



NEWSLETTER



Social-Economic Improvement through an Integrated Crops & Livestock System (ICLS) in Rwanda (NICHE/RWA/173).

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Preface

By **Carel Jaspers, Director Q-Point**



The project "Social-Economic Improvement through an Integrated Crops & Livestock System (ICLS) in Rwanda" (NICHE/RWA/173) started in March 2013. In May 2016, the project team of UR and Q-Point evaluated the progress of the project. The market research on pig and poultry systems and also on cropping systems for feed resulted already in some publications. Results will also be used for integration in the revised curriculum. In the last week of May 2016, the new poultry facilities were officially handed over to the UR team. Chickens are expected now in July, so facilities can be used for teaching and research purposes.

I hope you enjoy reading.
Carel Jaspers, director Q-Point

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Let's start making money with livestock!

By **Harm Wientjes MSc, Extension and Livestock specialist DLV Meat Group Consultancy**



The demonstration units for pigs and poultry are now ready! Last march the handover of the three poultry units was a fact. I can say I'm happy with the result and also with the process of how we got there, the UR team worked hard to get the best result possible. With limited resources we still were able to build nice poultry houses.

Now it is time to start stocking the houses and procure enough feeds. It is of course very important that the birds will get proper care. In my opinion this is an ideal

opportunity for recent graduates to start gaining some experience and combine practice with the acquired knowledge in University.



New poultry facilities

Livestock handling can be a very rewarding job, as you know I'm speaking from experience.

Besides the opportunity to use the pig and poultry houses for demonstration to farmers, students and outreach workers, there are many research topics that can now be addressed with these buildings. Ask dr. Mbuza for them, I'm sure he has multiple challenges to use as a thesis topic.



Storage room for poultry feed



Cage for research purposes

And lastly, the challenge with these new units and my call to you: Let's start making money with livestock!

Mission February-March 2016 to CAVM in Musanze

By Gert-Jan Duives, DVM (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine)/(senior-)lecturer animal health & care and production HAS Hogeschool.



Last February - March I visited the College of Animal Production and Veterinary Medicine (CAVM) in Musanze for a follow-up of the education part of the NICHE 173 project.

In the context of making training programmes more practice-oriented and student-centered, now we reached the point that staff was going to use the developed case studies in a real life situation. Second year students of the Animal Production study-programme were going to be the 'guinea pigs' in the first-time execution of Problem Based Learning (PBL).

In the months before my visit, staff worked hard to develop new PBL case-studies and improve existing ones. Hester van de Kuilen, an educational specialist

living in Rwanda, was of great help in coordinating those activities and motivating and teaching the lecturers with regard to case-study development. In addition she coordinated activities related to the development of materials for short courses for farmers.



Group discussion

During the first week of my visit attention was paid to theory and practice of PBL, which included a recap of the why, what and how of PBL and doing role-plays on the practice of PBL implementation. In the second week lecturers were executing the real thing. During that process they were intensively coached by me and after every session experiences were shared and discussed.

And.... the results of the pilot were beyond expectations! Both lecturers and students had become enthusiastic about the new education method. Students loved the integration of topics and felt responsible for their own learning activities. In addition they felt taken serious by their lecturers, which motivated them to proceed. Lecturers cherished the motivation of students and the discussions that took place. Also they enjoyed the linking up of theory with practical situations.



Problem analysis

It goes without saying that not everything went smooth, but the overall conclusion at the end of the pilot was that this way of teaching was a valuable asset and should

be implemented broadly within the training programmes.



Problem formulation

Now the momentum for rolling out PBL is there and the challenge is to get it really done. Some 5 to 6 lecturers were trained in this new method and they should be stimulated and facilitated to disseminate their knowledge and skills to their colleagues. For that reason policy- and decision makers of the College and School must be informed about the results and see and appreciate the benefits of student-centered learning.

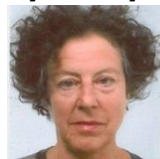
Yes, the introduction of this method needs some -but limited- inputs, both managerial and financial. However, if PBL is implemented correctly, the results in the end will be unlimited!



PBL Pilot crew

Current development pig and poultry

By Teddy Muffels, Agricultural counselor at Netherlands Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda



The pig and poultry sectors have become important sectors in Rwanda. Only 10 years ago the consumption of pork was almost nil and chicken was luxury meal for a few people. But because of increased urbanization and the focus from development partners on reducing malnutrition, securing food security and income generating activities for smallholders the rearing of pigs and poultry have become more widespread and the consumption more widely accepted. It also proves to be good investment opportunities as demand for processed pork is growing more and more. A few larger chicken farms have been set up (layers and broilers) aiming at substituting the import from Kenya and

Uganda and taking advantage on closeness to the DRC market segment. Some Dutch poultry companies are already active in the supply chain of poultry sector, like in supplying chicks, feed, and housing concepts. The pork market has become a new market and a new food and quite a few farmers have adopted this new livestock activity. Feed remains a problem in particular for chicken because of lack of sufficient raw materials and competition with other livestock businesses like dairy. The notion for quality both for inputs and outputs and housing of the animals is increasing, resulting in higher efficiency and well tasting products. The slaughtering and quality control system is well in place in Rwanda resulting in safe food.

Problem-based learning at CAVM

By Hester van Kuilen, Education consultant dp²



With the ambition to make education at the College of Animal Production and Veterinary Medicine more labour market oriented and student-centered, the department of animal production undertook several activities. The labour market needs analysis, that was conducted earlier as part of the project, showed that employers missed innovative and communication skills among the graduates. It was therefore decided to start a pilot in Problem-Based Learning (PBL). This is an education model that enable students to become innovative and to solve problems. In small groups, supervised and assisted by a lecturer, students jointly seek solutions for real life problems.

Two education experts, Gert-Jan Duives from HAS Hogeschool en Hester van de Kuilen trained a team of lecturers in PBL. That included creating awareness about the new role of lecturers – coaching instead of lecturing - and developing real life case studies that students need to solve. Since PBL is quite a profound change, it was decided to give the lecturers, who were responsible for the pilot, intensive coaching on the job. The pilot turned out to be a great success. Students appreciated the multidisciplinary approach and felt challenged to find relevant information in books and on Internet. Lecturers valued the active involvement of students, their questioning, self-guided study and their motivation to participate in the PBL sessions.



The two trainers Gert-Jan Duives and Hester van de Kuilen from the Netherland together with lecturers from the department of animal production

The next challenging step is further roll-out of PBL. This requires first of all the involvement and support of the University of Rwanda. Currently the project coordinators Francis Mbuza and Denis Majyambere are reaching out to persons responsible for education at the university.

25.000 chickens for egg consumption

By Carel Jaspers, Director Q-Point

The company, Abusol Ltd in Rwanda, will accommodate 25 000 chickens for egg consumption. Vencomatic Group is pleased to provide poultry knowledge and high-quality laying systems to Abusol Ltd. Jean-Baptiste Musabyimana, the Managing Director and owner of Abusol Ltd, worked in collaboration with Peter-Bart Lichtenbeld, Regional Sales Director at Vencomatic Group.



Chickens for egg consumption

The poultry house is equipped with: Classic Sidebelt Nest, Ovologic – egg transport system, feeding system, drinking system, lightning and heating system.



Laying system Vencomatic Group - Abusol Ltd Rwanda

"Our intention is to bring high quality eggs to the market, but also assist farmers around here to lift the poultry business to a level of a successful performing industry," says Musabyimana.

Activities in May 2016

By Carel Jaspers, Director Q-Point



In the first week of May, the project team organized a project management meeting at Kigali, to prepare the annual report year 3. After a fruitful discussion regarding the achievement of outputs and outcomes and preparation of the draft report, the progress of the report was presented to Prof Philip Cotton, Vice Chancellor of the University of Rwanda. The session was very inter-active and issues as how to integrate Problem Based Learning (PBL) as one of the methods in education at UR and also how to manage the farm facilities of UR in a (financial) sustainable way.

After the meeting, there was a Cocktail Party with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of The Netherlands Mrs. Frederique Man accompanied by Mrs. Teddie Muffels from the Embassy. Dr Francis Mbuza, the Project Coordinator, outline the successes and achievements of the project and to project the actions of 2016-2017 final year of the project. During the Cocktail stakeholders from Ministry of Agriculture and RAB but also other participants CAVM and our educational expert Mrs. Hester van Kuilen were present for informal discussion.

When the first draft reports were prepared during the two days session, the team moved to Nygatarara to visit the campus. The piggery housing was totally renovated and new poultry facilities were constructed. The facilities will be used for demonstration, teaching an applied research activities. Also two labs were renovated with the support of the Niche project.



Renovated lab

The last year of project implementation will focus on capacity building of technical staff of the labs but also to support the farm management. Teaching staff will be supported with the implementation of short courses for stakeholders and further implementation of PBL.

UR-CAVM discusses strategy and measures to mainstream gender in agriculture



The University of Rwanda –College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (UR-CAVM) organized an inclusive workshop on gender mainstreaming issues in curriculum, teaching methodology, research, outreach and overall administration activities. The workshop took place from Monday 14th to Tuesday 15th March 2016 at UR Headquarters.

Participants included; Deans of schools, Head of Departments, Coordinators of MSc Programs, Directors and representatives of other UR colleges, IPRC Kigali, MINAGRI, MIGEPROF, MINEDUCT, and UN WOMEN.

The aim of this workshop was for participants to understand gender measures, tools and mainstreaming strategy for use in curriculum, research,

outreach and administration activities within and outside the College. Under the facilitation of Q-Point participants brainstormed on and proposed steps to integrate and mainstream Gender in curriculum development and teaching methodology, Research and extension through self-assessment and practicing using gender analysis tools and measures.

The workshop closed with remarks from the University of Rwanda Vice Chancellor, Prof. Phil Cotton together with the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academics and Research, who expressed the need for the entire University to adopt the learned strategies and measures in order to ensure that gender issues and gaps are addressed as highlighted in the University strategic plan 2015-2016

<http://www.cavm.ur.ac.rw/> .

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**College of Agriculture, Animal
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Donor

This project is financed by MINBUZA through EP-Nuffic (Netherlands organization by international cooperation in higher education).



Colophon

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