and were moved to a different region by the government. The government took measures as it wanted to support these environmentally affected victims. As a government-supported initiative, many inhabitants of these villages chose poultry farming as a source of income. The government hired companies which brought in battery cages. The research counted seven (7) model villages that had the battery cages.

The presenter and his team conferred on how battery cage farming systems were also considered to be for rich people. Teachers were leaving their jobs to go into poultry business. These highly intellectual individuals understood and invested a lot of money on the business as they had good financial means.

Dr Masengesho reported that in the focus group discussions, participants also stated that battery cages were not common and that they could only be found in model villages and in rich farms. They also stated that most of the local farmers were not aware of this system.

It was established that most of the people in Rwanda were shifting from cattle rearing to chicken farming. The team observed that they did not take into account the welfare of animals. Many of them see that feeding and watering is considered enough. The focus groups also affirmed that battery cage systems were very expensive. The group further asserted that when consumers purchase poultry products, they never inquire for more details. Consumers were not interested in how the poultry is managed or bred.

Among the biggest challenges faced by farmers that were highlighted was the high cost of feeds. It was established that there was no local manufacturer for feeds. Moreover, the quality of vaccines and drugs were low in rural areas. The veterinary services were inadequate. A major challenge encountered was that there is a lack of basic management and skills in poultry rearing and on animal welfare.

When visiting farms with battery cage systems, Dr Masengesho and his team noted that they looked well managed. The owners were rich and highly intellectual and were able to carry out feasibility studies. The presenter stated that it was only when one visited the battery cages that one was able to point out the welfare issues. These welfare issues did not seem to be of concern to the farmers.

The District Animal Resources Officers stated that when the farmers were asked about the five (5) freedoms of animal welfare of the chicken, they would insist that everything was running well and perfectly. They stated that they were feeding the poultry, giving them water and that there was good housing. Dr Masengesho noted that there was a huge amount of ignorance and a lack of understanding that chicken need to move in order to express their normal behaviour.

The findings also indicated that some farmers have started to understand that there are violations in the practice of keeping chicken in battery cages. They gave statements that the battery cage systems sellers enact poor welfare standards on the chickens. However, it was difficult for battery cage farmers to stop the practise as they had already invested too much into the business. Some interviewees stated that there was need to change, while others stated that they were employed and could not make any decisions but state that if the case was different where the chicken belonged to them, they would not opt to use the system.

The District Animal Resources Officers observed that chicken kept in battery cages for more than three years looked unhealthy as compared to those that had recently acquired battery cages and had started their business within six months before the study. The latter's stock still look healthy. They also noted that there was a total lack of knowledge and skills on welfare during this assessment.

Dr Masengesho noted that some farmers were discouraged because they experienced losses in their business due to sudden death of the poultry and low production. They affirmed that they would never again use battery cages.

The presenter noted that battery cages systems were found around Kigali area and battery sellers were motivating farmers to buy the cages. The battery cage systems in Rwanda were rarely found in other parts of the country.

In his conclusion, he noted that there was need to educate the District Animal Resources Officers. Though it was asserted that there should be more production of protein for the people in Rwanda, Dr Masengesho felt that poultry must be respected. He highlighted that there was need to educate the farmer and the consumer about caged farming. They had the responsibility of advocating for cage free farming across Rwanda as it affects the market as well.

Dr Masengesho found that further research needed to be undertaken. The study presented was the first study conducted in Rwanda. It was recommended that further research be done to delve deeply into the poultry farming systems in terms of sustainability, environmental impact. This would place animal welfare practitioners in a good position to lobby political leaders cease the desired caged farming systems and support the campaign to move towards cage free farming.

Dr Masengesho relayed gratitude to all and said that this small step would help improve the farming systems in Rwanda.

Status of Caged Chicken Farming in Tanzania

Dr Thomas Kahema, Tanzania Animal Welfare Society (TAWESO)

Dr Kahema presented a report on chicken farming in Tanzania. He began by stating that farmers in Tanzania deemed battery cages to be modern systems that farmers want to adopt. He stated that this was a big challenge in in the industry. There were very few battery cages in the country but those who did not have them were working very hard to acquire them. A look at the globe presents a different picture.

He highlighted that battery cages are being phased out in other parts of the world. The European Union, Canada and Switzerland have been documented to phase out the systems as they were deemed to not be good agri-business. He emphasized that Africa should not act as an island and be insistent on practising battery cage farming while it was seen as undesirable in other parts of the world.

The presenter cited that caged farming systems were a punishment for the veterinarians as they affect physical and psychological health of poultry. The systems offer limited movement for the birds, preventing them from expressing normal behaviour. He stated that further problems emerge when veterinarians administer antibiotics to poultry in battery cage systems.

Dr Kahema and his team carried out a study on this situation of battery cage systems in Tanzania. Twelve (12) regions were visited. The 35 regions covered five or six districts. The methodology employed involved supplying questionnaires to veterinary officers. Interviews were done through phone calls and in person. A focus group, made up mostly of District Veterinary Officers, farmers, and officials of the national livestock office. The 12 regions explored represented all zones of the country. Direct field observations were employed as farm visits were undertaken physically.

According to the study that was carried out, free-range system was the most common system among the farms visited. The study revealed that 80% of farms visited were free range, 14% is semi-intensive and 6% were intensive systems which included battery cage farming systems. The common breeds of chicken were local breeds at 41%, layers and boilers at 36% and exotic breeds at 23%. The survey revealed that there were no local chicken breeds in battery cages in the farms visited. Layers the most common breed found in battery cages. Of those interviewed, 67% said that battery farming was a good practise. 28% said it was not. 5% were not sure. Dr Kahema mentioned that battery cages were more expensive, and it was observed that they were not durable.

Dr Kahema indicated that the largest market came from urban populations. It was established that the target market for poultry products were hotels, supermarkets, and urban businesses. The study also examined animal welfare issues associated with chicken battery cage systems and revealed that majority of the respondents identified restricted chicken movement as an issue. Thirteen (13) respondents out of 145 indicated that it forces conditions of cannibalism, 67 respondents indicated that cages restrict movement, 28 indicated that cages limit the chickens from carrying out exercises, 24 indicated that there was lack of freedom, 12 people indicated that cages cause crowding and congestion, and one was not sure. None of them indicated that the battery cages enable ease in the spread of diseases.

From the above, Dr Kahema stated that majority of the respondents do understand that their welfare issues in battery cage systems.

The study also looked into the awareness mechanism among the farmers and the general public of the negative impact of battery cages system poultry management. Majority of the respondents agreed that meetings end extension workers were the best mechanism on awareness and others stated that newspapers and radios are the best mode of awareness.

Dr Kahema and his team deduced findings from the focus group discussions. The group listed the advantages of battery cages as hygiene, reduction in the spread diseases through the droppings, prevention of cannibalism, increase in production, and ease in management. The presenter gave an example on this citing a case where a farmer mentioned that she can employ one person who can manage everything. She mentioned that they save money instead of employing many workers for feeding as is the case in free range farming system.

The group also elaborated on the disadvantages of caged farming to include high costs, the cages not readily available, and some of the bigger cages not galvanised which cause rusting. Dr Kahema stated that during feeding time, the hens push their heads and

necks through the wire. Lots of feathers come out and they rub the wounds caused against the wire causing constant friction. As a result, veterinarians are forced to attend to the wounds. Lack of exercise and high metabolic disorders were also cited as disadvantages. Other animal welfare concerns were mentioned to be that they do not display their normal behaviour, and that confinement in cages do not allow the birds to spread their wings. It was noted that people do understand that this is a big problem

Dr Kahema concluded that there was a review of livestock legislations in Tanzania. He informed the meeting that the government invited stakeholders to give views. They were able to speak on chicken welfare concerns to people who are able to change the policy and legislation. They were able to have a discussion on poultry farming and battery cages. They believe that the government has been able to take over the concerns and Dr Kahema is hopeful that things will change. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries have done the same thing in its area. Animal welfare stakeholders encouraged them to use the animal welfare act. Animals should be free of cruelty.

Dr Kahema gave further views stating that instead of using battery cages, and if one needed to maintain high production, one can resort to having them on the floor in a large room so that they can exercise. He strongly asserted that battery cages are like a kind of prison for the birds. He felt that even prisons are better because people go to work outside of the buildings and are able to go back inside the buildings.

Battery cage systems are cruel.

Session 2: Legal and Policy Framework of Cage Chicken Farming in East Africa

Legal And Policy Framework of Cage Chicken Farming in Kenya

Wachira Kariuki, Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)

Mr Kariuki began with a word of gratitude to those present and those who have attended the conference. The presenter noted two things that the participants needed to keep in mind when discussing the legal and policy framework.

1. In the instance that something is not regulated by law, one is at liberty to do as one pleases. On the other hand, when something is regulated by law, one should abide by it according to the said law.
2. People within East Africa and Africa as a whole have a challenge because they allow practises to begin and then they legislate thus said practises. And that is where the challenge lies. They opt to legislate only when practises have taken root. When they do legislate, they legislate the bad practises because that is what people say is the law.

Mr Kariuki elaborated that the challenge animal welfare practitioners were going to face and the challenge that they must face, was that they must be in a position to understand where they are in terms of battery cage farming.

The presenter emphasized that animal welfare is a human responsibility. He stated that where there is freedom there must be a responsibility. Human beings must take the responsibility to ensure that the animal exercises the five (5) freedoms of animal welfare.

He informed the participants that there must be a basis that declares the five (5) freedoms of animal welfare. There must be a clear distinction between the people who bear these standards, the people who choose to follow and abide by these freedoms and what happens to those who do not abide by the responsibility given to them. That is a basic principle of law.

The presenter explored the reasons why people keep poultry. He outlined that poultry provided food, met the economic purposes, and were kept for subsistence. He stated that everyone understands chicken because food unites all - the rich, the poor, the young and the old. The presenter established that they must follow this journey towards a cage free continent steadily. It must be chipped little by little.

He went on to clarify that there was no such thing as banning battery cages. No one would pay attention when one talked about banning the battery cage. The presenter stated that courts today do not like hearing the government officials mention anything about banning. What they pay attention to is a process. The goal of the conference must be a goal of process. This is the reality of where they were as a continent.

The presenter stated that the way people farm, consume and dispose food affects not only the health of the planet but it also affects human health. This should be addressed and talked about. He emphasized that it is paramount that a system of legislation on farming, consumption, and disposal of food waste is needed at the national, local, regional, and international levels. The presenter applauded the achievement where animals have been moved to another level where their welfare has been linked to the environment, sustainable development, and human health in the development of the resolution recently passed at UNEA 5.2.

He stated that the poultry industry is an important contributor to the economy in its production of both meat and eggs. He urged all that they must align the cage free campaign with government interests. He enumerated the government interests to include tax and provision of what the public needs. He stated that if the public needed chicken and the people producing the product were paying tax, all would be well with the government. The role of animal welfare practitioners was to tell government that all was not well with the chicken. Commercial egg producers must abide by the regulations if they existed. If they did not exist, this means that there is nothing to abide to. He went on to state that, however, as mentioned in the beginning of the presentation, the situation in Kenya was that practises begin, and legislations follow.

Mr Kariuki explained that the legal framework should have a system that establishes a standard of care to all animals. He added that legislation regulating the poultry industry should cover a wide range from disease control, food and safety, the environment, particularly noise, emissions and waste, agricultural chemicals, veterinary chemicals, poultry manure, feeds to animal welfare.

He stated that currently, in most animal welfare organisations, one thing is focused on it in its entirety. He gave an example where the conference risks focusing solely on the issue of battery cage farming systems and leaving out related issues such as the dispensation of chemicals used on the feeds, veterinary medicine, and other crucial topics. It is imperative that a wholistic point of view be employed. He emphasized that if the focus is on the abstract form, people risk having legislation that is solely focused on cage free farming. Animal welfare practitioners need a change that espouses the whole poultry chain value to in order to achieve the end goal.

The presenter explained that the World Trade Organisations and Associated Treaties had very meaningful laws that allow animals to be used for the purposes they are meant for. This was the most important policy that could be found in the legal field. He stated that the World Trade Organisation and Associated Treaties had all the measures in food, how animals are transported, and international trade.

He cited that the International Air Association focuses on transport. Transport is one area where chicken face dire abuse. He stated that when one experiences inhumane transport acts on the road, one is not able to do much because they have no locus. He or she has no right to tell them to stop or change the manner of transportation.

Mr Kariuki enumerated that another critical organisation was the OIE. The organisation ensured:

- That the process is transparent

- Analysis and dissemination of scientific information
- International solidarity in control of animal disease
- Sanitary safety which safeguards World Trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products.
- Promotion of veterinary services
- Food safety and welfare

He explained that these principles are used to bring out a law. He added that all countries are signatories to the OIE standards. The Rwanda constitution, the Kenyan constitution and the Tanzanian constitution among others recognise international treaties as a source of law. It is for this reason that animal welfare practitioners must insist to their governments to be able to implement these treaties that have been signed and agreed to.

Mr Kariuki also expounded on the regional policies and strategies and listed them as follows:

- the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa by the African Union
- The Comprehensive Agriculture Development Programme. The programme focuses on the improvement of agriculture and the importance of having good standards. It also delves into how to implement some level of development within the agriculture sector that is responsive to the environment and to human health.
- The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) which espouses the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy. This programme focuses on the horn of African countries as well as Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Somali.
- Various regional economic councils. This includes the East African Community, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

All these treaties have a place that focuses on animals, but they are not expressly talking about poultry. The presenter highlighted that the participants could consider it to be a source. The treaties gave them an opportunity to be able to change the laws. The East African Community (EAC) which most participants were members of, has an objective on food security. Finding the balance is a challenge that most experience.

He informed the conference that in tackling battery cage farming systems, they must note that:

- The balance between food security and food safety must be legislated.
- In Kenya, for the first time, animals were recognized in the constitution. The Kenyan Constitution mentions animals.

He provided a guideline which noted the following laws in the Kenyan constitution that would aid in achieving policy on cage free farming:

Laws That Aid in Achieving Policy on Cage Free Farming in Kenya	
Schedule 4, Part 1, Article 22	<p>“The national government has the right to the protection of the environment and natural resources with a view of establishing durable sustainable development activities including fishing and gathering and protection of animals and wildlife.”</p> <p>It can be argued that there’s an element of protection of animals. Battery cage chicken need protection so that it can express natural behaviour in order for them to grow in a way that they are not exposed to fear and distress. That can be used to state that animal welfare practitioners have laws that needs to protect the chicken.</p>
Schedule 4, Part 2	<p>Focuses on Agriculture. It includes animal husbandry and livestock management. On part 6, animal control and welfare including licencing of dog ownership and facilities for accommodation care and burial of animals. The presenter noted that it is imperative that the care of animals when alive is looked into more than the care of the animals dead.</p>
Article 40 of the Constitution of Kenya	<p>It provides that every person either individually or in an association has the right to acquire and own property.</p> <p>Poultry and other animals can be regarded as property. Farmers cannot be told not to keep the chicken how they choose to keep it because one would be in contravention of the constitution. What needs to be focused on is to enquire why the farmers keep them and advise them on how to keep them. In this case one would not be in contravention them on the right. The focus would be on how they can improve the right to property where their properties may appreciate and enable the products to be more in the market.</p>

<p>Article 23, 4 of the Constitution of Kenya</p>	<p>Focuses on the legislative policy and measures including setting up standards to achieve progressive realization of guaranteed economic and social rights. Farmer practise in Kenya and East Africa is a measure of an economic and social right. This particular campaign must take into account the social, cultural and economic aspects. It should not be only from an animal welfare perspective. Social, cultural and economic aspects need to be incorporated.</p>
<p>Article 46</p>	<p>Focuses on consumers. It is imperative that consumers know what it is that they eat. Do they have choices to change what they eat in the instance that they know what it is that they are eating, and are they willing to pay the price? It should be noted that commercial chicken is cheaper, and this creates demand which in turn increases supply of commercial chicken in the market.</p>
<p>Article 43</p>	<p>Food security, safety and sufficiency has been the core and therefore enshrines the right to freedom from hunger and the right to have adequate food</p>

There are national legislation and policies with impact on animal welfare. They must ensure that farmers, processors, and marketers adhere to these laws.

<p>Agriculture Centre Development Strategy in Kenya</p>	<p>Ensures that farmers, producers, and processors marketers of agricultural produce employ the most contemporary methods.</p> <p>This is being taught in schools and the government is providing loans and incentives for people to incorporate modern farming methods.</p> <p>Animal welfare practitioners must not counter government but find ways to work with them.</p>
<p>The Prevention of Cruelty of Animals Act</p>	<p>It is present in most of the East African countries. The act acknowledges that there is cruelty. Tanzania has an animal</p>

	<p>welfare act which means that the country is steps ahead of other countries. What this means is that cruelty is acknowledged in that it is anticipated and the wrongdoers will be punished.</p> <p>Unfortunately, it is not animal focused it is human action focused. It is for this reason that practitioners should change and follow Tanzania’s footsteps by bringing in an animal welfare act which set standards for animals and punishes individuals for contravening them.</p> <p>The animal welfare act offers the best option as it offers the ministers an opportunity to make subsidiary legislation. The presenter gleaned insight to the participants by stating that anyone can approach the minister who is in charge of livestock to make regulation.</p> <p>Tanzanian animal welfare practitioners can work with the government leaders to set the piece by having subsidiary legislation on battery cage farming.</p> <p>The presenter encouraged everyone to revisit the prevention to cruelty act. One would be able to find a section that states that one can make subsidiary legislation. Mr Kariuki encouraged all to work with the ministers to develop legislation only on battery cage farming systems. One can differ through the consultants present in the room to glean insights on which needs to be done</p>
The Penal Code	The code also punishes people for injuring animals, administering poison and other acts.
The Poultry Development Act	This is supposed to provide an institutional framework to guide the development of the poultry industry including the control of importation and exportation of poultry and poultry products. It also places awareness and

	<p>responsibilities about the health benefits of poultry rearing and consumption on government.</p>
<p>Veterinary Public Health Bill</p>	<p>The Bill provides for safety of food origin provide for control off slaughterhouses and establishment non-food animal products and also the marketing of trade.</p> <p>Those in Nairobi were encouraged to follow up and see the status of the bill.</p> <p>Everyone was encouraged to be able to make a change.</p>
<p>Possible supporting standards that can aid in the journey towards a cage free continent</p>	<p>Environment Management and Coordination Act, Pharmacy and Poison Board, The Standards Act, and the Meat Control Act.</p> <p>The presenter stated that every country in East Africa has a bureau of standards. The bureau of standards can be used in any regulation to regulate the space and the kind of cages are allowed.</p>

Mr Kariuki informed the meeting that the legislative framework cannot expressly govern battery cage farming systems. The presenter is stated that what is not legislated one is at liberty to foster change. Lack of express legislation and inadequacy in the current ones provide a major gap. The result is no regulation and thus no enforcement. He stated that where there is no legislation there's no enforcement.

Therefore, a road map is needed for practitioners to work towards a clear legislative framework. Responsibilities towards the framework include:

- Education. Much is done due to ignorance. To expose people through education and let them know that the birds are suffering in cages.
- Awareness. This refers to those who are educated but are not aware that it is happening.
- Advocacy and lobbying. This would ensure that a legislation and policy is achieved. When the legislation is implemented, one must demand implementation and enforcement. Once this is done monitoring needs to be established. If what was said is not being done there would be a need to litigate.

The presenter stated that the battery cage farming system is an established business. Some individuals in government support it. The biggest challenge in dealing with battery cage farming legally include:

- Government and institutional challenges or setbacks which may be linked to private interests. For instance, an importer may be interested in taxing the battery cage.
- Cultural challenges - the fear of losing one's legacy
- Economic and social challenges due to economic and social cultural importance.

Mr Wachira urged the participants to not just work towards a free continent, but towards a comprehensive legal framework within East Africa. He stated that the well best place to start that is at the Arusha parliament. Every other parliament in East Africa will adopt what the East African parliament adopts.

Legal And Policy Framework on Cage Free Farming in Rwanda

Dr Jean Claude Masengesho, Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization (RAWO)

Dr Masengesho began by stating the main objective of the presentation. The study aimed to establish the existing national policy and legislative framework in Rwanda. These included activities undertaken and documented on key laws, policies, and regulations on battery cage farming systems.

Desk review research was done on existing law, policies, and regulations. The methodology used began with a checklist. Secondary data was collected from livestock laws and regulation. Dr Masengesho and his team contacted the national veterinary institution to request if they have documents and other links related to animal law. Published materials were reviewed as literature and websites for leading livestock institutions were scanned including the Ministry of Agriculture, Rwanda Agriculture Board, and animal resource development. Reports, papers, and annual reports of the same institutions were reviewed.

Dr Masengesho informed the meeting that in Rwanda, management of livestock is done between the Ministry of Agriculture as a policymaker and the Rwanda Agriculture Board as the body of implementation and research. The institutions provided good material for research for this presentation. The team reviewed the ministerial orders existing in Rwanda on transport, trade and slaughter. The presenter noted that this referred to slaughter of livestock but nothing on Chicken welfare. There were some standards on feeding of livestock and chicken but was void of the term animal welfare.

Dr Masengesho displayed a list of policies, strategies, programmes, and regulations in Rwanda. He deliberated on a number of them including the ministry of agriculture, which is responsible for all programmes across the country such as the national agricultural policy, strategic plan for agricultural transformation, the Rwanda Livestock

Master Plan, and several others. Having gone through all of them the team noted that none of them addressed animal welfare.

He stated that some of the national strategies had a proposition on transformation of the poultry industry across the country, but farmers took it to mean the adoption of battery cages which was understood to be the key to increasing chicken production.

The presenter concluded that the list of poultry and ministerial orders have presented good steps to poultry production. He noted that the policies and strategies were recent and new. They were originally meant to strengthen the development of the livestock industry.

The report indicated that some of the strategies, guidelines and laws are inadequate. There was a general lack of attention to poultry welfare. He established that battery cage farming systems were allowed across the country where farmers were able to order them through the Chinese companies who are importing and selling cages without any challenges.

He noted that the existing frameworks are broad. They covered stock production for all animals but did not specifically refer to chicken welfare. The lack of policy and regulatory framework on poultry stagnated the product quality and jeopardised the competitiveness of products to international markets. As a consequence, food safety is affected, and products are loose markets. The presenter stated that it should be expressed urgently to the leaders. He deduced that caged farming is not a concern for local people because it is seen to be foreign and belonging to rich farmers.

Dr Masengesho informed the participants that officials at the ministry announced on April 10, 2022, that Rwanda will have an animal welfare law. He stated that animal welfare practitioners were eagerly waiting for the law. They were hoping to see this happen in July when they would sit down and look at the law critically.

Dr Masengesho recommended that the poultry value chain actors direct special attention to animal welfare mainly poultry welfare by avoiding the adoption of battery cage farming systems. More emphasis was needed to prevent this challenge. The actors should be informed of the challenges that the cages pose to suffering to chicken and that they compromise on the five freedoms of animal welfare and wellbeing.

Dr Masengesho recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Rwanda Agricultural Board need to make specific, dedicated, and proactive poultry welfare laws and policy frameworks to ensure that they are complying with international standards.

He also recommended that an animal welfare committee should be established at the national level to examine the laws and ensure that they comply with international standards.

Scientific guidelines should be developed concerning animal health and the five freedoms to elaborate more on animal welfare and how it relates to food safety.

Legal And Policy Framework of Cage Free Farming in Tanzania

By Baraka Mbise, Tanzania Animal Welfare Society (TAWESO)

The presenter established that chicken production was an important source of food for both urban and rural producers in Tanzania. It provided an opportunity for chicken production enterprises. In terms of livestock ownership, chicken is dominant in Tanzania.

He stated that the three types of poultry husbandry practises included intensive, extensive, and semi-intensive systems. He also elaborated in the three major production systems to include traditional or indigenous system, improve the family chicken or extensive systems and Commercial specialised chicken systems which was known as battery cage systems.

Mr Mbise stated that Tanzania had several policies and legislations for the poultry sector that regulate veterinary sector. However, awareness, education and implementation to the farmers and poultry stakeholders remain inadequate.

The presenter went on to highlight policies and regulations that influenced the poultry industry in Tanzania presently. He elaborated on policies to regulate the input and veterinary services sector to include:

Policies And Regulations That Influences the Poultry Industry in Tanzania	
The National Livestock Policy of 2006	Focuses on the development of the livestock industry in Tanzania.
Animal Welfare Act, 2008 (No. 19 of 2008) of Tanzania Government	<p>The Act recognize both vertebrates and invertebrates as sentient beings as well as enshrining the Five Freedoms in law in the Animal Welfare Act (2008). An Act to provide for the humane treatment of animals, establishment of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council, monitoring and mitigation of animal abuse, promoting awareness on the importance of animal welfare and to provide for other related matters.</p> <p>The Act states that; -</p> <p>(1) A person who keeps a farm animal shall provide appropriate housing, care and attention taking into account the physiological and behavioural needs of the animal.</p>

	<p>(2) A person shall not cause any unnecessary pain, suffering or distress to or abandon a farm animal.</p> <p>(3) The Minister shall prescribe minimum standards for appropriate housing system, animal carriers, and animal transport vehicles on land, sea and air for each category of livestock in accordance with the minimum animal welfare standards.</p> <p>(4) A person shall not manufacture, keep in stock, sale, deliver, or in any manner, make use of animal housing system, unless such a system is built, maintained and conforms to the prescribed minimum standards for the welfare of an animal.</p> <p>A gap is observed where the Act is still not well enforced, and the community is not aware of it.</p>
<p>The Tanzania Veterinary Act of 2003</p>	<p>The Act mandates the Veterinary Council of Tanzania to regulate the veterinary profession in the country including procedures to address disciplinary cases related to Animal Health, Management of and vaccines.</p> <p>The provision of veterinary services must comply with the World Organization for Animal Health (Office Internationale des Epizooties-OIE) standards, recommendations on animal health and guidelines for international animal disease control and trade. Livestock and livestock products trade is guided by World Trade Organization (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreements. Veterinary services encompass delivery of animal health services, control and eradication of poultry diseases and trans-boundary animal diseases; vector and vector or borne diseases; other disease of economic importance; zoonosanitary inspectorate services; veterinary public health and food safety services, Despite to the fact that implementation and or enforcement is not good.</p>
<p>The National Livestock Policy (NLP) of 2006</p>	<p>The policy was designed to stimulate the development of the livestock industry to exploit available resources whilst showing due concern for the conservation of the environment. With regards to poultry, the policy objective was to increase the quantity and improve the quality of poultry and its products to satisfy domestic demand, increase export, and promote sustainable poultry production, hence the enforcement in not well.</p>

<p>The Animal Diseases (Hatcheries and Breeding Flocks) Regulations of 2010</p>	<p>The Regulations were launched following the global outbreak of the H5N1 avian influenza virus to ensure the quality of chicks sold in the market. The regulations require hatcheries to be inspected and registered formally and hatchery owners to have formally written Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). They also regulate the production and sale of eggs and chicks through registration and inspection of hatcheries and agents that distribute eggs and chicks, these regulations are also not well enforced.</p>
<p>The Grazing Land and Animal Feed Resources Act of 2010</p>	<p>The Act provides for the management and control of grazing lands, animal feed resources and trade, and other matters related to animal feeding. It regulates feed manufacturers, importers, and distributors. It also sets standards for different feed resources and ensures no substandard feeds are sold in the market. While the law was passed in 2010, its implementation is still not much effective.</p>
<p>The Animal Diseases Act of 2003</p>	<p>The Act gives the Director of Veterinary Services (DVS) the overall mandate of regulating livestock activities to control animal diseases in the country. The Act has set requirements and procedures for inspecting, registering, testing, identifying, licensing and regulating movements of animals and animal products. This is one of the Acts that regulate poultry breeding farms and hatcheries in Tanzania though the Act is still not well implemented as its required.</p>

The Tanzania Meat Industry Act of 2006	The Act mandates the Tanzania Meat Board to regulate all stakeholders involved in the business of producing and trading poultry birds and their products including breeding farms and hatcheries. Despite to the fact that there is an inadequate regulatory framework in hatcheries and poultry breeding farms, but this Act is still not well implemented.
Current Policies and Regulations 2011 To Date in Tanzania	
Since 2006, Tanzania has maintained a hardline position on its ban on imports of frozen or fresh chilled chicken and poultry products from all countries.	
Since 2016, a ban of poultry meat from neighbouring countries including Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique. The importation of chicks was banned in 2016 to protect farmers, but because of their acute shortage, fertilized eggs, and Day-Old Chicks (both broiler and layers) have continued to be imported.	
The importation of poultry meat and poultry products in Zanzibar which illegally infiltrates into the mainland.	
Tanzania Livestock Modernization Initiative (TLMI)	Formulated in 2015, the TLMI had an objective to transform the traditional livestock subsector into a modern, responsive, sustainable and environmentally friendly engine for rural development and improved national health and nutritional standards.
The Value Added Tax (VAT) Act, 2014, and Finance Act, 2018	Both Acts were instituted in Tanzania to exempt imported animal and poultry feeds additives from VAT from July 2018 aiming at reducing the costs incurred by livestock keepers and increase the contribution of the sector to the economy. The government of Tanzania, through the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries is mandated to regulate all feed manufacturers to ensure there is correct formulation of all the ingredients required in poultry feed.

	<p>Despite to all mentioned in The Value Added Tax (VAT) Act, 2014, and Finance Act, 2018 they do not talk or show anything concerning poultry battery cages and the welfare issues of concerns to the chickens.</p>
<p>The Tanzania Livestock Master Plan</p>	<p>The masterplan was launched in 2019 sets out livestock sector investment interventions which will help Tanzania meet its development targets by improving productivity and total production in the key value chains of poultry, pork, red meat, and dairy.</p> <p>The key policy interventions to develop the poultry sector were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Prioritizing poultry investments in genetic improvement by focusing on crossbred and fully exotic chicken, and pure breeds for both family and commercial enterprises, 2) Undertaking investments in promotional activities to change tastes and preferences from beef to white meat, especially chicken and 3) Improving access to land appropriate for grazing, and land for feed production. <p>There are no serious existing policies that regulate well poultry battery cages in Tanzania. This has led to the production of poor-quality day-old chicks leading to increased importation of better-quality DOCs.</p> <p>Therefore, passing laws to regulate local hatcheries would improve the quality of locally produced DOCs reducing reliance on importation</p>

In conclusion, Mr Mbise noted that the analysis of the legislative framework governing the use of the battery cage system in Tanzania has shown that the law does not specifically legalize nor interdict the practice of using or not using battery cage system in poultry production. Their use therefore is neither legal nor illegal.

Legal And Policy Framework of Chicken Farming in Uganda

Dr. Paul Ssuna, Makerere University

Dr Ssuna began by stating that there exists legislation that focuses on food safety, control of diseases, the environment, veterinary chemicals, and animal welfare globally.

He asserted that there are international bodies such as the OIE, African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), World Trade Organization (WTO) which contribute towards legislation in individual countries. As poultry production increases in different countries there is need to regulate the way poultry is produced.

In Uganda, the poultry sector is regulated under a legislative framework and policies. There is no comprehensive policy on poultry production, but it is guided by a plan for modernisation, Plan for the Modernization of Agriculture (PMA), which is a framework developed under the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) to rework farming into commercialized agriculture. Battery cages are seen as a way of modernising agriculture.

Policies and Laws That Influences the Poultry Industry in Uganda

<p>National Policy for the Delivery of Veterinary Services</p>	<p>Ensures that the delivery of veterinary services remain inclusive such that rural or remote areas are also served</p> <p>Efficiency and cost-effectiveness of veterinary service delivery</p> <p>Clearly delineated for providing services to the public and of high quality</p> <p>Enables the country in effectively controlling all notifiable diseases and minimizing the losses occurring from the outbreaks</p>
<p>National Animal Feeds Policy</p>	<p>Envisions an improved animal feeds industry that greatly contributes to better animal production and productivity, thus improving the welfare of the citizens and the economy of the country.</p> <p>It targets the private sector-led increase in the availability of lower production costs, high-quality animal feeds and capacity development for both the public and private sector actors by providing better access to raw materials, research and finance</p> <p>The policy provides a framework to regulate and manage the animal feeds industry.</p>

<p>Agricultural And Livestock Development Act</p>	<p>This Act establishes the Agricultural and Livestock Development Fund</p> <p>Promotes the livestock industry in Uganda by empowering farmers with loans or guaranteeing credits given to farmers.</p> <p>It also makes recommendations to authorities that could be relevant to the functions of the fund, assist farmers and make sure that their activities are administered on sound agricultural practices, and give advice to farmers in respect of financial management.</p> <p>However, budgetary allocation to agricultural and livestock development Act is often low.</p>
<p>The Animal Diseases Act</p>	<p>This Act provides measures that should be taken by holders of the animals and public bodies to control diseases that could be affecting the animals</p> <p>Animals include; poultry, camels, ruminating animals, dogs and cats and any other animal and disease declared by the Minister for inclusion in the term “animal”</p>
<p>Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Act <u>enacted in 1957</u></p>	<p>First national law enacted in Britain against cruelty to animals, even though its intention was to protect the property of the owner rather than the welfare of an animal.</p> <p>Further consolidation and modifications of the law took precedence and were marked by the description of cruelty as “causing unnecessary suffering”.</p> <p>The qualification ‘unnecessary’ eliminated the comprehensiveness of the law to protect animals as it implied that animals could be subjected to suffering that was not legally regarded as cruelty</p> <p>Limitations have become more evident with modern human-animal interaction that causes animal suffering but not motivated by animal cruelty</p> <p>Several African countries, such as, Kenya, have since revised the prevention of cruelty to animal to make it broader and also include the protection of animals used in experiments, however, the</p>

	<p>qualification of suffering as ‘unnecessary suffering’ and definition of the offence of cruelty has not changed.</p> <p>No major revision or changes since then</p>
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Dr Ssuna brought the attention of the conference to the offence of cruelty that is described in this law. He defined cruelty is when someone beat, kicks, ill-treats, overrides, overloads by wantonly or omission of any act or causing unnecessary suffering. The definition of cruelty according to the law is unnecessary abuse of any animal this qualifies the term necessary abuse of an animal. The definition of unnecessary suffering looks at three things:

- Suffering
- Necessity
- Mental element

He stated that the interpretation of the law of the word suffer in has to do with facts. There was need for expert evidence to prove that that animal is suffering. In the scope of the law, suffering is not seen to be Substantial or prolonged. He stated that suffering must be established beyond reasonable doubt, requiring expert evidence and facts have to be on the table.

He elaborated that there was an aspect of necessity. The law looked at the amount of pain that was caused on the animal, the intensity and for how long the pain lasted. The element of necessity examined what the aim was of causing the pain. to attain an object, the affliction of more pain may be justified then would ever be tolerated to secure another. The beneficial end source to be attained must be reasonably proportionate it to the extent of the suffering caused. That was an interpretation of the Prevention of Cruelty Act in Uganda.

The presenter gave an example that the practise of battery cage farming was to ensure food security, to increase production. It was deemed to be a useful end result. The amount of pain and suffering that the chicken would go through is aimed at improving food security and increasing production. One is able to argue that was the scope of this law.

The mental element - subjectivity and objectivity. This law brought out an aspect of the intention. It focuses on the intention of the person who committed that particular offence. This is also questioned. This brings into question if someone commits an offence, what is the penalty?

In Uganda’s current legislation, the penalty is not deterrent. Where a desirable and legitimate object or purpose is so to be attained the pain caused must outbalance the important of the end result as to make it clear to any reasonable person that it is preferable that the object should be abounding rather than the disproportionate suffering that is being inflicted.

The presenter informed the meeting that someone could bring this up in court and they would be able to defend themselves and walk away without any repercussions when using the prevention of cruelty act. The offence of priority is essential, but the presenter notes that it has limitations:

He stated that it is negative as it is enacted after there was a problem. It should be aimed at preventing the negatives. It has to be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. The presenter stated that they needed a prospective law rather than a retrospective one.

When someone commits an offence under this act, he or she is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding Ush. 1000. or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Dr Ssuna outlined other limitations as follows:

In Uganda, the interpretation of the law is applied to companion animals than it is to food animals including poultry. If that law is retained, it would call for the need of further sensitisation.

The wider community perceives this legislation as protective to animals whereas in reality, it appears that animal welfare considerations are either disregarded or compromised when human interests and economics are involved.

No specific implementation of the Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Act (Cap. 220, Uganda) on poultry as a specific category of animals in Uganda. Currently, there are no plans, there is no strategy for implementation of the act and there's no strategy on poultry production.

Dr Ssuna explained that there was need for it to be positive to encourage positive responsibility. He stated that it is a duty of the person responsible for poultry to ensure its welfare. A person commits an offence if he does not take such steps as are reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which he is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice

The law should focus on the quality of life, Specify the requirements per species, in this case poultry. It should be highlighted what the spatial requirements, feeding, and husbandry. All information should be gathered.

He stated that there is need to specify the intervention actions that would have to be taken.

Dr Ssuna provided a way forward to encompass the following:

There is need for collaboration, embracing private partnerships between government and other stakeholders collectively improve dispensation of animal welfare and health services in the country.

Farmer sensitization on welfare issues of poultry and legislation in place. if people are not aware, it will affect uptake and usage of the law.

Farmer advisory services about good welfare practice, its economic benefits and new agricultural technologies that foster good welfare but also improve production efficiency

The presenter emphasised that there should be at least minimal welfare standards for poultry welfare, and this has to be implemented under this legislative structure of the country. Dr Ssuna advised that standards should be set up in a flexible manner so as to be ingrained into the existing legislative framework of the country.

There is need for a substantial body for the legislation dealing with safety of agriculture and animal welfare. The animal industry is very much embedded within the plant sector. His recommendation for Uganda is to set up a separate substantial body to deal with animal related issues.

The nation must focus on the five freedoms of animal welfare. They must develop or revise legislation with regards of the five freedoms of animals

Lastly, Dr Ssuna recommended that it has to be a vicious cycle. Animal welfare practitioners will need scientific research, the research will create evidence of their problem, it will suggest practical solutions. This will be created by the insight and understanding that research. It will cause a change in the ethical debate on what is wrong and what is right. The practitioners will then be able to influence public opinion. It will go into public policy and then legislation.

The presenter parted with the statement that what the participants thought then might change in future. At that time, they would need to go back to scientific research.

Session 3: Consumer Perceptions on Cage Chicken Farming in East Africa

Consumer Perceptions on Caged Farming Systems in Uganda

Dr. Paul Ssuna, Makerere University

Dr Ssuna began by giving a brief background on chicken farming in Uganda. He stated that there was a growing consumer demand in chicken products in Africa. The continent has been documented to have a fast-growing middle class. One of the major characteristics is that the middle class have was a high demand of animal-based food and among these other chicken products.

He informed the participants that purchasing tendencies by consumers are influenced by factors such as price and the information available, He stated that some reports show that there is willingness of consumers to pay for higher welfare poultry products. These consumers pay attention to what was labelled on the product. This is seen in Europe and some parts of the US.

However, the study showed that there is little knowledge and awareness about production systems and animal welfare related issues on the consumer side. He cited that the aim of the study was to assess the consumer gaps on the use of battery cages in Uganda and to ascertain the issues that they know about the poultry industry.

The study covered four districts which had the highest population of poultry and was selected from the different administrative regions of the country. Dr Ssuna stated that the participants were consumers of poultry products who lived within the urban areas. The participants numbered 30 consumers per district, Total of 120 respondents.

The tools used included personalised interviews using a comprehensive questionnaire that were both structured and semi structured questions. The analysis was used on the

program, Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS). The majority of the respondents were affluent consumers, many of them were female, and they were between 26 to 40 years of age. This represented the population that purchase the products. It was also mentioned that majority of the consumers purchase poultry products from local or nearby shops.

The average expenditure on poultry products, specifically eggs and meat per month of the majority was stated to be Ush. 20,000 to 100,000 each month. The customers were asked about which poultry production systems that they are aware of and majority of them stated that they were aware of battery cage system and the free-range system.

The preference of product from any of the production systems lay more on free range which was very closely tied to battery cage systems. When they were asked whether they were aware of the welfare requirements for poultry produced in the production systems mentioned above, majority of them said yes, they were aware of the welfare requirements.

When the team asked the interviewees whether they wanted the producer to indicate the production system. majority of them said yes, that they would want that. They were then asked whether they would pay a higher price for poultry products raised in better welfare and quality production systems and majority of them said yes. The presenter wanted to inform the meeting that several studies on purchase tendencies of consumers reflected the same, that they would prefer these systems, but practically they do not pay for the higher price.

Other concerns that the team found out that was mentioned by the consumers included:

- The sale of pre-mature exotic chickens expensively and were noted not to be as tasty as the local ones.
- Diseases such as chicken pox, coccidiosis, pneumonia were said to be prevalent in deep litter systems compared to battery cage systems. Dr Ssuna informed the conference that majority of the consumers were also producers.
- Lack of product labelling. Many consumers expressed that they would desire products to be labelled on the market.
- Poor sanitation at the sale points and the difference in sizes of eggs yet they are sold at the same price.
- The presenter revealed that majority of the consumers were not concerned about the quality of the product or where it came from. The major concern for these consumers was if they can afford it.

In conclusion, the objective of the study was achieved but there were some observations:

- The presenter noted that there was need to sensitise consumers more about battery cage systems, and this would help to influence the purchasing tendencies.
- The presenter highlighted that if animal welfare practitioners educated the consumers about animal welfare friendly products, they would create a demand for those products and more people will produce them.
- There was need for strict policy frameworks about the sale of poultry related products, issues of hygiene, presentations, and the safety of this products.

- There is need for them to work with poultry producers on sensitisation. The middlemen need to be sensitised so that they could buy from producers who have good welfare practise on their farms and the consumers will benefit from this.

Consumer Perceptions on Caged Farming Systems in Kenya

Dr Dennis Bahati, Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)

Dr Bahati began by explaining the objective of the study, He stated that the aim of the study was to gain an understanding of the insights and perception of consumers in purchasing poultry products.

He quoted the renowned primate philanthropist Jane Goodall who stated that a good deal of the behaviour that we deem as cruel is not deliberate but it is due to a lack of understanding, He stated that this is applicable in East Africa because in Africa, most of the time, people think that we misuse or abuse animals because he want to celebrate, but most of the times it is likely from a lack of understanding. Education and awareness play a crucial role in overcoming this.

He stated that, through research, it is emerging that in developed countries, consumers are demanding healthier products and that they want products which come from systems that are friendly to the animals and use better production systems. Consumers in developed countries have increasing desire for information about how their food is being produced.

He observed that organisations were finding ways to change the current system of poultry production and one identified is to target supermarkets and get them to develop policies that are animal friendly and encourage farmers to focus on products that are animal welfare friendly. Dr Bahati deduced that it was important to note that the corporate strategy that is being adopted by many supermarkets and food chains is effective, but this poses a challenge for practitioners as consumers who go to smaller supermarkets and shops will be left out. Vendors in these establishments would most likely not agree to sign the commitment to agree to selling these products. This also brings to question poultry products purchased in the open-air market or shops. The presenter inquired on how this should be tackled. This is a gap that has been seen and it should be deliberated how animal welfare practitioners should handle this.

Dr Bahati and his team sought to pursue a number of objectives when undertaking the study. They aimed to:

- Determine the factors influencing purchasing characteristics of consumers
- Establish consumer knowledge. What knowledge do they have in terms of the production systems in the country?
- Understand consumer knowledge on chicken welfare and whether its a subject that they appreciate
- Understand the willingness of purchase is and to push for product labelling

The team undertook simple random sampling, specifically systematic random sampling. They covered 24 counties and within those counties, they identified 6 participants randomly to take part in the study. The data collection instrument that was used were comprehensive questionnaires.

Dr Bahati reported that among the factors influencing consumer purchasing characteristics, the most contributing factor was price. He mentioned that in Kenya, when people purchase eggs or meat they inquire if it is indigenous '*kienyeji* chicken. This demonstrates that the consumers are concerned about their health, and they want healthier products for their consumption.

According to Dr Bahati, purchase points for egg products vary. It was realised that the most common was the local shops, followed by the local open-air markets. This was then followed by the supermarkets. He established that of all the types of chicken production systems, most people were aware of the free-range system. The team found out that not many people were informed of the intensive system. Few people were aware of the battery cage system.

Majority of the interviewees were aware of welfare concerns associated with caged chicken farming. However, this did not have any impact on their purchasing characteristics. Dr Bahati also noted that consumers may assert that they would avoid caged farm product but given the opportunity to purchase a product they would buy what is most convenient terms of price.

On the willingness to push for product labelling and purchase products at a higher cost, 55% of the respondents mentioned that they are not willing or see the need to spend higher for welfare friendly poultry products. Dr Bahati stated that the general attitude was that if they were able to get their products, it would not matter how it was sourced. 45% of the respondents neither said yes or no. He believed that these consumers could be convinced to focus on purchasing welfare friendly products.

Dr Bahati stated that consumers require a lot of sensitisation for them to be in a position to demand for better, healthy and safe products. The team realised that most consumers who were not aware and are not concerned may settle for any product as long as they are able to meet the basic need. That is the priority to them.

He explained that the study was based on the assessment done on the County Directors of Livestock and Veterinary Services. The feedback given was that consumers were not concerned about the origin of their products. This demonstrated how pricing affected the choice of products that they buy.

Dr Bahati concluded that:

- Consumers of poultry products were less interested in the means of production and were not concerned about the welfare of birds.
- Consumers were ignorant of the origin of the product, and the type of management system used.
- Consumers were not concerned about issues of the irresponsible use of antibiotics used or growth promoters and transportation.
- There was a lack of stability in the production process

- Most consumers lack awareness on the criteria used to ascertain food safety and security
- Consumers were not aware of issues on chicken and poultry welfare. Dr Bahati noted that this is an area where sensitization and capacity building need to be carried out.

Dr Bahati then left it open for the participants to provide recommendations on what needed to be done following the findings. He stated that participants of the conference would provide ideas on how to move forward on this particular issue.

Consumer Perceptions on Caged Farming Systems in Rwanda

Dr Jean Claude Masengesho, Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization (RAWO)

Dr Masengesho began by stating the main objective of the study, He explained that the study aimed to gain an understanding of the consumer perceptions within battery cage and how it affects the purchasing capability. The key activities conducted included a national analysis of public perceptions but using semi structured questionnaires informal interviews to different consumers from hotels, supermarkets, restaurants, coffee shops and egg collection shops across the country. Dr Masengesho observed that majority of the consumers were buying eggs in local egg collection centres or nearest farms because the eggs were very cheap at these points.

The team found out that 95% of well-known hotels preferred to buy eggs from supermarkets. They did this because these areas have certificates from the Rwanda Standards Board. Dr Masengesho and his team contacted the Rwanda Standards Board to find out what the major requirements are for one to be on the checklist. They cited food safety but did not mention any welfare details.

On the knowledge of consumers about poultry production systems, the study revealed that owners or those who work in the hotels, consumers, supermarkets and coffee shops were not aware of production systems. Only 3% from VIP hotels such as the Kigali Convention Centre, stated that they visit farms to check if the farm sold organic products. They did not inquire about battery caged systems.

A question of the types of production systems preference was relayed and most of the local consumers interviewed preferred free range local chicken and eggs. On being asked why, most consumers stated that the yolk has a bright yellow colour, which they believe to indicate that that it is nutritious and have a pleasant flavour. They also believed that they did not contain any antibiotics. Dr Masengesho noted that the decision made is not based on whether the products are welfare friendly or not. They based the decision on food safety.

48% of the consumers interviewed stated that when in the market, they evaluate the size of the eggs and the hygienic condition. Dr Masengesho informed the participants that one of the interviewees stated that she preferred eggs from the battery cage system because they're clean. He noted another case where the interviewees were ridiculed because the systems were perceived to be of the western world.

Dr Masengesho stated that 90% of the consumers were unaware of animal welfare concerns. The educated interviewees stated that they were not aware of any of the five freedoms and that they prefer to get their eggs and poultry products from companies. 10% of the interviewees stated that they are aware of the welfare concerns because they grew up in rural areas, and they interact more with the animals through feeding sessions and giving water.

The team proceeded to find out more on indication and labelling. 65% indicated that they would want labelling. They stated that they would prefer eggs from local chicken. Those in big hotels were not interested because they complained that once the consumers place the orders, they did not pay extra money.

He presented that 40% of the consumers state that they would pay higher price for welfare-friendly products. In Rwanda, eggs from local chicken are more expensive as compared to exotic breed chicken.

The analysis concluded that majority of the consumers were not interested in the animal welfare concerns in the production systems. They were more focused on knowing whether the eggs are from local chicken breeds or exotic chicken breeds. They believe that local breeds produce eggs that are of good quality, free of antibiotics, are all good sizes, bigger sizes and were hygienic.

Dr Masengesho stated that practitioners should educate consumers and sensitise them on the five freedoms of animal welfare and the negative impact caused by battery cage farming systems. Farmers and consumers should be educated about avoiding antibiotics in chicken and eggs as well.

There was need to engage all stakeholders and value chain actors to be aware of the challenges and welfare concerns. Those who would be involved included hotels, supply companies, poultry farmers, poultry slaughterhouses, sales agents, local authorities and government veterinary services.

Dr Masengesho asserted that proper mechanism must be established to put pressure on farmers and provide standards to them. They needed to carry out field visits in the farm and ensure that they were fulfilling the welfare and food safety standards.

Consumer Perceptions on Caged Farming Systems in Tanzania

By Subira Nduu, Tanzania Animal Welfare Society (TAWESO)

Ms. Nduu began by giving an introduction to the study carried out by the team. She stated that animal-based food producers, consumers and policymakers around the world had become increasingly mindful of farm animal welfare in recent years. European

laws have recognised that farm animals can feel, then experience and serve us since the 1960s. The animal laws were the basis of animal welfare standards in many countries. Increasing awareness in the United States have led to the changes in regulations and industrial standards.

She informed the participants that in Tanzania, consumers focus on affordability rather than the welfare issues of a chicken. Consumers in urban areas preferred eggs from the modern lays because they were cheaper. Eggs from the modern lay costs Tsh 8.000 while eggs from local chicken or free-range systems costs Tsh 15,000. She asserted that caged eggs cost almost double what indigenous eggs cost.

In the survey conducted, it was observed that there was a perceived benefit of housing type.

The survey undertaken on the consumers, supermarkets and restaurants indicated that consumers understood the true implication of the battery cage to the chickens and its welfare concerns. Some consumers were able to understand that chicken cannibalism was a significant issue in commercial chicken rearing than in cage free farming systems. It was not clear exactly what was expected of them. What was important was to acquire eggs for individuals, consumers, hotels, and restaurants. They did not care so much about welfare concerns.

The presenter indicated that the consumers were also not concerned about where the eggs or chicken come from. They were more concerned about the costs and how available the products are.

It was noted that the public had a higher perceived knowledge than the production practitioners. The presenter stated that in this era of increasing awareness of food production and animal welfare, that it was critical that the gap between then knowledge of chicken welfare and the production practise be closed.

When the general public was asked about the trade-offs between management practise and welfare concerns, 40% of those Interviewed were indifferent and incorrectly believed that management practise contributed to the high level of hen welfare at the source of the management system that are used to raise chicken such as in the use of battery cage farming systems.

Ms. Ndotu stated that majority of people believed that good practises were used in poultry battery cage farming systems as compared to the free-range systems.

Some participants stated that yolk colour was the most important attribute. Egg appearance texture flavour well also determinants of purchase for eggs. When asked how they differentiate the eggs from the system of raising chicken. They declared that the colour was the most influential parameter for them to tell their differences. Some consumers stated that they preferred both free range system of raising chickens and white shell eggs or eggs from battery cage systems.

The team also sought to find out more about consumer perception on whether battery cage system is a good practise. Surveyed participants including farmers, restaurants, supermarkets stated that it was not. 67% of the respondents believe that chicken battery

cage farming is a good practise, while 28% believe that it a bad practise. And 5% was not sure whether it was bad or good.

Ms Ndotu asserted that:

- The technology developed and implemented has to be in line with the demand of the consumer and the public expectation.
- Policymakers should work with practitioners on public perception
- It is important for the poultry industry to provide information to consumers by explaining the implication of production practises in this case the battery cage farming system

In conclusion, Ms Ndotu stated that consumers moderately agree that poultry producers care about the poultry they produce while consumers are unsure if farmers use humane production practises. Based on the studies conducted, the viability of poultry production is centred on the consumers, and the perception that drive their purchases.

Group Presentations on Breakout Sessions on Lessons Learnt

By Alfred Sihwa and Johnson Lyimo

Summary by Josiah Ojwang

The moderator explained that the session gave an opportunity to the participants to consolidate the gains and look at what would happen next. All participants would give feedback on the questions asked from the beginning of the conference.

This included:

- Is that cage chicken farming in East Africa particularly in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Tanzania? and if yes to what extent? This has been answered in the conference.
- If there is cage chicken farming in East Africa, what does the law say about it? This was extensively delved into by the presenters.
- What are the consumers saying? We have noted the trends and the commonalities in the East African countries.
- What's next? What are the proposed Afrocentric strategies that we are seeking to address cage chicken farming In Africa? How best can we go about freeing our chicken from the cages?

Group Discussions and Presentations

Animal Health Professionals

These professionals include veterinarians, para veterinarians, and researchers.

- a) They should provide an advisory role to the relevant authorities as they are experts in the field. For instance, they can guide the government officials on legislations to be implemented.
- b) They can provide clear instructions and information on the right farming practises, in this case cage free farming systems, to the farmers and communities
- c) They can educate and be in consultation with the manufacturers of cages and housing systems to create optimum conditions for the hens.
- d) They can help transform the curriculum in collaboration with higher learning institutions and published papers.
- e) Have and take ongoing continuous professional development (CPD) With a focus on animal welfare to encourage continuous research, development to find new and better ways that achieve animal welfare.

Research and Learning Institutions

- a) More funding is needed for research and partnership with NGOs to work more effectively
- b) Revision of the curriculum in school systems on poultry production is very crucial
- c) Student attaches to non-profits to further understand the concept of animal welfare
- d) More research and citations should be done and be published
- e) Refresher trainings are needed for teachers at high schools to understand different welfare practises and what they are
- f) Research on alternative poultry production systems that are more efficient
- g) Research into how to commercialise the local fowl due to the resistance to diseases to ensure high yield of production and to promote better welfare practises

Policy and Legal Framework

- a) Enforce the existing laws and implement them well so that everyone is aware of these laws

- b) Education and awareness on the existing laws and legislation which governs the poultry industry
- c) In African countries that do not have these laws or the required legislation to govern the poultry sectors particularly the battery cage farming systems.
- d) They should formulate or create the law which will pave the way to allow or engage Different stakeholders including NGOs to participate in the law formulation

Farmers

Most farmers are not aware about the law and legislation of chicken farming

- a) Spreading awareness to farmers about chicken welfare and poultry in general especially in terms of housing, spacing etc.
- b) Establishment of groups and centres that will influence chicken welfare at the level of the farmers. Here they can keep up and follow welfare issues
- c) Farmers should follow laws and regulations on animal welfare especially on chicken welfare that will be formed by respective governments

Public Consumers

The main interest is to have strategies that will generate public interest in animal welfare and cage free products, and to instigate behaviour change Amongst consumers

- a) Encourage public debates and forums supported by evidence-based narratives on the topics at hand especially on animal welfare and cage free issues
- b) Promotion of free-range poultry products and their health benefits as most consumers make their choices and decisions the benefits they get from products
- c) Incorporating animal welfare education in formal and informal curriculum'
- d) undertake regular market and consumer surveys to see whether there are any impact or changes as well as what is driving the particular trends
- e) Undertake aggressive consumer campaigns at local, regional, and national levels
- f) Acquire many corporate commitments towards labelling poultry products that show cage free products and animal welfare

The Media

- a) Increase funds to be used to conduct consumer education on how to use free range systems
- b) But using media, we can Interpret information from the animal welfare act
- c) Inform people on how to abide by the animal welfare policies through the media

- d) Publishing pictures and books that show or tell different information, but they use and important of free-range systems in rural areas

Environmental Strategies

- a) To improve hygiene within battery cage system. cages cause Environmental pollution and conflict with community because of the foul smell to the neighbours
- b) Environmentalists should be acquainted to the interconnectivity between animals, human and environment
- c) Bio security. Disease is easily transmitted from humans to animals because the battery cages are usually located within the household
- d) discouraging dumping. Of old cages from European countries to Africa

Additional Input

- a) Establish research on connecting health issues with animal welfare. From the consumer perceptions presentations, we realise that many consumers are not aware of the health implications on the goods are there consuming. More research and evidence is needed for our advocacy work.
- b) On human health, there is great concern about anti-microbial resistance, zoonotic diseases and other issues relating to farming systems especially on chicken. human health should be established as a focus area for animal welfare.
- c) Farmers who produce French chicken and eggs sometimes do not have access to markets. one of the solutions can be to encourage farmers to form cooperative. Ways for them to have a consistent supply to supermarkets and get premiums on their organic products should be established. this way it becomes a lucrative business for them. We might have a chance to have more free-range chicken as opposed to products from caged farming systems. This will meet the demand for a growing clientele who are Aware and want better organic products.
- d) For the tourism sector, encourage tourists to visit farms that practise free range farming and welfare improved practises.
- e) Improve good management of free-range chicken. As we have observed from their presentations, we realise that there many comparisons between free range chicken and caged chicken. we fail to compare the management of the two systems of farming. Management of caged farming ensures good nutrition, good veterinary care, and good housing. Local poultry are not taken care of to that extent.

- f) Explore human behaviour change for animal welfare with focus on farmers, the consumers and animal health professionals. we expect that when individual received the information and know the challenges faced and welfare concerns in battery cage systems that they will change. We expect humans to be rational and do the right thing once they know. We need to dig deeper into other approaches on how we can change behaviour. An example could be the role of nudges. And nudge is one way of forcing someone to do something indirectly. For instance, changing the environment in which they make the decision you know that they always do choose to do the right thing. We should explore more on introducing nudges and how we can use it in our advocacy for cage free chicken
- g) Have programmes on Awareness and exposure of children to animal welfare aspects.
- h) I need to have a strategy in approaching the governments. governments look at the economy. How best are we going to approach our governments so that they can understand the other side of the argument. for instance, introducing cage free farming, it will reduce the number of people going to hospitals. Therefore, the government budgets lower on health expenses. Approach the government and give suggestions from an angle that will align with the economic interests while maintaining high animal welfare standards.

Closing Session

The presenter stated that he was honoured to be present at the conference. He was happy that the conference was encouraged to begin the process in Tanzania. The presenter said he sees it as a challenge to Tanzania as a country because the conference has been posted within its borders.

He asserted that the participants now look into implementation. Tanzania should pave way for others to follow. The deliberations made should be implemented so that the next time we meet we have enough to report. It is vital that we implement what we deliberate and not shelve our ideas.

Many decisions and recommendations have been made and the work ahead of us is not simple. They were urged that given the commitment and the awareness, they have on the work and the humane element of caring for the animal, he declared that they will not despair. They would stay resilient and overcome the challenges until they meet their goal. We had to be aware that it is not as simple as it looks. He stated that they are grateful, and they welcomed the participants back to Tanzania.

