

# **Status and Prevalence of Battery Cage Farming for Chicken Production in Cameroon**



**A publication of Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)  
May 2025**

## TABLE OF CONTENT

<b>LIST OF TABLES</b> .....	3
<b>LIST OF ANNEXES</b> .....	3
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b> .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<b>CHAPTER ONE</b> .....	4
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	4
<b>CHAPTER TWO</b> .....	6
<b>2. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY</b> .....	6
<b>2.1. Activities</b> .....	6
<b>2.1.1. Strategic planning meetings</b> .....	6
<b>CHAPTER THREE</b> .....	8
<b>3.1. Poultry production statistics in Cameroon</b> .....	8
<b>3.2. Main poultry breeds farmed in Cameroon</b> .....	8
<b>3.3. Poultry management systems</b> .....	10
<b>3.3.1. Free-Range or Extensive Systems</b> .....	10
<b>3.3.2. Semi-Intensive System</b> .....	10
<b>3.3.3. Intensive Systems</b> .....	10
<b>3.4. Gender involved in poultry production</b> .....	12
<b>3.5. Target market for chicken</b> .....	13
<b>3.6. Battery cage use as a method of chicken production</b> .....	14
<b>3.7. Opinions on caged farming management system</b> .....	14
<b>3.8. Chicken Welfare Awareness</b> .....	15
<b>3.8. Chicken Welfare Awareness</b> .....	15
<b>3.10. Caged chicken welfare practice</b> .....	17
<b>3.11. Government law governing poultry farming</b> .....	17
<b>3.11.1. Familiarity with government law governing poultry farming</b> .....	17
<b>3.11.2. Proposed sensitization method on government laws governing the sector</b> .....	18
<b>3.12. National Policies &amp; Legislation on animal welfare</b> .....	18
<b>3.13. Policy and Legislative Framework Analysis on Poultry Battery Cage Farming</b> .....	19
<b>CONCLUSION</b> .....	20

## LIST OF TABLES

<b>Table 1: Regional distribution of poultry in Cameroon</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Table 2: Regional breed distribution of chicken farming in Cameroon</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Table 3: Exotic chicken breed farming systems</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Table 4: Chicken welfare awareness</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Table 5: Chicken welfare in cages</b> .....	<b>17</b>
<b>Table 6: Proposed mechanism to create awareness</b> .....	<b>18</b>

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure 2: Reasons for choosing the practice</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Figure 2: Gender involved in chicken farming</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>Figure 3: Target market for poultry</b> .....	<b>13</b>
<b>Figure 4: Battery cage farming.</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Figure 5: Level of effectiveness of the caged farming system</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Figure 6: Farmers' reasons for choosing caged farming</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Figure 7: Familiarity with government laws governing poultry farming</b> .....	<b>18</b>

## LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex 1: Questionnaire

Annex 2: Some photos of working sessions

## **Acknowledgement**

It is a genuine pleasure to express a deep sense of gratitude to the Centre for Effective Altruism for their financial support in ensuring the successful execution of this study.

We appreciate Mr Che Gilbert Ayunwi of the International Organization for Animal Protection for his immense contribution towards the development of this report.

Special thanks to Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) and their Project Implementation Team Dr Dennis Bahati, Sebastian Mwanza and Josiah Ojwang for their valuable contribution in the development of this report.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

Chicken welfare has for some time become a topic of interest in the policy making and advocacy in European countries. Utilization of the battery cage system has been globally criticized for its violation of poultry welfare. Extensive scientific evidence has shown that intensively confined farm animals are frustrated, distressed, and suffering. During the second half of the 20th century, in response to the growing pressure from environmental movements and organizations, European countries began to abandon rearing laying hens in battery cages, which were so far considered the most efficient husbandry system. Council Directive 1999/74/EC was later issued that banned housing laying hens in conventional cages effective from 1 January 2012.

In Africa, this system has gained popularity being tabled as an income generating initiative and a key source of employment for the youth. It has been noted that there is a lack of substantive data and research on the status, extent and legal structure on the use and adoption of battery cages in the continent. Such statistics are fundamental and essential in developing effective campaign tools towards more sustainable and welfare friendly systems that ensure poultry wellbeing is preserved.

Cameroon started restricting the import of frozen poultry in 2005 to support domestic poultry sector. Since then, the poultry sector has been characterized by sustainable growth. The Poultry industry plays a significant role in the economy at large and despite its drawbacks, it provides about 6% of the Cameroon GDP. It also plays an important role in food security and increases the income opportunity for urban and rural population due to its value-added opportunities involved in poultry farming. Poultry meat and eggs represent about 10% of the total meat produced (Mbu, 2024). The poultry industry serves as a source of employment and a source of income to many people. It provides quick capital to investors; this has led to setting up of commercial and many backyard poultry farms in the regions and contribute to the total amount of eggs and meat production in the country. In order to meet up with the increasing demand for poultry products to feed the growing population, many Cameroonian poultry farmers use caged chicken farming to maximize the utilization of space and make more profit based on past knowledge regarding the

benefits of this system of production.

## 1.2. CONTEXT OF THE MISSION

Based on the Terms of Reference, **the main objective of this survey was to assess the prevalence and status of poultry caged farming as a livestock management system and the policy framework in Cameroon.** The specific objectives were:

1. To conduct an in-depth survey of the existence and extent of battery cage use as a means of chicken production.
2. To conduct a review on existing National Policies, Legislative Frameworks and Regulations with a focus on intensive chicken production through the use of the battery cage system;
3. To conduct a general assessment of consumer/public perception and views on chicken production systems and whether they affect their purchasing capability of end products;

OIPA Cameroon collaborated with Regional, Divisional Sub-divisional delegations of the Ministry of Livestock Fisheries and Animal Industries, INTERPROFESSION AVICOLE DU CAMEROUN ( IPAVIC ) to achieve the afore-mentioned objectives, beginning with a survey which was aimed at establishing the situation of chicken welfare, farming and its legal policy framework in Cameroon. This report therefore, reflects the current status of chicken caged farming in Cameroon between the months of September 2024 and April 2025. Below are some essential tools we deployed during the survey missions in the ten regions, namely:

- Farmer repertoire and location sheets
- Questionnaire

# CHAPTER TWO

## 2. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

This activity was carried out from September 2 2024 and April 10 2025 and it is worth noting that all 10 regions of Cameroon were involved in the process. Both primary and secondary data were collected for this survey. Poultry farmers (precisely broiler and layer farmers and traditional chicken famers), egg wholesalers and consumers were interviewed through comprehensive questionnaires in order to collect primary data. This was done by meeting them personally and using phone calls within key Divisions (Counties) with high poultry production activity in these Regions. Secondary data was collected from the Directorate of Animal production, Regional/Divisional and Sub-divisional Delegations of the Ministry of Livestock Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINIPIA ) reports.

### 2.1. Activities

#### 2.1.1. Strategic planning meetings

Before the kickstart of activities, planning meetings were held out between OIPA Cameroon IPAVIC AND MINIPIA to draft/finetune the plan of action, questionnaire and methodology. After this, a high-level joint team was constituted to conduct visits to Regional and District Delegations of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries which are decentralized organs of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries. The overall objective of these visits was to seek collaboration and to familiarize these organs with the goals and objectives of the survey. For each regional Delegation we visited, a Chief of Service in charge of Animal Production was put in charge to facilitate contact with poultry farmers and other relevant stakeholders.

#### 2.1.2. Questionnaire Designing and target sampling

Prior to the fieldwork, a questionnaire was developed jointly with OIPA Cameroon. The questionnaires were organized around the following five indicators: livestock management system, poultry breed, knowledge about animal welfare and caged farming, opinion about caged farming, stakes surrounding chicken caging, farmer/consumer preferences on poultry products, chicken transportation methods/tools, amongst others (see Annex 1). A total of 20 farmers, 10 table egg wholesalers, and 20 egg consumers were targeted for quantitative interviews per region, making a total of at least 500 stakeholders. Even though the target could not be achieved in some regions for various reasons, many more stakeholders were reached during the survey, making up for the other regions. To achieve these targets, a team of four field facilitators were trained in survey and data collection methodologies.

#### 2.1.3. Stakeholder identification

With the help of the Regional Delegations of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries, farmers were contacted and informed about the objectives of the survey, while egg wholesalers and consumers were directly identified using key informants and the snowball system. Table egg wholesalers and egg consumers were also interviewed and the data collected for analysis.

#### **2.1.4. Stakeholder visits and interviews**

Our partners (the decentralized organs) provided statistics/information regarding existing animal production policies and number of farms in their region, and we were put in contact with the national Syndicate of Poultry Promoters in Cameroon, known by its French Acronym as IPAVIC which has been very instrumental in terms of putting us in contact with their regional Focal Points for detailed information concerning the sector. First contact visits and exchange with farmers, wholesalers and decentralized structures of the Livestock Ministry were carried out, during which the stakeholders were mobilized and sensitized on chicken welfare before proceeding to focus group discussions.

The regional chiefs of Service for Animal Production led our team to visit at least 5 intensive poultry farmers in a bid to obtain first-hand information. We were able to visit most of the targeted farms within a period of eight (8) months and the data collected was processed for interpretation. During these visits, farmers were interviewed and their responses recorded in the questionnaires.

#### **2.1.5. Focus Group Discussion with farmers**

By the wrap off of this survey, 10 Focus Group Discussions had been held with poultry farmers and IPAVIC MINEPIA . Before the Focus Group Discussions, a brief presentation on topics such as Introduction to Animal and Chicken Welfare with emphasis on the 5 animal freedoms. This was proceeded by a Focus Group Discussion which centered around Free-range Farming, Benefits of Free-range Farming, Its impact on Animal Welfare, Environmental Sustainability, The Nutritional Quality of Poultry Products and the Nexus Between Chicken Welfare, Productivity, Human Health and the Environment. Discussions also explored the challenges associated with transitioning to this model of farming, and the promising future of free-range farming. The Focus Group Discussions were wrapped off with intensive question, comment and answer sessions.

#### **2.1.6. Data analysis**

The data were collected from the questionnaires and analyzed using Excel, and the results are presented below.

## CHAPTER THREE

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The statistics and poultry population figures given below are generic as obtained from identified and organized poultry stakeholders in all 10 regions of the country, not a holistic census or estimate.

#### 3.1. Poultry production statistics in Cameroon

Table 1 is the regional distribution of chicken meat production in Cameroon, in thousand tons.

**Table 1: Regional distribution of poultry production in Cameroon**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Production (thousand tons)</b>
Adamawa	2,646
Centre	24,903
East	839
Far North	2, 863
Littoral	12,992
North	1,270
North West	1,066
West	8,568
South	2,911
South West	7,254
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65,312</b>

Table 1 showed that generally, the Centre region produced the greatest quantity (thousand tons) of chicken meat in the Cameroon (24,903), reluctantly seconded by the Littoral region (12,992), followed by the West region (8,568).

#### 3.2. Main poultry breeds farmed in Cameroon

Table 2 indicates the different types of chicken breeds that are farmed in Cameroon, including the regional distribution.

**Table 2: Regional breed distribution of chicken farming in Cameroon**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Broiler farmers</b>	<b>Layer famers</b>	<b>Traditional farmers</b>	<b>Other breed farmers</b>
Adamawa	11	2	1,407	
Centre	1,213	52	14	40
East	8	7	729	3
Far North			2,802	
Littoral	537	97	9	23
North	135	6	103	
North West	397	01	25	2
West	246	499	104	
South	138	4	65	
South West	249	13	61	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,940</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>5,319</b>	<b>68</b>

As showed in Table 2, a total of 9,002 poultry farmers (summation of sub totals) were identified as active farmers, distributed among the 10 regions of Cameroon. Traditional or local chicken farmers are the highest number of farmers of chicken in Cameroon (25,319), followed by broiler farmers (2,940), while farmers of other breeds make up the smallest number (68). With regards to breed, the Center Region makes up the highest number of broiler farmers (1,213), followed by farmers in the Littoral Region (537), while the West Region dominates in layer farming (499). The Far North region has the highest number of traditional chicken farmers (2,802), closely followed by Adamawa local chicken farmers (1,407). Regarding farmers of other chicken breeds, the Center Region still dominated with 40 identified farmers.

Poultry farming is very active and is increasingly gaining grounds in Cameroon with a wide variety of breeds kept. The local fowls top the chart followed by broilers, then layer birds, ducks, guinea fowls and geese (MINEPIA, 2023).

The local fowls are commonly found in the villages. Almost every household in the villages can boast of keeping local fowls with the numbers varying from five to even five hundred.

The broilers are intensively managed. There is equally the practice of semi-intensive management especially in villages and semi-urban areas. In this case, there are farmers who brood the chicks and sell at 3 to 4 weeks old. Most farmers who buy at this age then raise them to table size using the semi- intensive management system. Feeding is supplemented and the fowls are hardly allowed to scavenge.

There are relatively few farmers that keep layer birds from medium to large numbers (500 to 100,000). Both broilers and layers are raised using the suspended floor, deep litter and battery cage systems. The number of traditional chicken farmers and farmers as a whole being the highest in

the Far North region of Cameroon could be explained by the fact that the climatic conditions in this region are much more harsh than other regions as it is found in the Sahel belt, hence only local chicken that is naturally adapted to such conditions has the greatest number of farmers.

### 3.3. Poultry management systems

As revealed in table 1 below, poultry production in Cameroon is subdivided into free range or extensive, semi-intensive and intensive systems of production. Each of them has their own peculiarities that make them so special with respect to their contribution to national food security.

#### 3.3.1. Free-Range or Extensive Systems

This production system largely dominates poultry keeping in most villages of Cameroon. Housing ranges from sleeping on tree tops, inside kitchens and on extensions erected behind houses. Very little or no veterinary intervention and/or feed supplementation are done. Under free-range conditions, the birds are not confined and can scavenge for food over a wide area. The birds may roost outside, usually in trees, and nest in the bush or in soft dark areas in or around their shelter. The flock contains birds of different species and varying ages. The traditional poultry system is distributed all over the 10 regions due to the fact that there is space for extensive rearing.

In the backyard extensive system, poultry are housed at night but allowed free-range during the day. They are usually fed a handful of grain in the morning and sometimes and seldomly in the evening to supplement scavenging. Very little or no veterinary interventions are done.

#### 3.3.2. Semi-Intensive System

There are farmers who combine the extensive and intensive systems, where birds are confined to a certain area with access to shelter. They are commonly found in urban and peri-urban areas as well as rural situations. They are free ranged during the day and housed at night with little feed supplement. Feed and water are available in the house to avoid wastage by rain, wind and wild animals with little veterinary interventions done.

#### 3.3.3. Intensive Systems

These systems are used by medium to large-scale commercial poultry farmers and are also used at the household level. Birds are fully confined either in houses or cages. The birds are totally dependent on their owners for all their requirements; production however is higher. There are three types of intensive production systems practiced in Cameroon:

**a) Deep litter system:** Birds are fully confined (with floor space allowance of 8 to 10 birds/m<sup>2</sup> within a house, but can move around freely. The floor is covered with a deep litter (a 5 to 10 cm deep layer) of wood shavings or a similarly absorbent (but non-toxic) material. The fully enclosed system protects the birds from thieves and predators and is suitable for specially selected commercial breeds of egg or meat producing poultry (layers, and broilers).

**b) Slatted floor system:** Wire or wooden slatted floors are used instead of deep litter, which allow stocking rates to be increased to 12 birds/m<sup>2</sup> of floor space. Birds have reduced contact with faeces and are allowed some freedom of movement.

c) **Battery cage system:** Though not very common in some regions, this is usually used for laying birds in regions where table egg production is intensive (-the West, Littoral, Center, North West and South West Regions), which are kept throughout their productive life in cages. There is a high initial capital investment, and the system is mostly confined to large-scale commercial egg layer operations.

Table 3 below indicates the different management systems, breeds produced and the level of commercialization of exotic breeds.

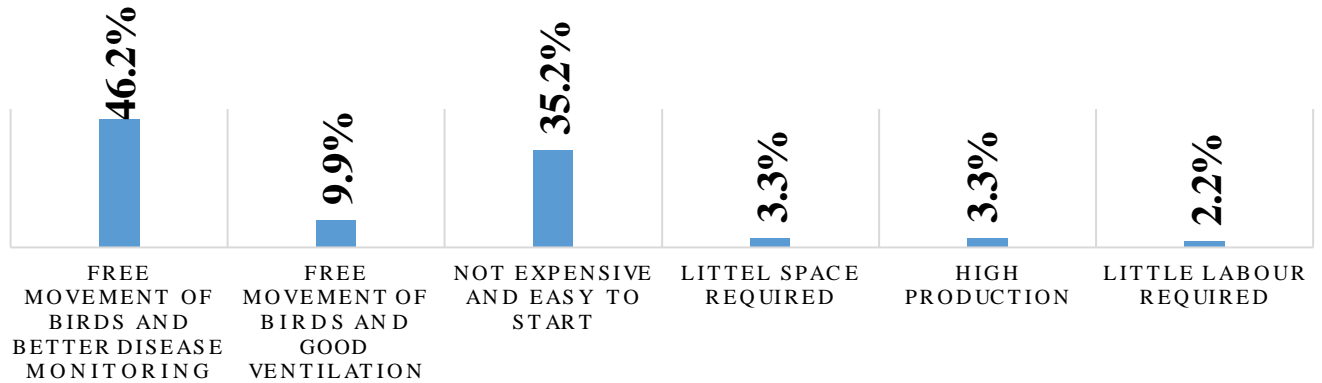
**Table 3: Exotic chicken breeds (broiler and layer) Management systems**

<b>Poultry Management system</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Free Range	3	1.0
Semi Intensive	21	7.0
Intensive (Caging)	36	12.0
Intensive (Deep Litter)	240	80.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Types of Poultry Breed Reared</b>		
Broiler chicken	69	23.0
Layers chicken	9	3.0
Local and Broiler chicken	222	74.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Level of commercial Production</b>		
Highest (broiler)	98	98.0
Second Highest (layer)	2	2.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

During this survey, data was collected on the various poultry breeds kept by these farmers in their chosen management systems. Results indicated on table 3 above that regarding the production systems implemented by poultry producers, that the greatest percentage (80%) of the producers implemented the intensive deep litter system, followed by 12% practicing the intensive caging system with a wide gap.

Also, the greatest percentage (74%) of the farmers reared both exotic and broilers birds, while 23.0% reared just broilers and 9 % reared only layer chicken. It further revealed that broilers were the most reared breed of birds.

In figure 1, the reasons for the choices of which production system to use in their farms are presented.

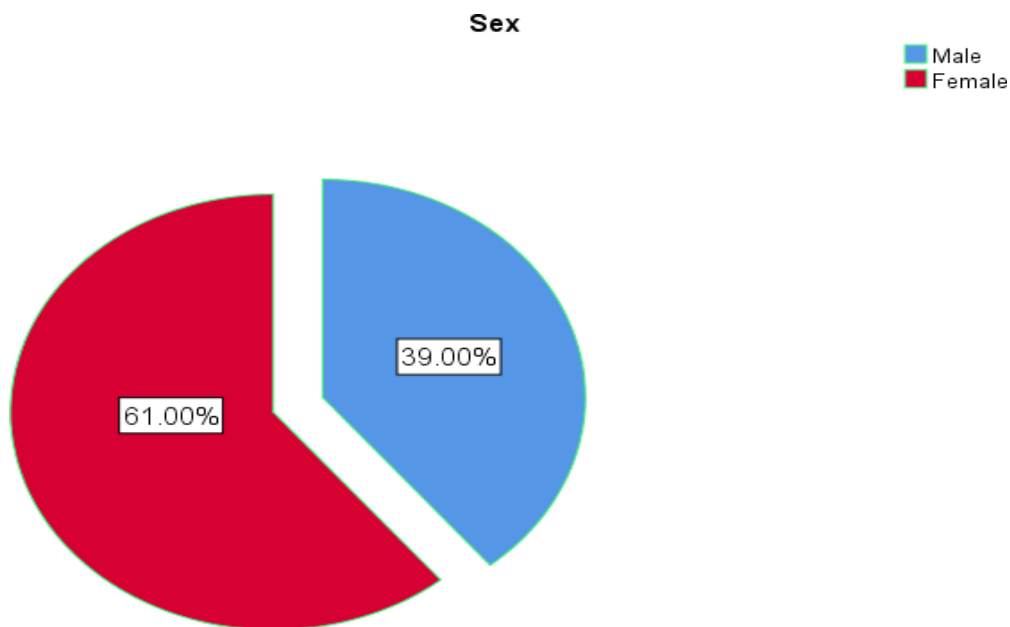


**Figure 1: Reason for choosing the practice**

The figure 1 revealed that the greatest percentage (46.2%) of the producers interviewed implemented the intensive deep litter poultry management system mainly because there is free movement of birds, better disease management and flock monitoring. Also, the second highest percentage (35.2%) of farmers chose the intensive deep litter management system because it's not expensive and relatively easier to start compared to the battery cage management system.

### 3.4. Gender involved in poultry production

Results as indicated on the figure 2 below revealed that majority of those into poultry production were women with a percentage of 61.0%, while only 39.0% were male.

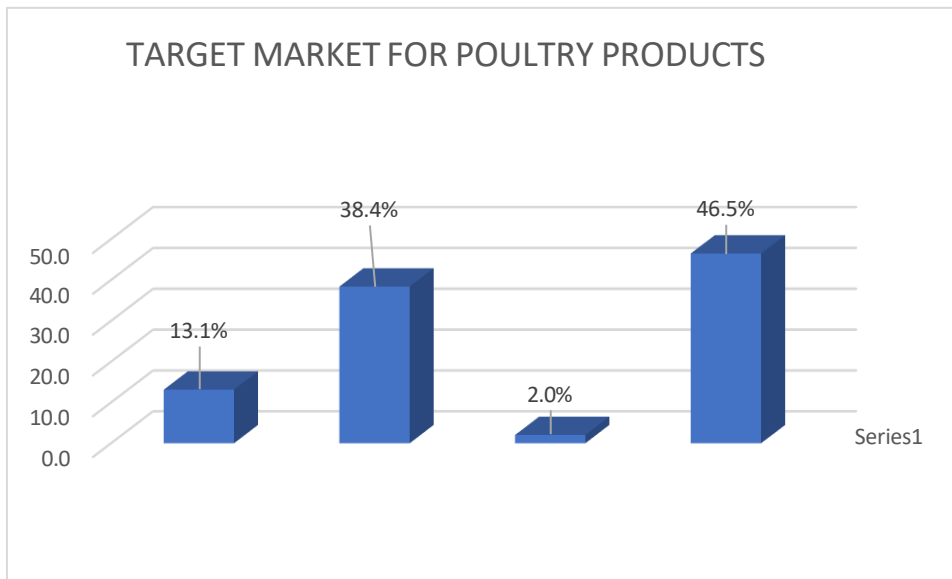


**Figure 2: Gender involved in farming**

This implies that females dominated in Poultry production and could be attributed to the fact women are the main food provider in rural Cameroon because according to Prakash (2006), it is estimated that in Cameroon, rural women supply about 90 percent of the food needed for subsistence by the population making them more involved in agriculture than the males.

### 3.5. Target market for chicken

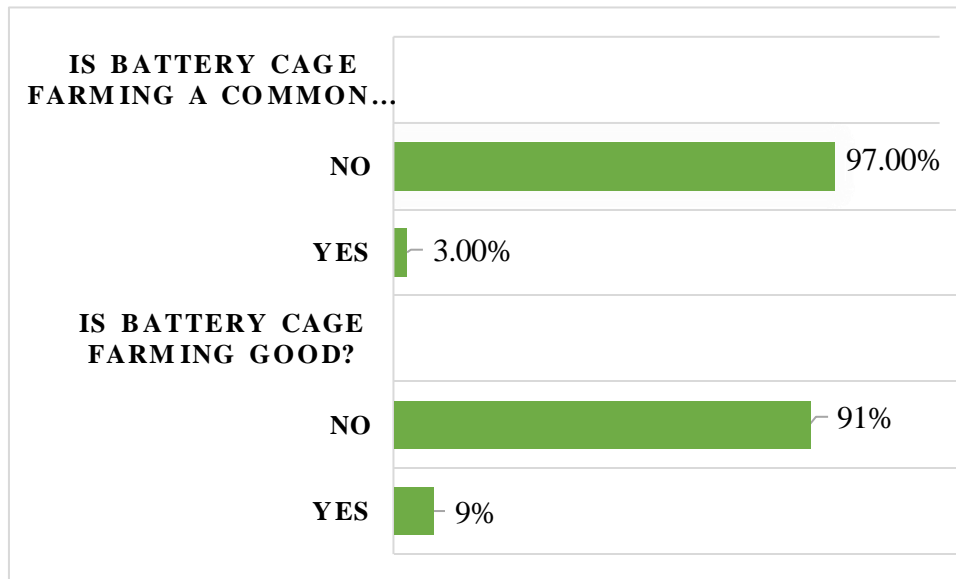
When the chicken reaches market weight, they are caught and caged for transport to the market. Results of figure 3 below showed that, majority (46.5%) of the producers sold the poultry products both at the local market and larger markets out of their communities such as city centers, with 38.4% selling only at the city Markets. A smaller percentage of farmers sold their products only at the local markets (13.1%), while the least sold theirs to industries (2%). Birds experience fear, stress, and pain during the process to the market as the chicken are not carefully handled. Catching and crating the birds as quickly as possible with the minimum effort possibly becomes the major focus. Transport causes further stress for the birds, as they experience noise, vibration, motion, overcrowding, feed and water deprivation, social disruption, and potential temperature extremes. Some chickens do not survive the trip to the market.



**Figure 3: Target Market for Poultry**

### 3.6. Battery cage use as a method of chicken production

From the data, 97% of the farmers made mention of the fact that battery cages are not a common practice while only 3% acknowledged the existence of caged farming. However, regions with high population densities and intensive poultry activity like the West, Littoral and Centre regions had a considerably high percentage of farmers (58.7%, 14.5% and 3.9% respectively) who practiced

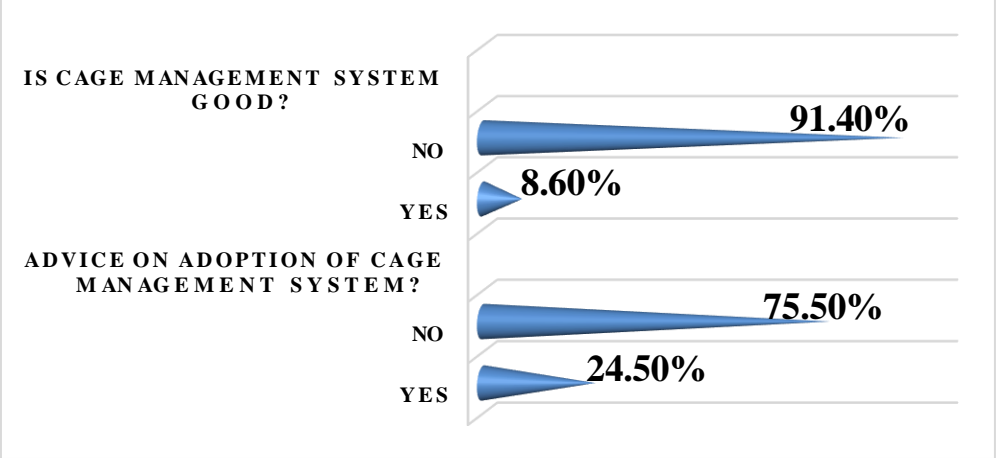


layer farming (table egg production), many of whom use the battery cage system. But as indicated, it remains that nationally, this poultry management system is not common in the country.

**Figure 4: Battery cage farming**

### 3.7. Opinions on caged farming management system

To better understand the extent of usage of the caged poultry management system, producers were asked if it was a good method or if they can advise others to use this method of poultry management. Results revealed that the overwhelming majority (91.4%) of the producers acknowledged the caging system not to be a good one while 75.5% of the respondents said they cannot advice poultry farmers, private companies or government to adopt this method of poultry management. Furthermore, roughly 9% of farmers acknowledged the system to be good while only 24.5% accepted to recommend this management system to other producers. The results are shown on the figure below.



**Figure 5: Level of effectiveness of the cage management system/ Adoption**

Even though most respondents were of the opinion that the cage management system is not good, 24.5% of the respondents said that they would recommend this cage for better disease management and surveillance.

### 3.8. Chicken Welfare Awareness

Chicken welfare issues include a broad range of concerns related to the physical comfort, absence of hunger and disease, possibilities to perform motivated behavior, etc. Poultry producers were questioned regarding their knowledge on animal welfare issues. Majority (75.5%) had inadequate knowledge on animal welfare issues while 24.5 % of survey respondents had knowledge on animal welfare such as feeding and treatment of some animal diseases.

Furthermore, results revealed that many (47.5%) of the producers complained of broilers suffering from diseases and 44.4% complained of housing/stress. This indicated that, most of the farms were being attacked by diseases such as white, red and green diarrhea.

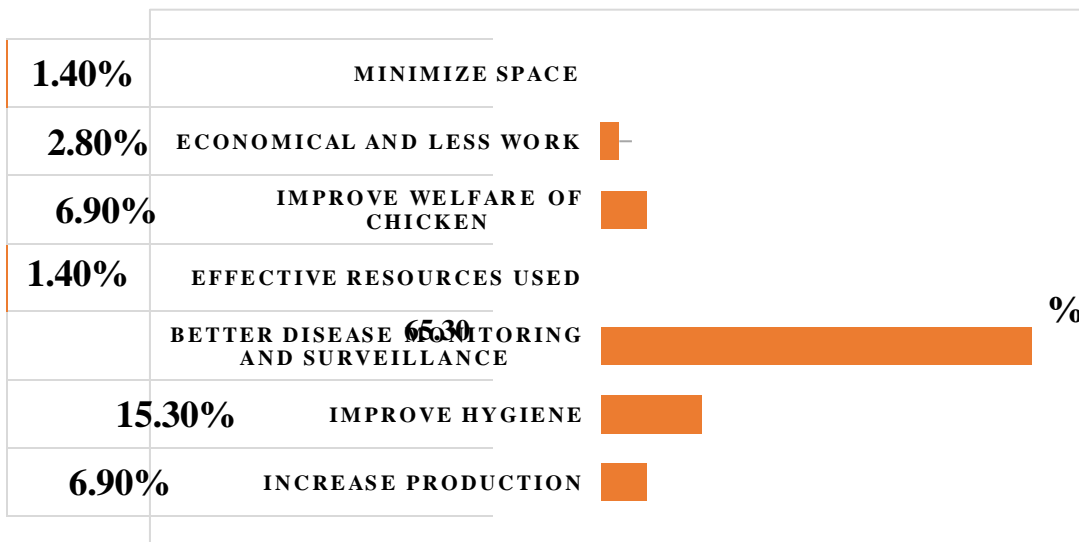
**Table 4: Chicken Welfare Issues/ Awareness**

Awareness on animal welfare issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Yes	72	24.5
No	213	75.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Welfare issue faced by farmers		
Disease	141	47.5
Housing/Stress	135	44.4
Discomfort	3	1.0
Predators	18	6.1
Lack of prevention measures/Biosecurity measures	3	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The high percentage of producers complaining of welfare issues like diseases only indicates that these producers were experiencing animal welfare issues but didn't realize it was a welfare issue, reasons why only few could acknowledge having knowledge on animal welfare.

### 3.9. Reasons for using chicken caged farming system

The following figure reveals the various reasons propounded by the farmers as being the main reasons for their choice of a battery cage production system.



**Figure 6: Farmers' reasons for recommending chicken caged farming**

Figure 6 reveals that the majority (65.3 %) of farmers said that this system enables them to better monitor and survey their farms, seconded by those who propounded that this system improves hygiene in their farms (15.3%), followed by those who thought it helps to improve the welfare of chicken and maximize production.

### 3.10. Caged chicken welfare practice

Results from this survey revealed 78% of survey respondents are not concerned on Chicken welfare in cages. These farmers are concerned about profit making. None the less, 22% of chicken farmers acknowledged their concern in caged chicken welfare. Results are as seen on the table below.

**Table 5: Chicken Welfare in Cages**

<b>Do you think farmers are concerned with Chicken welfare in cages?</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent (%)</b>
Yes	66	22
No	234	78
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Do you think poultry farmers using battery cages are interested to maximize profit only rather than poultry Welfare?</b>		
Yes	273	91
No	18	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>

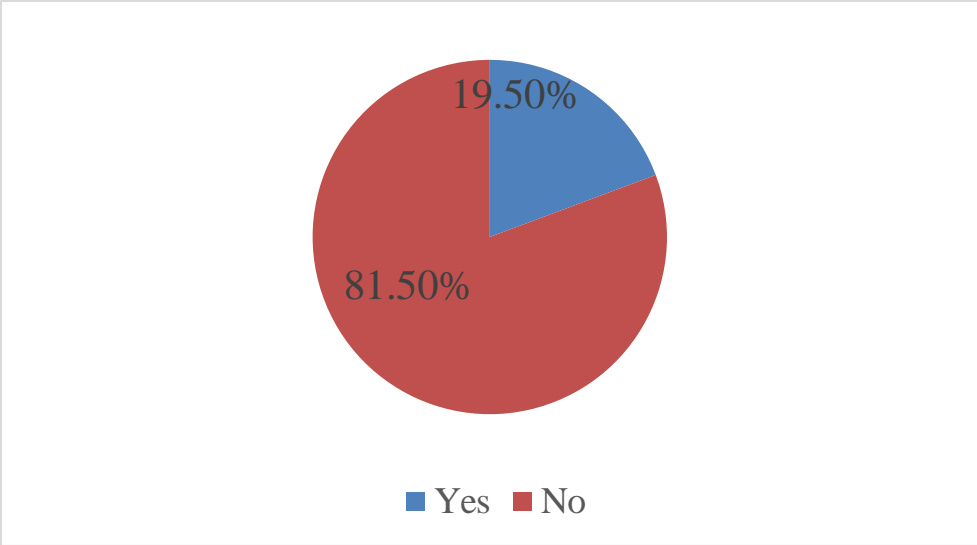
Furthermore, 91% of survey respondents said, they think farmers with cages are only interested in maximizing profits and not the welfare of the poultry birds.

The welfare of a farm animal can be considered in relation to the housing and management conditions to which it is subjected (Puppe 1996, Rushen and de Passillé, 1992). Welfare is good when all needs associated with the maintenance of good health and needs to show that certain behaviors are met. Health is an important part of welfare and behavior is important in many regulatory systems. In general, minimum mortality, low morbidity, little or no risk of injury, good body condition, the ability to express species-specific activities including social interactions, exploration, and play, and the lack of abnormal behavior and of physiological signs of stress, including alterations of immune responses, indicate that there are no major animal welfare problems.

### 3.11. Government law governing poultry farming

#### 3.11.1. Familiarity with government law governing poultry farming

Due to the intensity of poultry production in the locality. The respondents were asked if they are familiar with governmental laws governing poultry farming and its welfare. Results on figure 5 below reveals 81.5 % were not familiar with these laws and only 19.5% had knowledge on some laws. This therefore means that the producers in the localities have to be educated on some laws governing the poultry sector in Cameroon.



**Figure 7: Familiarity with government laws governing poultry farming**

**3.11.2. Proposed sensitization method on government laws governing the sector**

This survey indicates that a lot of sensitization has to be done in order to create awareness among the population. To achieve this, the respondents were asked which mechanism is best to be used in sensitizing the population. Results revealed that 46.0% of the respondents said during trainings, and 32.0% said through Tv/ Radio talks.

**Table 6: Best mechanism to create awareness among farmers and general public on the improvement of poultry welfare**

<b>Mechanisms</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Training farmers	138	46.0
Training Public/Private Vets	24	8.0
Radio/Tv Talk	96	32.0
Training and Radio/TV Talk	42	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**3.12. National Policies & Legislation on animal welfare**

The Ministry of Livestock Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA) is involved in animal welfare and animal health through institutional programs amongst which are program 53, Program for the Development of Animal Production and Industries implemented by the Directorate for Development of Animal Production and Industries. Also, Program 55, program for improving livestock health coverage and combating zoonosis. Cameroon as member of the world organization for animal health (OIE), anchor on the principles of OIE with main objective is to have a world

where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted, and advanced. This is directly implemented by the directorate of Veterinary Services which manages animal health at national level ensuring the prevention and control animal diseases and ensuring the health safety and products of animal origin to protect public health.

The ministry is involved in animal welfare and animal health through a number of laws and regulations that relate to animal welfare as follows:

Law No 200/017 of 19December 2000: This law imposes penalties for failing to comply with veterinary authority measures such as treating animals that are diseased or suspected to be diseased.

Decree N° 76-420 regulating the breeding, movement and exploitation of livestock amended by Decree N° 86-755 of 24 June 1986. This regulation covers animal welfare, animal production, internal and external trade and more.

Law on livestock: This law covers the raising of poultry and other species that have an economic purpose.

Law No 2001-06 of 16 April 2001 establishes the nomenclature and animal health regulations governing legally contagious livestock diseases whose reporting is compulsory.

### 3.13. Policy and Legislative Framework Analysis on Poultry Battery Cage Farming

Battery cages are considered cruel to chicken because they limit their ability to move around and perform natural behaviors. SDG 12 deals with responsible production and consumption, showing the relationship between animal welfare and the sustainable development goals helps highlight the importance of animal welfare when implementing these goals in practice. The European Union, part of the United States, New Zealand, Mexico, and Israel have banned chicken battery cages. Some African; Kenya Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania are running campaigns to ban cages to promote welfare and protect animal rights. In Cameroon, there is neither a legislation particularly governing poultry welfare, nor promoting or banning the use of battery cages.

## CONCLUSION

At the end of this survey whose aim was to assess the prevalence and status of poultry caged farming as a livestock management system and the policy framework in Cameroon, the following conclusions could be drawn :

Although not the most common management system of chicken farming, caged chicken farming exists significantly and is used by many chicken farmers mostly in the densely populated regions of Cameroon, with a distribution that varies from one region to the other.

There are actually existing national Policies, Legislative Frameworks and Regulations put in place by the government of Cameroon which unfortunately takes into consideration animal welfare as a whole. There are no available instruments to protect the poultry sector against battery cage production system. Poultry farmers in the Cameroon are at liberty to exercise any production management system depending on their financial means to further boost their productivity. This implies that the cage system is bound to grow in Cameroon with very minimal supervision. In fact, even the existing laws on animal welfare are hardly evidently implemented and followed up in the different regions.

Generally, the concept of chicken welfare and cage-free farming is still a strange concept among stakeholders in the sector, although some at least know about animal welfare, consciously or unconsciously. Furthermore, the stakeholders propounded different reasons why they carry out caged farming but thanks to the focus group discussions that OIPA organized, there was a perceived shift in mindset regarding animal cruelty as a whole, and caged chicken farming in particular.

Although Government efforts and private-sector activities helped to build up the local poultry sector to meet the demand, there is need to consider animal rights and cruelty. There is need for an intense and effective sensitization and workshops for various stakeholders in the poultry sector: farmers, traders, and consumers on why chicken welfare should be intentionally factored in, in this fast-growing sector of agriculture in Cameroon. There is also an urgent need for an effective animal welfare policy implementation with a strict monitoring system throughout the country on the part of the government, and a policy proposal to the government with emphasis on chicken welfare.

## PERSPECTIVE

IF given the opportunity, OIPA Cameroon intends to further explore the data obtained to shed more light on the welfare of chicken during production and the nexus between chicken welfare, farm productivity/product quality, human health and the environment.

We also intend to probe more into the reasons behind the non-evident application of the policy on animal welfare, and chart a way forward through a policy proposal particularly on chicken welfare to the government of Cameroon.

OIPA Cameroon has identified, and has access to thousands of chicken farmers in Cameroon, and therefore intends to leverage on this collaboration to mitigate the reign of chicken caged farming.

## ANNEX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE

### PART 1: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

No.....

Date.....

1. Division and Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

2.1 Sex: male

2.2 Female

### PART 2:

1. Which poultry livestock management system is commonly practiced in your division?
  - Free range
  - Semi-intensive (mostly deep litter)
  - Intensive (battery caging)
2. Which is the commonly kept poultry breed in your division? Local? Exotic?
3. Is commercial poultry production high in your division? If yes, what contribution does it have to the division comparing to cattle, pigs, small ruminants?  
The highest    Second Highest    Third Highest    Fourth Highest    The least
4. Do you know about caged poultry farming? Yes / No
5. Are battery cages a common management practice in your division? Yes / No  
If yes, how many farms?
6. In your opinion, is caged poultry farming a good practice generally? Yes / No
7. Would you advise poultry farmers, government, private companies to adopt caged farming? Yes / No
  - a) If yes why?
    - i) Increase production
    - ii) Improve hygiene
    - iii) Better disease monitoring & surveillance
    - iv) Effective resources use
    - v) Improve welfare of chickens
    - vi) Economical and less work
    - vii) Minimize space
8. Who is the target market for the poultry products?
  - i) Local market
  - ii) Bamenda City
  - iii) Industries
  - iv) Exportation
  - vi) Others
9. In your own opinion, what issues are associated with chicken battery cages?
  - i) Lack of freedom to express natural behaviour
  - ii) Diseases incidence
  - iii) High stress
  - vi) Overcrowding and confinement

- v) Cruelty
  - vii) Expensive
  - v) Others
- 10.** What animal welfare issues are chickens facing in your division or farm?
- i) Diseases
  - ii) Stress
  - ii) Discomfort
  - iii) Malnutrition/lack of clean water
  - iv) Predators
  - v) Lack of prevention measures / biosecurity measures
- 11.** Before today, were you aware about animal welfare? Yes / No
- 12.** Do you think consumers of poultry products within your division are concerned with how the fowls are raised and managed in the farms? Yes / No
- 13.** What do you think consumers are considering while buying eggs?
- i) Physical appearance of eggs
  - ii) Size of eggs
  - iii) Colour of egg
  - iv) Fat content
  - v) Type of production system (Battery cage, Semi-intensive- Free range)
  - vi) Welfare of chicken farms where eggs are coming from
  - vii) Irresponsible use of Antibiotics
  - viii) Type of feeds eaten by chickens
  - ix) Cheapest
- 15.** In your own view, which is the best mechanism to create awareness among the farmers and general public on the improvement of poultry welfare?
- i) Training farmers
  - ii) Training public/private vets
  - iii) Radio / TV talk
- 16.** Do you think your veterinarians have knowledge on use of cage system and how it affects poultry welfare? Yes / No  
If yes: Majority average minimum,
- 17.** If you want to start a poultry business, would you prefer to use battery cages? Yes / No
- 18.** Are you familiar with governmental law governing chicken farming and its welfare? Yes / No/
- 19.** Do you know any other farmer who uses the caging system in his poultry? Yes / No/
- 20.** Do you think farmers are concerned about the welfare of chicken in cages? (about expressing natural behavior) Yes/ No
- 21.** Do you think poultry farmers using battery cages are interested to maximize profit only, rather than poultry welfare? Yes / No
- 22.** How do you transport your chicken?
- i) Plastic or bamboo cages
  - ii) Directly on motorcycle or vehicle
  - i) Other
- 23.** What is the size of your cage?
- 24.** How many fowls do you transport per cage?

## ANNEX 2: SOME PICTURES



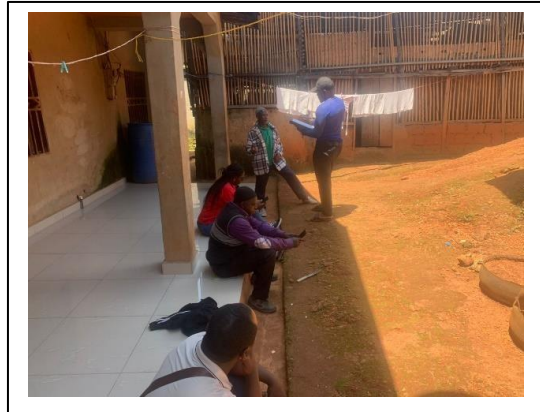
Focus Group Discussion with poultry farmers



Opening of Focus Group by Regional



Visit to renowned poultry farms



Visit to renowned poultry farms



Planning meeting with OIPA team



Meeting with farmers – West Region



Visit to regional Delegation



Farm visits



Farm visits – Littoral region



Regional Delegation – South West



Meeting with farmers – North Region

