PREFACE

The preparation of this report was part of the activities for the FAO project "Future prospects for the contribution of village poultry production to food security in developing Asian economies" (GCP/RAS/228/GER) that was funded by the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GTZ)". The production systems of small poultry producers show a significant variety from very low input systems with scavenging birds to those with improved genetic resources, supplementary feeding and animal health interventions. In many countries the exact type of poultry used in the small production systems is presently not well understood. The recognition of the needs to fully consider poultry genetic resources and their genetic diversity has only recently got momentum due to the outbreaks of Avian Influenza and the related control measures. A characterization of the existing poultry genetic resources and the knowledge where and with which numbers they exist is absolutely essential to consider them in disease control programmes. Investigating how local birds are affected by disease outbreaks will help to understand potential specific characteristics of the genetic resources. A good understanding of the production systems of small poultry producers including their priorities and constraints is also required to design and implement appropriate control strategies for the small poultry producers. This will help to achieve cooperation and proper involvement of small farmers in disease prevention and control programmes. It will also assist Governments to make appropriate plans for designing and implementing their disease control strategies. The figures and photos of this report describe important phenotypic features of chickens and ducks. They are compiled to assist with the characterization of non described populations in developing countries. We hope this report will provide accurate and useful information to its readers and any feedback is welcome by the author and the Animal Production Service (AGAP)\(^1\) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

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GENERAL TERMS FOR POULTRIES

- Comb
- Nostil
- Beak
- Wattles
- Shoulder Coverts
- Wing Bow
- Wing Covert or “Bar”
- Breast
- Toes

[Diagram of a chicken labeled with the above terms]
SHANK LENGTH

From this point, where is the base of the toe, to the other extreme of the shank
SHANK CHARACTERISTICS - COLOURS

White variety

Green variety (above)
Grey-Blue variety (below)

Green variety (above)
Yellow variety (below)

Black variety
COMBS

Single comb
COMBS

Pea Variety

Cushion Variety

Rose varieties
COMBS

Double Varieties
CHARACTERIZATION OF CHICKENS AND DUCKS

EAR-LOB COLOUR

Red

White

Blue

Red-white
EYES COLOUR

Orange  Brown
Red  Pearl
OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Crest

Naked neck

Beard and muffs
OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Illustration showing fifth toe in five-toe breeds

Polydactil

Frizzled

Silky
Characterization of Chickens and Ducks
INTERESTING GENERAL TERMS FOR DUCKS

PARTS OF THE DUCK
1 Beak, 2 Bean, 3 Nostril, 4 Eye, 5 Ear, 6 Neck, 7 Back, 8 Breast, 9 Wing, 10 Wing-feathers, 11 Tail, 12 Abdomen, 13 Dewlap, 14 Thigh, 15 Shank, 16 Toe, 17 Web.
BODY CARRIAGE

Horizontal

Slight Upright

Upright
SHANK CHARACTERISTICS - COLOURS

Yellow variety

Slate grey variety  Black variety
BILL CHARACTERISTICS - COLOUR

Pink-White

Orange

Yellow
BILL CHARACTERISTICS - COLOUR

Slate grey

Black
BILL CHARACTERISTICS – SHAPE

Uniform

Saddle
BILL CHARACTERISTICS – SHAPE

Hooked bill (It will be rare)
BILL CHARACTERISTICS – SHAPE

Short bill less than 3 cm (Call ducks)
BILL CHARACTERISTICS – BEAN

White

Black

Dark brown
CREST
Eyes colour

Yellow

Dark
OTHER CHARACTERISTICS IN MUSCOVIES DUCKS

Caruncle colour red

Caruncle colour black