



## Concept note

<b>Title</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Planning Meeting for Native Chicken AUC Research Project Team</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RUFORUM 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, 2-6<sup>th</sup> December 2019, Cape Coast, Ghana</b></p>
<b>Background</b>	<p>Livestock production is rapidly evolving across the globe mainly driven by a high demand for food of animal origin. The rising demand is attributed to urbanisation, human population increase, changing dietary habits, better incomes, and other drivers. Livestock production systems particularly in emerging economies face varying pressures and among these are: a threat of genetic erosion of indigenous ecotypes, poor productivity due to reducing marginal utility of natural resources especially feeds, environmental degradation and reduced natural health services provision. It is appreciated that diversity in production systems is pertinent for a sustainable world where different species require varying feedstuffs, and general care standards. On the African continent, indigenous animal genetic resources remain essential for food security, and contribution to livelihoods of over 500 million people within and other outside the African continent. When we considering that over 80% of rural poor in Africa are smallholder livestock keepers who largely rear small stock, especially goats, chickens, rabbits, and pigs, understanding the dynamics of those enterprises is critical for impacting the livelihoods of the keepers of such livestock. Part of this understanding is needed on the genetic diversity and effects of selective improvement of the African livestock as well as their response to high and low planes of nutrition and health care. High producing livestock breeds have been introduced into most African countries but their productivity and economic performance are still sub-optimal. This scientific meeting was arranged to provide a forum for exchange of ideas and practices on livestock science and production from stakeholders on the African continent so as to expand on the community of practice. Scientists working in the area of nutrition, health and breeding and genetics as well as other associated disciplines of animal and veterinary science should consolidate efforts on resolving the fight against poverty on the African continent with livestock as a key vehicle. The promise of poverty alleviation and ensuring food and nutritional security using small stock such as pigs, goats, sheep, chickens, cavia, bees, and others as a vehicle is widely recognised. The African Union Commission recently provided a financial grant to a research consortium led by Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique to work on Marker-assisted breeding of native chickens both Mozambique and Uganda, and under the auspices of this project, this meeting was born.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is holding the Annual General Meeting at Cape Coast, Ghana between 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> December 2019. This meeting brings together scientists and research leaders from across the African continent. It was therefore planned that the MAB Native Chicken Project team attends the RUFORUM AGM and holds the project planning and progress review</p>



	workshop alongside the AGM, just as it will attend several other meetings in Benin, Mozambique, Uganda and Ethiopia. MAB project has also co-sponsored a scientific session on Livestock and Livestock Production systems at which several papers will be presented.
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Review Re-align the work plan to expedite implementation of project activities</li> <li>b. Review project implementation strategy documents – logical frameworks; partnerships management; Knowledge management systems and tools; participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks; communication strategy; financial management at partner institutions; risk management strategies.</li> <li>c. Attend and participate actively in the Scientific session on Livestock and Livestock Production systems;</li> <li>d.</li> </ul>
<b>Outputs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Realigned project work plan</li> <li>b. Data collection Tools – E-tools, questionnaires, cameras; and Sampling protocols for Blood, Feeds, Feecal samples</li> <li>c. Project implementation strategy documents reviewed</li> <li>d. Present papers and participate in plenary discussions</li> </ul>
<b>Venue:</b>	School of Graduate Studies Conference Room, University of Cape Coast, Ghana
<b>Day 1:</b>	<p>MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019</p> <p>8:30-10:30 AM; 11:00-13:00 PM; 14:30-17:00 PM</p>
<b>Day 2:</b>	<p>TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019</p> <p>8:30-10:30 AM; 11:00-13:00 PM;</p>