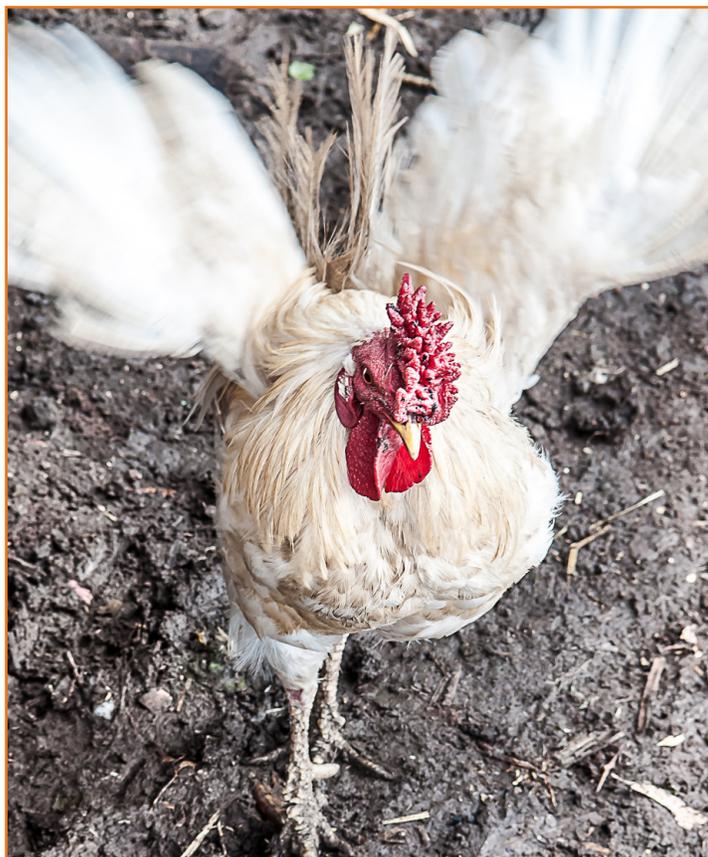


# FSF+ Learning Series: The financial and nutritional potential of scavenging poultry in Ethiopia



Above: The scavenging chicken promises significant nutritional and income enhancements to farmers and families in Ethiopia  
(photo credit: G. Shaw, shaw.communication@gmail.com)

## Scavenging poultry as a source of nutrition and income

As a healthy and inexpensive source of protein, poultry offers significant opportunity to enhance the nutrition of rural families in Ethiopia. Likewise, poultry remains an attractive supplementary income for farmers due to numerous factors including short maturation periods, high productivity rates, low input costs, general acceptance among local consumers, and the complementary role domesticated birds play to other agricultural activities.

Yet despite poultry's potential for enhancing and diversifying income streams, constraints such as disease, predators, poor housing and nutrition, and limited technical farming knowledge have frequently undermined poultry production in much of the country's smallholder farming sector. Additionally, local breeds of Ethiopian chickens have

not been bred to be the most effective poultry available, yet

Right: Map of Ethiopia, with FSF+ programming zones highlighted as well as the country's capital city, Addis Ababa

are well suited for the country's diverse and sometimes challenging climates. With an estimated 50+ million chickens, approximately 99 per cent local breeds, more work in this sector could provide meaningful diversified revenue and nutrition for smallholder farmers, especially marginalized women.

CARE Ethiopia's Food Sufficiency for Farmers (FSF) Project, in collaboration with Haramaya University, developed a scavenging poultry management manual in Amharic and Afaan Oromo. CARE worked with smallholder farmers and the government's woreda livestock agency experts, Development Agents, and local government offices to provide technical trainings on poultry management including breed selection; egg incubation; flock management; poultry housing; feed types; disease management; and poultry business management and profitability modelling. Training was provided to 58 (14 female) livestock experts from woreda and zone agriculture offices who then prepared action plans for scavenging poultry extension services and supported another 650 households to practice the full package of poultry care (vaccination, watering, supplementary feed, and housing). CARE also worked with government to supply a limited disbursement of immunization products and enhanced feed to boost household poultry production. In South Gondor alone, FSF facilitated vaccinations for chickens in 29 kebeles, constructed 8,319 poultry shelters, and provided 310,900 kg (3,109 quintals) of enhanced feed. Enhanced poultry farming clearly helped increase and diversify participant incomes and nutrition.

## CARE Ethiopia's Food Sufficiency for Farmers Project

The Food Sufficiency for Farmers Project (FSF) was established to aid rural, smallholder farmers in diversifying their income; enhancing agricultural production quality; and building greater resistance and resilience to economic and other potential shocks. FSF also included gender components to address barriers to women's economic empowerment for marginalised rural women.



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