

KALRO improved indigenous chicken (KIIC)

The KALRO improved indigenous chicken (KIIC) is in high demand by poultry producers. However, the supply of day old chicks from this breed has been low forcing farmers to wait for a long time. Some of the farmers prefer 4-week old chicks but currently the source, which has been KALRO-Naivasha does not have the capacity to rear them. The implication is that farmers who prefer this class of chicks (mainly the more resource poor farmers) cannot be served. Under ASAL APRP project, rearing model were developed where the following private sector activities are used to increase the number of chicks available to farmers:

- i. Breeder farmer/hatching farmers – these are farmers who can invest and therefore keep a parent stock to produce fertile eggs (currently KALRO-Naivasha is the only source of fertile eggs). As the eggs must be produced under strict management conditions so as to have controlled breeding and disease control, the selected farmers are those willing to invest in appropriate infrastructure. These farmers can produce fertile eggs and sell to those with hatching equipment or they can invest in hatching equipment.
- ii. Brooder farmers – this group of farmers get day old chicks from KALRO and from breeder farmer/hatching farmers and grow the chicks to four (4) weeks and then sell to grower farmers.
- iii. Grower farmers – these farmers will grow poultry for the market.