

Kumasi is Ghana's second largest city after Accra and is the capital of the Ashanti Region.

Kumasi is located in the south-central part of the country 100 miles inland from the coast and the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly (KMA) is responsible for a population of some 700,000 to 1 million people.



Small cattle farm in Accra

Photo by D. Fielding

# Findings of a Survey into Urban livestock in Kumasi, Ghana

This survey was undertaken in 1999 with the aim of characterising urban livestock keeping in Kumasi and identifying the problems encountered by livestock keepers. The survey was carried out in association with the Institute of Renewable Natural Resources, University of Science and Technology, Kumasi. The following criteria were used to define the 'urban' setting: high density housing with few undeveloped areas remaining; piped water supply with few wells or boreholes; electricity supplied from the national grid; regular transport to and from the city centre; and presence of many small kiosks selling everyday items such as bread, sugar etc. Two urban areas were selected – Anloga and Aboabo, approximately 4km from the city centre. A pre-tested semi-structured questionnaire via an interpreter was used to gather information from 30 randomly selected households in each of the two areas – a total of 60 interviewees.

## SURVEY FINDINGS

Twenty-eight (47%) of those interviewed mentioned that they were livestock keepers. Almost all owned their own houses whilst for non-livestock keepers only half were in this fortunate position. Of the livestock keepers 68% were male.

Half of those keeping livestock had chick-

ens whilst only one person kept ducks. Eighty-six percent of livestock enterprises were on-plot, i.e. at the house of the owner. Whilst income generation and household food production were the main reasons given for livestock keeping, only 14% of livestock keepers secured more than half their total income from livestock. The majority of animals had originally been purchased locally in and around Kumasi.

The major types of food used to feed livestock in descending order of popularity were: kitchen waste (cassava and plantain peelings), animal scavenged food, brewers' grains, maize chaff, maize grains, fishmeal, cut grass, pito mash (- local beer making by-product) rice grains, and fodder tree leaves. Ninety-six percent of livestock keepers disposed of animal waste on the local refuse tip and the carcasses of dead animals were in evidence on these same tips.

The problems reported by the urban livestock keepers interviewed in Kumasi, in descending order of importance, are shown in Table 1. The data in Table 1 suggest that animal keepers are keen to increase both their number of animals and the productivity of these animals. Thirty-nine percent of livestock keepers reported that they used the government veterinary service for animal health problems but they also carried out many treatments themselves.

Half the livestock keepers accepted that livestock were a cause of conflict with non-livestock keepers as a result of food (when

laid out for drying) and property damage. Livestock owners also accepted that livestock were associated with problems such as pollution, risks to human health, 'cattle mauling people' and traffic accidents.

Not surprisingly perhaps over 80 % of the non-livestock keepers saw livestock as a problem and a cause of conflict. The lowest level of objection was associated with the keeping of chickens and the use of confinement methods of housing as compared to freely roaming goats and cows.

## DISCUSSION

It is clear that urban livestock keeping is an important activity in Kumasi. Roughly half of the poorest urban households in Kumasi appear to keep some type of livestock in either confined or free-ranging systems. Chickens were by far the most numerous, both in terms of

Table 1: Problems of urban livestock keepers in Kumasi

Problems	Number of respondents	%
Animal diseases	11	39
No money to buy more animals	10	36
Insufficient space for animals	8	28
Theft	7	25
High cost of veterinary assistance/drug	3	11
KMA harassment	3	11
Animals eating plastic bags	1	3
No problems	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>44*</b>	<b>156*</b>

\* multiple response

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The survey reported here was undertaken as an MSc project by the main author

households keeping them and in actual numbers. The presence of cattle, sheep and goats was strongly correlated with owners who were Muslim. Sheep, and goats in particular, are required for various Muslim festivals and this explains their relatively high number amongst the Muslim community.

Surprisingly this survey did not find evidence of urban-rural linkages. Respondents mentioned little or no inflow of food or animals from rural areas and no outflow of manure to even peri-urban farmers. However, the encouragement of such links e.g. providing peri-urban market sites could be beneficial for all concerned.

'Trespassing', the uncontrolled movement of animals into other people's houses was the main cause of conflict between livestock and non-livestock owners.

The Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly does not object to chickens but does object to free roaming larger animals such as sheep, goats and cattle. Some owners of large livestock reported harassment by the authorities, who were trying to relocate their animals outside the city area. Although the authorities claimed that they would impound large animals found wandering in the streets the authors believe that such an act would lead to significant civil unrest in the survey areas.

Urban livestock farming in Kumasi is a community-tolerated phenomenon. Rules and regulations relating to livestock will only work with community acceptance and if this is not present then people will do whatever is necessary to try to secure their livelihoods.

It is difficult to imagine that the Ghana government or the Kumasi Authority will ever see the promotion and support of improved urban livestock keeping as a high enough priority to justify financial investment. Any changes that do occur are likely to result from changes in the overall level of poverty and availability of alternative employment opportunities. If people secure employment and become less poor then livestock keeping will tend to reduce as a result of community pressure from non-livestock keepers. If poverty increases for whatever reason then urban livestock keeping is likely to continue and even increase.

# Urban pig farming

## *in irregular settlements in Uruguay*

**At the end of the 19th century, Sansón Carrasco (nom de plume of Daniel Muñoz, 1849-1930), reported on pigs being bred with household wastes. His chronicles are still valid today. For instance, in his article "Trash" (1883), he writes "...and in the depressions, and on the beach, pigs and more pigs, and always pigs everywhere you look, some of them feeding, some stretched out without a care in the world, others grunting as they get a glimpse of me, as if upset by my intrusion in their domain...".**

One of the survival strategies developed by the residents of urban settlements in the department of Montevideo, is the collection and sorting of household solid waste (organic and

breeders constitute a distinct group. This explains the high incidence of health problems (transmission of diseases from animals to people) and environmental impacts (people living next to pigsties, inadequate final disposal of waste, food preparing systems) that are worse in the case of pig farming in urban and peri-urban areas. Due to several factors, including the socio-economic conditions of breeders and the urban status of the neighbourhoods where the practice is carried out, pig farming in urban areas is one of the most remarkable aspects of Urban Agriculture developed in our country.

### **Pig raising in the peripheral areas of the city of Montevideo is significant**

inorganic). While inorganic waste is sorted and sold to the local recycling industry, organic waste is used in most cases as animal feed (mainly for pigs). Among urban solid waste sorters, pig

#### **PIG RAISING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MONTEVIDEO**

Pig raising is a widespread practice in the Department of Montevideo. The importance of pig farming in the peripheral areas of the city of Montevideo has increased consistently partic-

**Livestock at dumpsite in Nakuru, Kenya**



Photo by D. Foeken

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