



**National  
Rural  
Poultry  
Centre**

**M a l a w i**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2015-2016**



**Village Poultry - Village Livelihoods**

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## Who we are

The National Rural Poultry Centre  
PO Box 81  
Likuni  
Malawi  
Tel: +265 995 943034  
nrpc@ruralpoultrymalawi.org  
<http://www.ruralpoultrymalawi.org>

The National Rural Poultry Centre (NRPC) is a local Malawian NGO which is in the process of completing its registration with CONGOMA. It was formed in early 2013 as an affiliate of the International Rural Poultry Centre, a subsidiary of the KYEEMA Foundation based in Brisbane, Australia.

The NRPC exists to promote the needs of smallholder poultry farmers throughout Malawi and to raise livelihoods and contribute to improved nutrition in rural areas of Malawi. It is entirely dedicated to the improvement of village poultry.

### Our Vision and Goals

The **vision** of NRPC is:

- Improved livelihoods amongst resource poor and vulnerable families.

The **mission** of NRPC is:

- To sustainably improve rural livelihoods through interventions encompassing poultry.

Its **goals** are:

- To empower, educate and motivate individuals and communities;
- To contribute to socio-economic development of resource poor families;
- To advance village poultry health and production;
- To prevent and control diseases of poultry;
- To act as an information centre on rural poultry.



## Our Board of Trustees

Overall policy development and strategic direction of the NRPC is vested in its five member Board of Trustees which is comprised of:

- Prof Timothy Gondwe, Director, Natural Resources College, Lilongwe (Chairperson)
- Dr Patrick Chikungwa (representing the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development)
- Dr Gilson Njunga
- Mrs Judith Kanyama-Chikoti
- Mr Bernet Lwara

Dr Pat Boland, Director of NRPC, is Secretary to the Board.

## Our Strategic Plan

The Board of NRPC has adopted a Strategic Plan which documents the long-term chosen direction of the organisation over the next few years. It outlines some of the current trends and the means by which NRPC hopes to align its work with the needs and opportunities for socio-economic development in the country.

## Our Staff

The current staff of NRPC consist of the Director, Dr Pat Boland, and the Technical Adviser, Mr Luka Tumbwe. Up until 30 March 2016, NRPC engaged Mr Wongani Khonje as Field Technician supporting its work in Ntchisi (see Key Projects below).

## Our policies

The NRPC Board of Trustees has endorsed policies applicable to the organisation on the following topics:

- Policy on Equal Employment Opportunity
- Policy on Leadership Succession Plan
- Guiding Principles for the NRPC Education/Training program

## Registration

NRPC has an application for registration and incorporation submitted to the Registrar-General's Department and has addressed all outstanding issues. Approval of the application is still awaited.

## What we do

### Community based projects

NRPC conducts activities and projects designed to improve rural livelihoods through interventions encompassing village poultry. Using sound time-honoured techniques, NRPC assists rural communities to improve the production of their existing poultry flocks through better control of Newcastle disease, better control of other diseases, and better housing especially of young chickens.

## Support for Newcastle disease control

Continued sustainable production of the I-2 vaccine is a key element in the strategies promoted by NRPC for rural areas of Malawi. NRPC thus supports and assists its key partner, the I-2 Newcastle disease vaccine production unit located at the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Lilongwe. This government run facility is the only source of Newcastle disease vaccine suitable for use in village chickens in Malawi.

## Liaison and networking

In an effort to improve representation of the rural poultry sector in relevant fora, NRPC participates in meetings and events which have an impact on policy direction for that sector.

NRPC liaises and collaborates with other NGOs in interventions involving rural poultry. Poultry are often one component of a multi-strategy approach to improving rural livelihoods but the lead implementing agencies do not necessarily have the requisite experience and technical expertise to efficiently bring about lasting improvements in rural poultry production. NRPC can and does play important advisory and training roles in such cases. In addition, NGOs and community organisations often request support from NRPC in planning and execution of their Newcastle disease vaccination programs. The physical location of the NRPC office as well as its close links with the I-2 vaccine production unit make it an ideal institution to play such a support role.

## Communications

NRPC has an active communications program involving its web site and its network of contacts. The organisation regularly updates its network members on news and issues of relevance to its work with rural poultry.

Via its web site, NRPC provides a list of on-line publications which are of relevance to institutions working in the rural poultry sector. In addition, it has produced its own publications, many of which can be obtained free of charge from its web site.

## Key Projects

### Ntchisi

During the year under review, NRPC continued and concluded its project based in Ntchisi and entitled "Improving Rural Livelihoods in Malawi Through Village Poultry".

Funding for this project was provided by Palladium (previously GRM International) through the Communities 1st program. Funding was channeled through the KYEEMA Foundation which took overall responsibility for management of this project.



Key outcomes of that project were the training of some 43 community based poultry technicians who have so far vaccinated more than 65,000 chickens. Towards the end of the project period, NRPC took pains to evaluate the impact of the inputs as judged by farmers themselves. This evaluation revealed spectacular success. It found that Newcastle disease was the single biggest

cause of loss in village chickens and that households which had not vaccinated lost over five times as many chickens as a percentage of their flock, compared to those which had vaccinated. These results were a strong vindication of the overall project design.

NRPC is acutely aware of the opportunities for improvement in production of rural poultry. In collaboration with partners, it continues to identify specific new opportunities for support to the sector.

## Significant other activities

### Establishment of the Consultative Group on Newcastle Disease in Village Poultry

In June 2016, NRPC played a key role in a meeting of the 'Consultative Group on Newcastle Disease in Village Poultry'. The meeting was convened by the National Rural Poultry Centre and Inter-Aide (a France based NGO) with the aim of enabling coordinated input from all stakeholders to help ensure the long term stability of supply and use of the I-2 vaccine and ensure effective control of Newcastle disease in village chickens. The group identified key issues of significance which NRPC in collaboration with Inter-Aide was asked to follow up.

### Support to the I-2 vaccine Production Unit

When production of the I-2 vaccine at the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Lilongwe was under threat due to a shortage of dropper bottles, NRPC liaised with its partners on possible solutions. As a result, some AUD \$14,300 was allocated by the KYEEMA Foundation to assist the Government of Malawi to procure 40,000 dropper bottles. Newcastle disease is the single biggest cause of loss among rural poultry. It generally strikes two or three times each year and kills most of the chickens in the flock. KYEEMA's action ensured a smooth supply of I-2 vaccine to rural areas for control of the disease. It assisted the Government of Malawi in the production of some 12 million doses of vaccine to be distributed to rural communities over a period of some 18 months. The benefits of this vaccine are undoubtedly enormous.



### Publications

In June, NRPC published a facsimile copy of a booklet by Anne Downes entitled "A Guide to Guinea Fowl Farming in Malawi". This book was originally published in 1999 by the Malawi Department of National Parks and Wildlife with funding from the UNDP. The facsimile edition is now available on the NRPC web site.

### Education Program

The education program administered by NRPC has enabled support for one female student to undertake a degree course in Animal Science at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) Bunda Campus. The candidate, Ms Adija Masambo, has now successfully completed her third year, during which she initiated a research project on marketing value chain analysis of local chickens and eggs in Mangochi.

With support from several sources, NRPC is now examining further opportunities for education support with an emphasis on outcomes which benefit the rural poultry sector.

## Financial Picture

First, a big thank you to the generous people and institutions who have contributed to the work of NRPC through donations and in-kind support!

Pending registration and incorporation of NRPC, the organisation has relied on funding channelled through its affiliate organisation, the KYEEMA Foundation. This has enabled the proper financial management of activities in Malawi with all expenditure being acquitted to the satisfaction of KYEEMA. The KYEEMA funds are managed under its Developing Country Relief Funding (DCRF) facility control of which vested in the DCRF Management Committee.

This financial year, total NRPC revenue was equivalent to USD \$13,013.82 of which about half was tranches of funds sent by KYEEMA specifically for expenditure on the Ntchisi program.

Revenue and expenditure breakdown was as shown in the following table:

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>AUD</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>MWK</b>
Donations		6,415.19	
Project funding (Ntchisi)		6,598.63	
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Ntchisi project			3,481,740
Education program			485,000
Other activities		292.88	755,532
<b>Closing balance 30 June 2016</b>	<b>298.82</b>	<b>4,135.15</b>	<b>308,553</b>

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Report prepared by: Pat Boland

1 December 2016