

IEF Global Egg School

 Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

 8 February 2022



In Zimbabwe, 63% of people live below the poverty line and 27% of children have stunted growth. In 2020, 7.7 million people - half the population - were predicted to have faced food insecurity at the peak of the lean season.¹

Agriculture remains a key pillar of Zimbabwe's economy. A high proportion of Zimbabweans are situated rurally, with their income generated directly from agriculture and other related rural economic activities. Recognising the opportunity to support an increase in egg farming productivity and business success, the IEF launched its first Zimbabwe Global Egg School on 8 February 2022.

Taking place at Sondelani Ranching in Bulawayo, the programme aimed to provide participants with practical technical training to improve their understanding of crucial processes in egg production, and enable them to pass on this knowledge to their teams at Sondelani, as well as other egg farmers in the region.

The school delivered expert insights into layer hen management, with particular focus on why certain practices are important and how they can lead to improved animal health and welfare, and thus increase productivity.



In partnership with
Lohmann Breeders

What did the attendees learn?



Layer rearing

Participants explored how to get pullets into lay in good time to improve production efficiency.



Layer nutrition

Participants learnt about nutrition in rearing and how feed can affect production efficiency.



Biosecurity

Participants gained a deeper understanding of why biosecurity measures are needed.

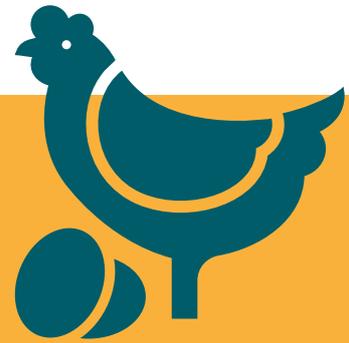


Human nutrition

Participants learnt about the many health benefits of eggs in human consumption.

The Global Egg School programme was delivered to a broad range of participants who would not only directly benefit from the training, but would also have an instrumental role in further disseminating the learnt knowledge.

The 'train the trainer' approach ensured that the positive impact of the programme would extend far beyond the attendees themselves, ultimately benefitting the wider community as a whole.



A technical team of international experts provided by IEF industry partner, Lohmann Breeders, each provided a session based on their specialist knowledge and experience in the industry.

Robert Pottgüter, Nutritionist, Global Technical Services, provided his expertise on layer nutrition. This was followed by a session by Business Development Manager, Mohammed Chairi, who shared his vast experience in Africa and the Middle East through his presentation on practical insights into effective rearing. Finally, Viola Holik, Area Manager for Africa, used her extensive experience to help participants gain a better understanding of biosecurity, concluding with her presentation on eggs in human health.



As well as reinforcing many of the existing production concepts they were already familiar with, the school provided participants with new insights and ideas to pass on.

Sondelani Ranching reported that, following the programme, "each manager delivered a small presentation of where they were before the Global Egg School, what they had improved/fixed, and where they are at now."

The programme was furthermore supported with take-home resources for the participants, in the form of a Biosecurity Checklist supplied by the International Egg Commission, as well as informational leaflets on the benefits of eggs in human nutrition.