



AWARENESS OF POULTRY FARMERS AND TRADERS ON NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN KENYA

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Tropentag 2018, September 17-19, 2018, Ghent University, Belgium

Poster Id: 344



Introduction

Chicken industry in Kenya classified into 4 sectors (Omiti and Okuthe, 2011)

Sector 1: Industrial Integrated

Commercial and downstream integration

·High biosecurity levels

Sector 2: Hatcheries

·High biosecurity levels

Sector 3: Semi commercial enterprises

·Small scale producers

·Low levels of biosecurity

Sector 4: Backyard Chicken

·Subsistence oriented

·Little use of veterinary inputs

·No biosecurity measures

Table 1: Poultry subsector in Kenya

- Sector 4 is most dominant with use of minimum inputs
- Newcastle disease (ND) is the biggest challenge resulting in mortalities. Awareness is one of the challenges facing ND control in Kenya.
- Lack of awareness results in flaws in production and marketing that result in disease outbreaks
- Limited information available regarding awareness of ND among farmers and traders

Materials and Methods

- Study area: Kakamega County. High number of household rearing chicken. Newcastle disease is the biggest challenge facing production in the county.
- Participatory Research – Learning from farmers' and traders experiences.
- Figure 1 shows poultry farmers and traders in a focus group discussion with the researchers to identify key issues along the poultry value chain.



Figure 1; Participants at the Focus group discussion (FGD)

- A household survey of 192 chicken farmers and 119 chicken traders. Figure 2 shows an enumerator administering a questionnaire to a poultry farmer



Figure 2: Interview of respondents by enumerators

- Data Collected on chicken production systems, management practices awareness to Newcastle disease and outbreaks, marketing practices and socio-demographic characteristics
- Descriptive statistics used to present data from this study

Results and discussion

· Results from figure 3 show that poultry production is dominated by women while chicken trade and marketing is dominated. by men. Women are involved in the day to day management of chicken while men dominate cash activities relating to chicken (Ochieng et al., 2013).

· Low access to disease and animal health training among farmers (20%) and traders (18%). This results in poor practices and prevention methods leading to disease outbreaks.

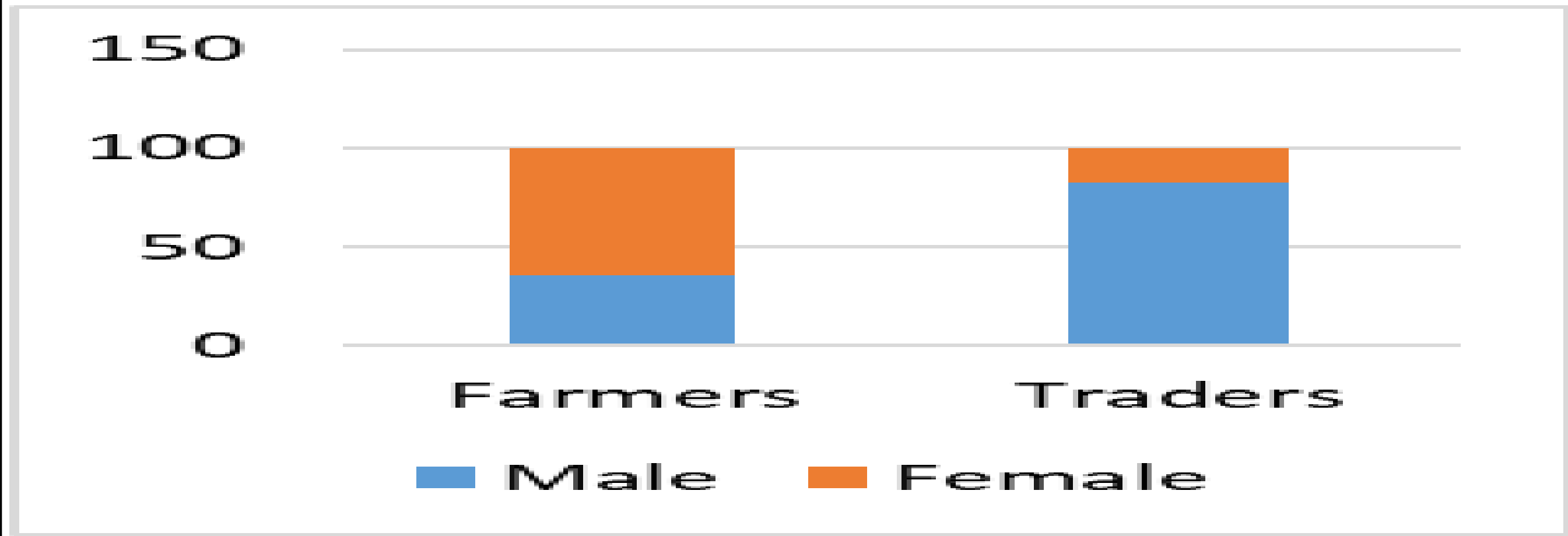


Figure 3; Gender distribution of respondents.

- Figure 4 reveals that awareness to ND was higher among farmers compared to traders. The disease was identified by its local name “muyekha”.
- Some respondents were also identify the signs and symptoms associated with the disease.
- ND is endemic in Kenya hence high losses economic losses due to mortalities.

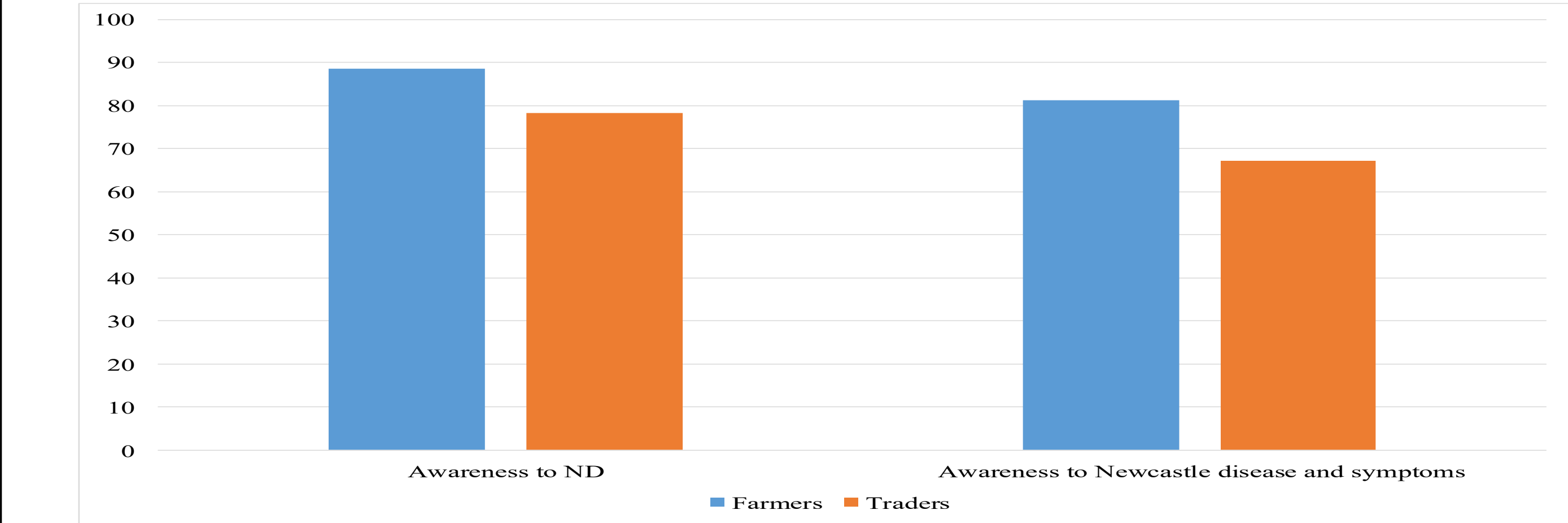


Figure 4: Awareness of Newcastle disease among farmers and traders

- As revealed in figure 35 more than three quarters of traders (78%) had experienced ND among their flock, compared to farmers (46%). This demonstrates that disease outbreaks were common in live bird markets compared to farms.

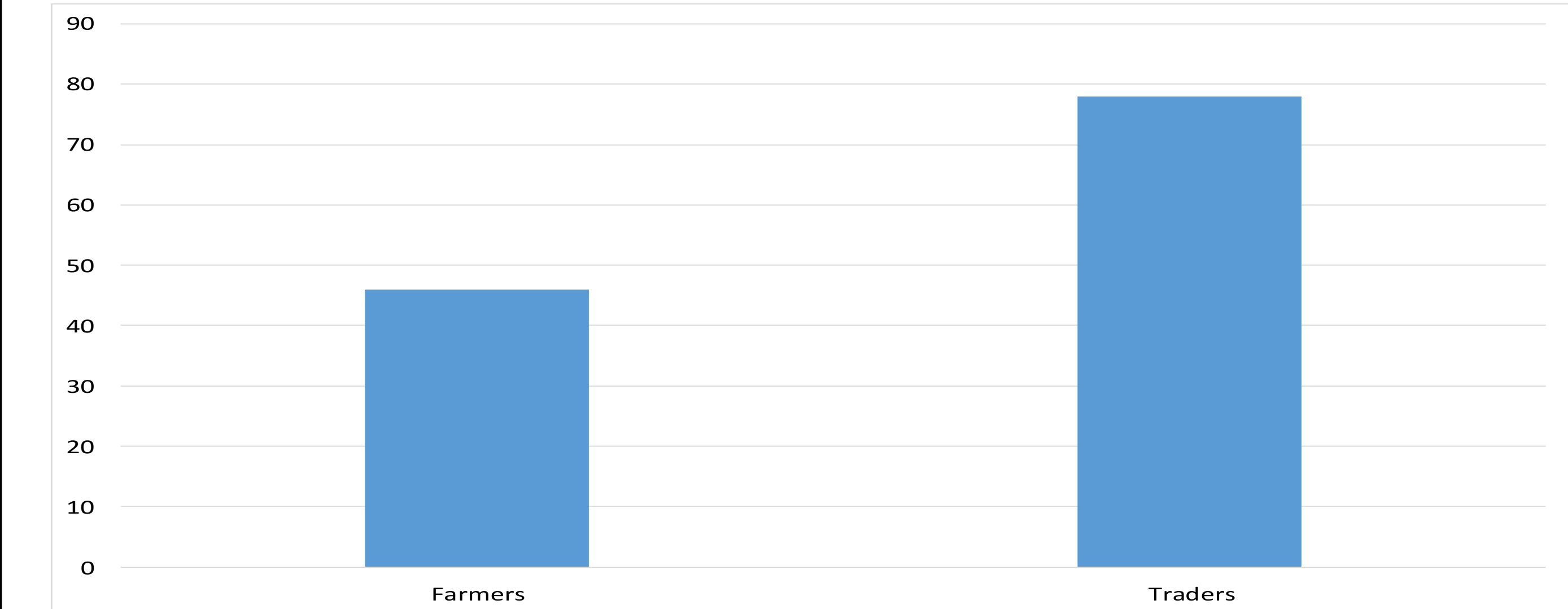


Figure 5: Outbreaks of Newcastle disease

- Lack of biosecurity measures, limited awareness on ND and nature of chicken trade increase the likelihood of disease outbreaks in live bird markets

Conclusions & policy implications

- Access to agricultural support services should also be improved. Support services like access to credit should be improved to allow farmers and traders to invest in better chicken production and marketing practices.
- There is need for training of farmers and traders on better value chain practices , animal health and disease control. This will help reduce outbreaks.
- There is need for awareness campaigns to improve the level of disease awareness among traders and farmers regarding disease and disease control.

Acknowledgments

- We are very grateful to the Disease Threats Reduction Agency (DTRA), Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), The Department of Veterinary Services (DVS)- Kenya and the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) for supporting different aspects of this study.
- Special thanks to all the chicken farmers and traders in Kakamega county, Kenya who voluntarily shared with us this information.

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